

MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY

Board of Governors

Minutes

March 26, 2020

Billingsly Student Center, Room 310

In Person or Via Conference Call

A Special meeting of the Board of Governors took place on Thursday, March 26, 2020 to discuss the Coronavirus (Covid-19) which has impacted Missouri Southern State University.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Bill Gipson, Chair. Governors in attendance (via phone) were T. Mark Elliott, Bill Gipson, Carlos Haley, Alison Hershewe, Mariann Morgan, Anita Oplotnik, Ron Richard, and Dr. Rosenberg. Others in attendance (via phone) were Jared Bruggeman, Dr. Paula Carson, Jon Dermott, Linda Eis, and Rob Yust. Others attending in person were Dr. Alan Marble, Darren Fullerton, and Laura Boyd.

Chair Gipson welcomed everyone and asked Dr. Marble to update and facilitate the university's efforts on the Covid-19 impact.

Dr. Marble noted the best news of all, is at this time there are no MSSU faculty, staff, or students who have been diagnosed or showing any symptoms with this virus. Recently 5 Teacher Ed's were in New Orleans for a conference. Currently these faculty are in their 13th day of quarantine due to being near others during the conference, whom tested positive for Covid-19. These faculty are showing no symptoms associated with the Coronavirus. There were also 11 students traveling abroad who were encouraged to come home, in which 8 did. One student from Saudi Arabia was studying in India, and has since gone back home, and 2 students traveling abroad elected to stay in the countries they were visiting. None of the 11 students have shown any sign of the virus.

Dr. Marble noted Southern was one of the first universities to go to all Distance Learning and recognized Southern's faculty and staff, Distance Learning and IT, who worked diligently through Spring Break to shift all courses online while creating a smooth transition. Dr. Marble noted he could not be prouder of how everyone on campus has responded to this crisis.

Dr. Marble noted initially campus closure was going to take place the end of April, 2020. That date has been extended to the end of semester. The residence halls have been closed, and students will receive prorated funds, as of the date of check-out.

Darren noted currently there are 230 students on campus, and after Friday, March 27th, 2020, there should be 76 students left on campus who do not have a home to go to, or they are international students and will remain on campus for the duration.

Dr. Marble noted:

- The library and recreation center have been closed, limiting large crowds, and has encouraged everyone to follow the CDC guidelines.
- Campus buildings are locked and a skeleton "essential" crew has been identified.
- Commencement has been postponed, and at this time, it has not been confirmed if it will be held later this summer or perhaps in the Fall of 2020.
- On May 23rd, faculty and staff were given notice to work from home. Southern employees will get paid through semester, however; there are some employees who need to work on campus. Those individuals, if working on campus over 20 hours, will be recognized and compensated an extra \$100 a week for their effort.
- The Lion Cub Academy has also been closed.

Dr. Marble noted, fortunately, the university does have some reserves but, the administration should expect budget impacts due to Covid-19.

Governor Hershewe noted she understood the Criminal Justice Center would remain open for student computer access, and asked how many students would be utilizing the building. Dr. Marble responded, the administration doesn't anticipate too many in the building at one time, and if it becomes a problem, it too will be locked down and students would get help from other means.

Governor Hershewe also mentioned the two study abroad students who elected to stay in the country they were visiting, and asked if they were facilitated by a third party, or facilitated by the university. Dr. Marble responded by saying the trips are facilitated by Missouri Southern or agreements made by other universities. Southern's administration encouraged the students to return, but could not force them to.

Governor Hershewe also asked what the date was when the eight students returned home. Dr. Marble mentioned the students came home early and have been home at least 2 weeks.

Governor Gipson asked Dr. Carson how this is impacting the students who are required to take clinicals in Dental Hygiene and the Nursing program. Dr. Carson responded, this has been one of the biggest challenges. Dental Hygiene is more complicated with professional accreditors. At this point this is the only course that students may receive an incomplete until the clinic reopens (hoping May, 2020).

Governor Hershewe asked Dr. Carson how many students would be affected, Dr. Carson responded, 30 students.

Dr. Carson noted at this time in Nursing, Freeman is continuing to allow clinicals for Missouri students, but if deployed virtual, the cost would be \$50 to finish. Over-all, she feels confident that students can complete this course.

Chair Gipson asked Dr. Carson what the impact would be for the Dental Hygienist to take their state board. Dr. Carson responded, they would not be allowed to take it unless the professional accreditors change their position, there are no alternate options at this time.

Governor Hershewe commended Dr. Carson and her team's promptness with getting classes moved online and Dr. Carson noted appreciation towards the faculty and IT staff for all their help, and emphasized to date, there have been zero student complaints.

Chair Gipson asked Rob about the budget for next Fall. Rob responded, the administration has received information from the Department of Higher Education (there are conference calls weekly) and are prepared for reductions in appropriations. Rob and Linda are working closely with their team and are cautiously optimistic about Fall enrollment.

Chair Gipson asked Darren about Student Services. Darren alluded to what Paula had said regarding difficulties with certification. The Student Health Center, and Counseling Services are regulated and licensed state by state. Darren noted there are difficulties providing services to many students who are living in a different state based on regulations, state laws. His team is continuing to do their best to accommodate the students and are connecting them with other resources. Tutoring and Advising is online and enrollment continues for the Fall semester. The Project Stay (student support center) enrolled 50 students the first day it was open. Darren noted, just as the faculty, his team is trying to do as much online and remotely as possible and will continue to do their best in providing students *what they can* in a new environment.

Dr. Marble noted personal protective equipment (gowns, gloves, masks, etc.) from Southern's Nursing and Dental Hygiene departments, and Training Room in the north end zone, have been donated to our local hospitals.

Paula also noted 4 ventilators from Southern's Respiratory Program have been loaned to Mercy and Joplin Hospitals.

Closed Executive Session:

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

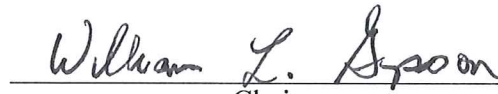
RSMo 610.021 (3) Hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting of particular employees by a public governmental body when personal information about the employee is discussed or recorded.

A motion to go into a closed Executive Session was made by Carlos Haley and seconded by Alison Hershewe under RSMo 610.021 (3). A Roll call was made by Laura Boyd, Board Secretary, with each attending Board member voting in favor of the closed session. Results of the Roll Call are as follows:

- T. Mark Elliott – present
- Bill Gipson – present
- Carlos Haley – present
- Alison Hershewe – present
- Mariann Morgan - present
- Anita Oplotnik - present
- Ron Richard – present
- Dr. Rosenberg – present

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


Secretary


Chair