

# MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY

## Board of Governors

### Minutes

January 16, 2020

Billingsly Student Center, Room 310

The January 16, 2019 meeting of the Missouri Southern State University Board of Governors was called to order at 1 o'clock by Bill Gipson, Chair. Governors in attendance were T. Mark Elliott, Bill Gipson, Carlos Haley, Alison Hershewe, Mariann Morgan, Anita Oplotnik, Ron Richard, and Dr. Benjamin Rosenberg. Others in attendance were Dr. Alan Marble, Dr. Brad Hodson, Dr. Paula Carson, Darren Fullerton, Rob Yust, Cori Reid, Jon Dermott, Dr. Rebecca Mouser, Melissa Forsythe, Jacob King, Linda Eis, and Laura Boyd. Jared Bruggeman and Sarah Schultz were in non-attendance.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Gipson called the meeting to order at 1 o'clock and welcomed everyone.

### MINUTES

Chair Gipson asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the November 21, 2019 Board meeting; none were noted.

*A motion was made by T. Mark Elliott and seconded by Mariann Morgan to approve minutes of the November 21, 2019 Board meeting as submitted. Motion passed unanimously. (Minutes are archived in the permanent record book).*

### REPORTS

#### **Treasurer (Ms. Linda Eis):**

##### **Cash Graph:**

Linda noted in reviewing the statements for the period ending December 31, 2019 the Cash Graph reflects cash at \$13M, an increase over the prior year of \$900k. A piece of this reimbursement is from the Bond issuance for prior expenditures that have been spent. Linda also noted the Cash balance as of today is \$17M.

##### **Statement of Net Position:**

Linda noted the Bond issuance was very successful, and completed before the end of the year. The sale happened December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and the university received an excellent interest rate. The restricted cash over the prior month will reflect over \$21M, a reflection of the Bond issuance.

##### **Total Assets**

As of December 31, 2019, Total Assets are \$183M; Total Liabilities are \$123M, making Total Net Assets \$60M.

##### **Comparative Statement of Revenues Expenses and Changes in Net Position:**

Looking at the "difference" column:

- **Total Operating Revenue** has decreased over the prior year by (\$279k).
- **Total Operating Expenses** reflect an increase of \$786M.
- **Non-Operating Revenue** increased (\$354k). Linda noted the university has additional State appropriations including STEM funding, (which nearly half has been received throughout the year).
- **Income (Loss) Before Other Revenues** reflects a decrease in the current year (\$2.2M), and a decrease in the prior year at (\$1.5M) reflecting a decrease of (\$700k) from the prior year.

*A motion was made by Carlos Haley and seconded by Anita Oplotnik to approve the December 2019 financial statements as presented. Motion passed unanimously. (A copy of the financial statements for December 2019 are attached to the minutes in the permanent record book).*

**Vice President for Business Affairs (Mr. Rob Yust)**

*Note: Highlights of Rob's report are as follows:*

**Residence Hall**

Mr. Yust noted at this time 40 of 186 piers have been drilled. As piers are drilled, grade beams are being poured. The residence hall will be approximately 92,000 square feet, four story facility and house approximately 300 students. Mr. Yust noted the project is scheduled for completion by Summer 2021 with occupancy in the Fall 2021.

**Trail project with the City of Joplin**

Mr. Yust noted the City has put this project out to bid. The submitted bids will go to MoDOT for approval. Once the bid is approved by MoDOT, the City will present a contract to the City Council for approval. This procedure is anticipated to be completed by March, 2020.

Mr. Yust anticipates construction to begin shortly after the contract is approved, followed by fabrication of the bridge beams, which will take some time.

Note\* This project was initiated in February 2013.

**Director of Athletics (Ms. Cori Reid, Assistant Athletic Director Mktg. and Sales, representing Mr. Jared Bruggeman who was traveling to Jefferson City, MO.):**

*Note: Highlights of Jared's report are as follows. Additional information can be found in a handout distributed to the Board that is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book.*

**Sport Program Report**

- Currently the Southern men's basketball team is ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation and is 13-2 overall and 6-0 in the MIAA. The men's team is the only undefeated team in the MIAA play. Cam Martin recently became the 24<sup>th</sup> Lion to score 1,000 points and was the fastest player in program history to accomplish this in 45 games.
- The women's basketball team ranks 7<sup>th</sup> nationally in blocked shots and leads the MIAA in that category. The women also rank 3<sup>rd</sup> in the MIAA in defensive rebounds and free throw attempts. Zoe Campbell tied the MSSU single-season record for 42 blocks and ranks sixth nationally in that category. Chasidee Owens ranks 8<sup>th</sup> nationally and leads the MIAA in free throw attempts.
- Southern's men's and women's indoor track and field teams start the season ranked in the top-10 nationally in both coaches' polls. The women are ranked 5<sup>th</sup>, while the men are ranked 9<sup>th</sup>. Gideon Kimutai picked up an NCAA Automatic Qualifying Mark in the 5k at Pittsburg State on December 7, 2019, securing his spot in the NCAA Division II National Championships.
- Southern's Athletic Department posted a 3.08 cumulative Grade Point Average this past fall semester. The softball team had the highest team GPA of 3.52, while the men's golf team posted the highest GPA with a 3.32. This is the fourth consecutive semester the athletic department has had a 3.00 or better department GPA.

**Lionbackers & Annual Campaign:**

- Currently there are 283 members and \$122,800 in revenue. In comparison, the 2018-2019 campaign had 283 members and \$113,215 in revenue.

**Other:**

- Ms. Reid noted the St. Louis Cardinals Caravan would be on campus Saturday, January 18, 2020 in Young Gymnasium. All are welcome.

**Executive Vice President (Dr. Brad Hodson):**

*Note: Highlights of Dr. Hodson's report are as follows. Additional information can be found in a handout distributed to the Board that is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book.*

## **Executive Vice President (continued):**

### **Fundraising**

- Dr. Hodson noted second quarter fundraising compared to FY19 were very positive with a 72% increase. In part, by planned gifts booked during the first six months of the fiscal year. The total number of donors increased by 165 donors (+12%), while the alumni participation rate increased by 5%.

### **Admissions**

- Dr. Hodson noted the total headcount is currently down 437 students (-8%) as of January 15, 2020 compared to the same date for Spring 2019. Enrolled hours are down 6,830 (-10.5%) from last spring. The decrease in spring enrollment is largely due to a few key issues:
  - 1) A ripple effect from the enrollment decrease in the fall;
  - 2) Sophomore, junior, and senior students who were enrolled in the fall but have not yet re-enrolled for the spring;
  - 3) A continuing strong economy luring students to jobs rather than education.In spite of these challenges, the Office of Admissions is seeing a higher yield rate (percent of freshmen and transfer applicants who actually enroll) of 70% (up 12% from last spring) and the university's spring international enrollment has increased compared to last year.
- Dr. Hodson noted applications for Fall 2020 are up 15.5% from where they were on this date last year with admitted students up nearly 20%. Several of the application strategies implemented in the fall are yielding results including:
  - 1) Common Application – 230 applications, largely from outside Missouri. No data from last year to compare as Common App is new for 2020;
  - 2) No Application Fee for Top Feeder Schools – 498 applications received to date compared to 276 at the same time last year (up 222 applications +80%).Dual enrollments at area high schools are also seeing an increase for fall applications. This is due to the efforts of the office of Academic Outreach to spur interest in the opportunity to receive college credit in high school.

### **Governmental Relations**

- Dr. Hodson noted recently, Missouri Southern had the opportunity to present the 2020 legislative priorities to members of the House Sub-Committee on Appropriations, Education. The seven-member panel of the House Budget Committee is responsible for making recommendations to the full committee regarding budget priorities for the state's universities. Southern featured its three top institutional priorities (\$1.8 million for STEM, acquisition of the Regional Center, and \$4 million for the Spectrum Center for Advanced Computing and Data Analytics), along with the Council on Higher Education's priorities (inflationary increase in allocations and funds for deferred maintenance). Dr. Hodson shared a copy that was used at the sub-committee meeting including statistical MSSU information, partnerships with other institutions, priorities presented to the sub-committee, and COPHE statewide priorities. Dr. Hodson also noted *if* we had received just an inflation increase over what we have received since 2010, it would total over \$57M in cumulative appropriation for an institution like Missouri Southern who receives \$23M/\$24M a year.

### **Other**

- Dr. Hodson shared the latest Crossroad Magazine, a Southern publication mailed 3 times a year. Nearly 40,000 copies will be mailed out to alumni and friends. Dr. Hodson thanked Heather Lesmeister, Director of University Relations and Marketing and her team for their work on this publication.

**Academic Affairs (Dr. Paula Carson):**

*Note: Highlights of Dr. Carson's report are as follows. Additional information can be found in a handout distributed to the Board that is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book.*

**MSSU Hosts Annual Missouri Academy of Sciences Meeting**

Dr. Carson brought forward an invitation to the Board of Governors to participate as judges or panelists for this event.

Dr. Carson noted the 56<sup>th</sup> annual Missouri Academy of Sciences meeting will be held on April 24 and 25, 2020. Dr. Teresa Boman and Dr. Katie Kilmer, Missouri Southern faculty, are Chairs. The event will host a Junior (Middle School) and Senior Division. The Senior Division is for undergraduate, graduate, and post-doctoral students along with faculty members and other professionals. Presentations can be made in either an oral or a poster format. The annual meeting is especially helpful for undergraduates as a first professional meeting as they meet other undergraduates from around the state, and they receive positive, constructive feedback on their presentation and projects. Dr. Penning will deliver the Keynote entitled, "Most Terrible and Vile: Crossing disciplines and Universities to understand how reptiles work and why it matters."

**Harrison and June Kash International Film Society and Bookhouse Cinema**

Dr. Carson noted a collection of Missouri Southern's faculty members favorite international films will be presented on Tuesdays beginning in mid-January through mid-March. The various movies will be shown in either Cornell Auditorium in Plaster Hall or the Bookhouse Cinema, Joplin, MO. All films will begin at 7:00 p.m., admission is free and open to the public.

**Theatre/Music Department**

Dr. Carson noted Southern's Theatre in collaboration with Southern's Music department will present the musical "Mamma Mia" on February 20-23, 2020 at the Joplin High School Performing Arts Center. This is a collaboration between Missouri Southern's Theatre and Music faculty and students, local dance studios and community members to present a night of Abba's Greatest Hits. Erick Wolfe, Southern's Theatre Master Instructor, took over the role of Theatre Department Chair, with a focus of rebuilding, restructuring, and revitalizing the theatre here at MSSU and in Joplin. With Mr. Wolfe's assistance, Dr. Carson anticipates a Bachelor of Music in Musical Theatre in the Fall 2020. Another initiative that Mr. Wolfe has instituted with this production is the successful sale of online tickets through MSSU's ticketing sales system. Plans are in place to begin offering season tickets for the exciting 2020-2021 season, which includes "Sweeney Todd" and "I Hate Hamlet." Dr Carson noted the goal of this project is that eventually all MSSU faculty, staff, and students can attend shows free and keep ticket sales low for individuals and families in the community.

**National History Day**

Dr. Carson noted last year 9 projects advanced to the national level (only .01% of all projects advance to that level). This institution was represented very well with the help of Southern's faculty and Dr. Bill Fisher, Regional Coordinator of the Social Science faculty. Dr. Carson noted every year National History Day frames students research within a historical theme. The theme is chosen for the broad application to world, national, or state history and its relevance to ancient history or to the more recent past. The 2019-2020 theme will be "Breaking Barriers in History." Dr. Carson also noted the Governors are welcome to help with interviewing students, judging etc. This event is scheduled for Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**Study Abroad 2019-2020**

Dr. Carson noted Southern has nine faculty-led study abroad trips planned for this year, (one of which has taken place). Three faculty and 11 students returned on January 9, 2020 from a two-week trip to Australia. Other trips scheduled include:

*The Intuitive Artists and the Taino Art of Jamaica*, March 14-20, 2020 with Professor Taylor Moon;

*The Wildlands of Africa*, May 8-20, 2020 with Dr. David Penning;

*Art and Anatomy in Italy*, May 10-22, 2020 with Dr. Christine Bentley and Dr. Donna Johnson;

*Diversity in the Foothills of the Himalayas*, May 10-28, 2020 with Dr. Rabindra Bajracharya;

*The Beatles in Their Own Write*, May 12-21, 2020 with Dr. Bill Kumbier;

**Academic Affairs (continued):**

*Hungary, Austria, and Slovakia: EU and Euro Integration*, May 12-25, 2020 with Dr. Dominic Buccieri and Dean Jeff Zimmerman;

*Comparative Criminal Justice Systems and Cultures in New Zealand*, May 18-31, 2020 with Dr. Tim Wilson; and

*Summer in Sweden*, May 20-June 24, 2020 with Ed Outhouse.

**Literature Week**

Dr. Carson noted after two successful years celebrating Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* in 2018 and Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* in 2019, it will continue in 2020 with J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series. This event will take place February 28 to March 7, 2020 and will be sponsored by the Department of English and Philosophy, with interdisciplinary participation by departments and other entities across campus and in the surrounding community. Literature Week was founded by and is again directed this year by Dr. Amy Gates, Assistant Professor of English.

**Other**

Dr. Carson noted Southern recently became a member (at no cost) of the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE), an initiative of Tufts University. Dr. Carson noted this is part of Missouri Southern's Mission - Global Citizenship – promoting civic responsibilities to our students.

**Vice President for Student Affairs (Mr. Darren Fullerton):**

*Note: Highlights of Mr. Fullerton's report are as follows. Additional information can be found in a handout distributed to the Board that is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book.*

**Diversity and Inclusion**

Mr. Fullerton noted the Diversity and Inclusion committee will be hosting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. day on Monday, January 20, 2020 at the North End Zone facility on campus. Refreshments will be served at 6:00 p.m. followed by guest speaker, Nimrod Chapel, Jr., the current President of the Missouri State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). This event is free, and open to the public.

**Project Stay**

Mr. Fullerton noted Southern is currently applying for the renewal (5-year cycle) of the Student Support Services Program called "Project Stay." This is a federally-funded TRIO program by the United States Department of Education. Through a grant competition, funds are awarded to institutions of higher education to provide opportunities for academic development, assist students with basic college requirements, and to motivate students toward the successful completion of their postsecondary education. Project Stay also provides grant aid to current participants who are receiving Federal Pell Grants. The goal is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of its participants. Missouri Southern receives \$284,735 each year with this grant and currently serves 159 students.

**Cheryl Dobson**

The Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education has updated the standards for registrar services. Cheryl Dobson, Southern's Registrar, was one of those selected to assist in this revision of national standards. Mrs. Dobson served with colleagues from institutions including; Baylor, Yale, Harvard, North Dakota State, Missouri State, Oregon State, University of Colorado, and the University of Missouri. Mr. Fullerton noted appreciation towards Cheryl's recognized work ethic.

**Lion Village Residence Hall Project**

Mr. Fullerton shared an exterior handout of the new residence hall. The \$20M project will house 176 students in 88 traditional dorm rooms, and 128 students in 32 4-bedroom, 2-bath suites. Mr. Fullerton noted this will be unique as it will have three study rooms, a meeting room that can be used for small presentations, and a small room for tutoring. The anticipated opening is Fall 2021.

**Faculty Senate President (Dr. Rebecca Mouser):**

*Note: Highlights of Dr. Mouser's report are as follows.*

Dr. Mouser noted the Faculty Senate has not met this semester, but briefly stated that Senate was continuing to work on various initiatives and looking forward to partnering more with the Staff and Student Senates as a way to facilitate greater shared governance and to coordinate university-wide concerns.

Dr. Mouser noted the Faculty Senate will continue to explore several initiatives from the Fall 2019 semester. During the last Senate meeting, discussion took place regarding early stages of proposals concerning retention that focused on drop dates for students and the possibility of block scheduling for incoming freshmen. The agenda has not been finalized for the February meeting but Faculty Senate continues to revisit the proposal to rename schools into colleges and hope to have an open forum on the topic of restructuring later that month. Dr. Mouser noted the Faculty Senate has proposed a revised intellectual property policy to the administration that is currently being drafted. Last year, language concerning tenure and promotion was clarified and added to the Faculty Handbook. Dr. Mouser noted this has been addressed and will be presented to the Senate this semester.

**Staff Senate President (Ms. Melissa Forsythe):**

*Note: Highlights of Ms. Forsythe's report are as follows.*

**Web Site Changes**

Ms. Forsythe noted the Staff Senate Committee has begun updates and changes to the Staff Senate Website and SharePoint site. The past and current recipients of the Quarterly Service Champ Award are now listed on the new webpage. The site provides both an online and printable nomination form, an explanation of the award, and list of recipients beginning in 2012. In the near future, all Staff Senate minutes and agendas will be moved from the website and archived on the Senate's SharePoint site. Only two years of Senate meeting materials will reside on the website. The SharePoint site currently lists upcoming meeting dates, updated bylaws, committee reports and other Senate-related items and is viewable by all university staff.

**Service Projects**

Ms. Forsythe noted due to the holiday break and no Staff Senate meeting in January, there are no new service projects to announce at this time.

**Student Senate President (Student Senate Vice President, Jacob King representing Ms. Sarah Schultz):**

*Note: Highlights of Ms. Schultz's report are as follows.*

Mr. King noted Student Senate is continuing the renovation downstairs in the Lion's Den in Billingsly Hall and currently communicating with Sign Designs (a signs and banner service in Joplin, MO.), to get quotes on banners and wraps to be hung in the Lion's Den as well.

Mr. King noted candy was handed out last semester while students were asked for suggestions in how Student Senate could be of service to them and for ideas they may have regarding the Students Hall. Since then, the Senate has received a lot of feedback and are currently looking into those suggestions.

**Board Committees:****Academic Affairs Committee (Anita Oplotnik):**

*Note: Highlights of Governor Oplotnik's report are as follows.*

Governor Oplotnik reported the Academic Affairs Committee met at 10:00am before the Board meeting and discussed Sabbatical's for Dr. Steve Smith, Professor of Geography (full-year 20-21), and Dr. Steve Wagner, Professor of History (Fall 2020), and reviewed four new 12-hour Graduate Certificates for approval including; Autism Spectrum Disorder, Advanced EMT, Firefighter, and Political Communication. Governor Oplotnik noted Economics Bachelor of Science in Economics and the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Economics would be dropped from the program due to low enrollment:

## **Board Committees:**

### **Academic Affairs Committee (continued)**

On behalf of the Academic Affairs Committee, Governor Oplotnik brought forward the following proposal in a form of a motion, for Board approval:

Sabbaticals for Dr. Steve Smith, Professor of Geography (full-year 20-21), and Dr. Steve Wagner, Professor of History (Fall 2020).

*A motion was made by Anita Oplotnik and seconded by Alison Hershewe to approve Sabbatical's as presented. Motion passed unanimously.*

On behalf of the Academic Affairs Committee, Governor Oplotnik brought forward the following proposal in a form of a motion, for Board approval:

Four new 12-hour Graduate Certificates which include; Autism Spectrum Disorder, Advanced EMT, Firefighter, and Political Communication. Southern will be dropping Economics Bachelor of Science in Economics and the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Economics due to low enrollment.

*A motion was made by Anita Oplotnik and seconded by Dr. Rosenberg to approve the four new Certificates as presented and drop Economics Bachelor of Science in Economics and the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Economics due to low enrollment. Motion passed unanimously.*

### **Budget Audit Committee (Carlos Haley):**

*Note: Highlights of Governor Haley's report are as follows.*

Governor Haley reported the Budget Audit committee met before today's Board meeting to discuss the Bond Issuance, Perkins Loan closeout (nearly \$700,000 will be sent back to the Federal Government) and Cash and Budget planning – primarily state funding and how to get the \$1.8M into Southern's core budget.

### **Academic Affairs Committee (Anita Oplotnik):**

Governor Oplotnik reported another issue discussed at today's meeting regarded changing prime academic units from Schools to Colleges. Dr. Carson noted when Missouri Southern was renamed from Missouri Southern State College to Missouri Southern State University, one change was not made. Prime academic units remained as "Schools" and on behalf of Academics, we would like to rename those units to "Colleges" i.e., School of Business will be renamed to College of Business, etc.

Dr. Carson also noted she would like to see this change before Dr. Marble retires as he has worked very hard and has helped bring this University to a high standard.

The four schools include; Business, Health Science, Education, and Arts and Sciences. There would be no structural changes, only signage and some printing.

On behalf of the Academic Affairs Committee, Governor Oplotnik brought forward the following proposal in a form of a motion, for Board approval to change "Schools" to "Colleges."

*A motion was made by Anita Oplotnik and seconded by Ron Richard to approve the name change as presented. Motion passed unanimously.*

### **Presidential Search Committee (Alison Hershewe)**

Governor Hershewe noted this committee has met a couple of times in the last few weeks in open and closed sessions to discuss general requirements and for the members to get to know each other and explain how they were appointed for this committee.

The *Advisory Committee* met later in closed session regarding a specific search and the bid process. At this time there are no recommendations from that committee.

The *Personnel/Compensation Committee* has also met in closed session to discuss the search and bid process. Governor Hershewe noted there will be general discussion, thoughts, and recommendations for the Board later today in closed session.

**President (Dr. Alan Marble):**

*Note: Highlights of Dr. Marble's report are as follows. Additional information can be found in a handout distributed to the Board that is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book.*

**General Update**

Dr. Marble noted since the last board meeting, campus has been busy with year-end activities; final exams, service award ceremonies, fall Commencement, and a variety of holiday activities.

**Specific Tasks**

Dr. Marble noted at the conclusion of his annual evaluation last summer, this institution identified three primary tasks that needed to be accomplished this year: 1) Work with the Legislature to have the \$1.8M in one-time funding moved to core funding; 2) Develop a succession plan for senior administrators; and, 3) Further refine the Goals developed under the recently completed strategic plan.

Update:

- 1) This institution is fully engaged in the effort to secure the \$1.8M in our core budget and have had very productive meetings with key legislators addressing this issue. Of course, the administration will be redoubling these efforts as the session gains momentum later this spring.
- 2) A document has been developed that identifies individuals prepared to carry on necessary duties in the unlikely event that one of Southern's Vice President's becomes incapacitated. This document will only be shared with the Board of Governors for obvious reasons of privacy and to comply with appropriate labor laws.
- 3) Dr. Marble noted he has reached out to Dr. Carson regarding Goals, and she will present a brief overview of the list and reporting matrix that has been developed. Dr. Marble noted amazement of how the campus has rallied around the strategic plan the institution worked through last year. Each unit was asked to pursue Goal #1a dealing with "recruitment and retention" of students. Units were also encouraged to review the other goals and identify at least three sub-goals they could pursue in achievement of our mission. As a result, Southern has developed a spreadsheet of goals, action plans and metrics that cannot be printed due to the considerable length (199 pages). The campus goal submissions all include timelines and assignment of responsibility for completion.

**Legislation**

Dr. Marble noted recently the House Education Appropriations sub-committee held testimony regarding the question of "collaboration among colleges and universities." Dr. Hodson represented Southern at the hearing. In addition to addressing the collaborations this institution has in place (MS in Criminal Justice with SEMO, transfer articulations with Crowder and other community colleges, etc.), Southern took the opportunity to remind the members of our three legislative priorities for the year: 1) Moving the \$1.8M to our core budget; 2) Conveyance of the Joplin Regional Center building where we house the Lion Cub Academy in 2/3 of the facility; and, 3) \$4M to match fund raising for the Downtown Library project know as the Spectrum Center for Advanced Computing and Data Analytics.

Dr. Marble noted Southern also took the opportunity to endorse the Council on Public Higher Education (COPHE) positions advocating for annual inflationary increases in core appropriations and additional support for ongoing maintenance and repair of facilities and infrastructure.

**Downtown Library Update**

Dr. Marble noted he received an email introduction this morning from a representative of a prominent consulting company regarding the anticipated "Spectrum Center" in Joplin's old Downtown Library.

Dr. Marble also noted he received a call today from Toby Teeter (Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce President) who is currently in Jefferson City, MO. defending our Economic Development Application and meeting with some veteran capitalists involving this project. Dr. Marble noted this is very encouraging and awaits a decision.

Governor Elliott asked what Southern's timeline is with the City regarding the Downtown Library. Dr. Hodson noted the contract/agreement with the City is that this institution has 5 years to return if we wish, and February 2020 will be the second of five years.



## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Consideration of Academic Policies Proposals (Dr. Paula Carson)**

N/A

### **Concurrent Enrollment Update (Dr. Carson/Brett Meeker)**

Dr. Carson brought forward a proposal to the President's Cabinet recently, who approved "On the Move." This new initiative will be free dual credit tuition to high school students who are receiving free/reduced lunches. Dr. Carson noted not only is this a recruiting tool, but the university is also doing a good job in helping the social economic development of the state.

Dr. Carson introduced Brett Meeker, Director of Academic Outreach/Concurrent Enrollment, who then shared a power point regarding Concurrent Enrollment tuition waived for students who currently take 6 hours of concurrent enrollment, and are eligible for the National School Lunch Program at the time of enrollment. Mrs. Meeker noted 95% of students entering high school would like to attend college but opportunities for concurrent enrollment are not as available to first-generation and low-income students. At this time, Missouri Southern has approximately 50% first-generation and Pell Grant eligible population. Mrs. Meeker also noted once certification is confirmed by a parent/guardian and school official, the fee is waived immediately. The initiative is open to any student, regardless of state, as long as they qualify for the National Lunch Program.

### **Strategic Plan Year-1 Goals Update (Dr. Paula Carson)**

Dr. Carson shared a power point and gave an update of where Missouri Southern is regarding the Strategic Plan Year-1 Goals. Dr. Carson noted a campus wide goals matrix was shared with all faculty and staff before the holiday break for revisions. The plan, regarded as a living document, has 48 units that are being tracked from all divisions on campus (synergies and collaborations are encouraged) in an excel format so that units can sort and filter updates on their progress. This action plan update was emailed to the Board of Governors yesterday (199 pages). Dr. Carson noted in May of 2020 this will go out to all units for updates, and deliberated over the summer. In August 2020 the administration will begin the annual process again for Year-2 and continue through 2023. Dr. Carson noted appreciation for the Board's support throughout this ongoing process and believes Missouri Southern has achieved the overall objectives of creating a transparent, efficient and inclusive process, and an effective Strategic Plan.

Chair Gipson asked Dr. Carson when the results would be disclosed. Dr. Carson noted at the end of the academic year in May 2020. Chair Gipson added that at that time perhaps the Board could have a combined meeting of the Budget Audit Committee and Academic Affairs Committee to go over the results at the June 18, 2020 Board meeting. Chair of the Budget Audit Committee, Carlos Haley, and Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, Anita Oplotnik, agreed.

### **Sabbaticals (Dr. Paula Carson)**

This item was discussed previously and voted on during Governor Oplotnik's Academic Affairs Committee section.

### **Future Meeting Date:**

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2020 at 1 o'clock.

**Closed Executive Session:**

Chair Gipson noted the Board needed to go into closed Executive Session pertaining to the following state statutes:

**RSMo 610.021 (3)** Hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting of particular employees by a public governmental body when personal information about the employee is discussed or recorded;

**RSMo 610.021 (11)** Specifications for competitive bidding, until either the specifications are officially approved by the public governmental body or the specifications are published for bid;

**RSMo 610.021 (12)** Sealed bids and related documents, until the bids are opened; and sealed proposals and related documents or any documents related to a negotiated contract until a contract is executed, or all proposals are rejected.

*A motion to go into a closed Executive Session was made by Anita Oplotnik and seconded by Carlos Haley under RSMo 610.021 (3), (11), and (12). A roll call was made by Laura Boyd, Board Secretary, with each attending Board member voting in favor of the closed Executive Session.*

*At the conclusion of the Executive Session, a motion was duly made and passed to adjourn the meeting.*

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Chair

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Secretary