



Governance & Policy Committee

April 2026

April 10, 2026

8:15 a.m.

Campus View Room, McNamara Alumni Center

GOV - APR 2026

1. Feedback on Active Learning

Docket Item Summary - 3

Presentation Materials - 5

2. Emerging AI Trends and Best Practices in Higher Education Governance

Docket Item Summary - 13

Presentation Materials - 14



BOARD OF REGENTS DOCKET ITEM SUMMARY

Governance & Policy

April 10, 2026

AGENDA ITEM: Feedback on Active Learning

Review

Review + Action

Action

Discussion

This is a report required by Board policy.

PRESENTERS:

Jason Langworthy, Associate Secretary
Marlo Welshons, Assistant Executive Director
Krista Overby, Communications & Engagement Manager

PURPOSE & KEY POINTS

The purpose of this item is for the committee to provide feedback on the active learning days that were piloted during the 2025–26 academic year. The committee will discuss what worked well and where there are opportunities for improvement, as the Office of the Board of Regents turns to planning for the 2026–27 academic year using this model.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As required by the *Bylaws of the Board of Regents*, the Board sets its schedule of regular meetings for the ensuing year at the annual meeting, which is held in June. The 2025–26 Board meeting calendar was restructured in response to Regent feedback and to support effective governance. The schedule struck a balance between the Board's need to conduct regular business and the need to convene more frequently to nimbly address emerging issues. It also deployed Regent volunteer time more efficiently by establishing predictable dates for active learning.

The objective of the active learning days is to build on prior engagement activities, which provided an opportunity for Regents to engage directly with students, faculty, and staff across the University, while being more intentional to connect those visits with the Board's priorities and areas that advance the Elevate Extraordinary 2030 University Strategic Plan. Active learning days also seek to take agenda topics that would provide an overview on a topic or help educate the Board out of a meeting room and into the spaces and places where that work happens across the University.

Highlights of the restructured calendar include:

- Six regular meetings that avoid known conflicts and are evenly spaced across the academic year (five with committees).
- Three additional item-specific meetings to act on tenure and promotion approvals, hold the Board's annual recognitions, and act on the annual operating and capital budgets. Additional agenda items can be added as needed.

- Three dates for special meetings to address emerging issues, as needed.
- Three to four active learning/listening opportunities, tied to Board priorities and the Elevate Extraordinary 2030 University Strategic Plan.

Feedback on Active Learning

Jason Langworthy
Associate Secretary

Marlo Welshons
Assistant Executive Director

Krista Overby
Communications & Engagement Manager

April 10, 2026



New Meeting Schedule

- Shifted Regular Meeting Schedule
 - Evenly spaced across the year and avoid known conflicts
- Topic-Specific and Special Meeting Holds
 - Set dates for tenure & promotion, annual recognitions, and operating and capital budget approvals, while holding time for other special meetings if needed
- Addition of Active Learning Days
 - Set dates to allow for more Regent participation



Objective of Active Learning Days

- Build on prior engagement activities with students, faculty, and staff
- Be more intentional to connect visits with the Board's priorities and areas that advance the Elevate Extraordinary 2030 University Strategic Plan
- Take agenda topics that would provide an overview on a topic or help educate the Board out of a meeting room and into the spaces and places where that work happens across the University



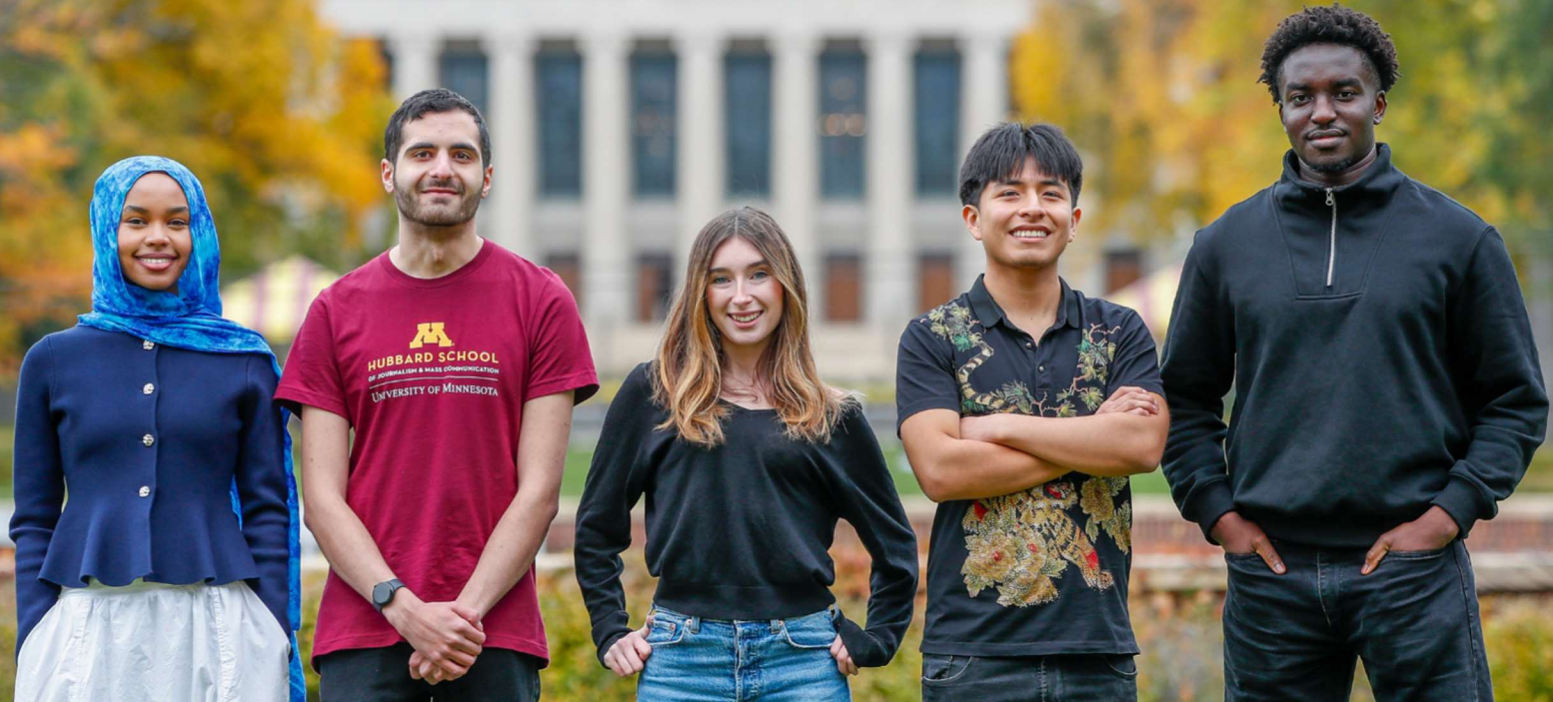
September 2025 Review



November 2025 Review



Looking Ahead: May 2026



Discussion Questions

- What elements of the active learning days did you find most valuable?
- What elements would you recommend be adjusted?
- What other suggestions do you have for future active learning days?





UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Crookston Duluth Morris Rochester Twin Cities



BOARD OF REGENTS DOCKET ITEM SUMMARY

Governance & Policy

April 10, 2026

AGENDA ITEM: Emerging AI Trends and Best Practices in Higher Education Governance

Review

Review + Action

Action

Discussion

This is a report required by Board policy.

PRESENTERS: Maggie Marchesani, Committee & Policy Coordinator
Krista Overby, Communications & Engagement Manager

PURPOSE & KEY POINTS

The purpose of this item is to provide a high-level overview of the impact, early trends, and emerging best practices for the governance of artificial intelligence (AI) across higher education. With its continued rapid evolution, AI is a priority focus of governing boards across higher education. This discussion responds to Regent interest in learning more about the landscape of higher education AI governance, the Board’s role in this space, and examples of what peers are doing. The item will also highlight ways AI is being used to shape the work of governing boards themselves. The committee will have the opportunity to provide any initial thoughts they have on how the Board should approach governing this emerging space.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Board previously discussed AI at the following meetings:

- February 2026: *Advancing the University’s Mission with AI*, Mission Fulfillment Committee
- October 2024: *Evolution of AI in Higher Education*, Mission Fulfillment Committee

Emerging AI Trends and Best Practices in Higher Education Governance

Maggie Marchesani
Committee & Policy Coordinator

Krista Overby
Communications & Engagement Manager

April 10, 2026



Impact of AI on Higher Education

- Education
 - Teaching and learning
- Research
 - Data predictions, modeling tools, and visualizations
- Administrative Operations
 - Student life, human resources, and philanthropy
- Governance



What We Are Seeing

- Early governance trends:
 - Guiding principles and/or acceptable use guidelines to inform decision-making
 - Emphasis on preserving data privacy, security, and academic integrity, and countering bias
 - Leverage existing policies and procedures
- Oversight:
 - Centralized via advisory committees or AI-dedicated offices and initiatives
 - System-level vs. campus-level
- Focus on AI literacy among students, staff, and faculty
- Board member education and readiness



Potential Uses of AI in the Board's Work

- For Board Operations:
 - Tracking engagement
 - Searching board archives
 - Tracking board action items
- By Board Members:
 - Communications
 - Preparing pre-read briefs
 - Summarizing reports



How Board Members Can Engage on AI Topics

- Opportunities and risks
 - Institutional risk
 - Cybersecurity
 - Intellectual property infringement
 - Regulatory compliance
- Existing guidelines and guardrails
- Competitive advantage



Questions for Consideration with Future AI Topics

- What are the risks and have we considered impact to intellectual property, etc.?
- Who is responsible for the implementation and oversight of AI?
- Which governing guardrails are needed to protect the University from potential risks?
- How are we handling change management when implementing AI?
- Which functions would best be suited for the use of AI?



Key Takeaways

- University is on the leading edge, with many of our peers
- Rapidly evolving space
- Good governance practices are emerging
 - Toolkit of questions
 - Lens for engagement
- AI will impact the Board's governance work





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