

MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY
Board of Governors
Minutes

January 21, 2016 – 1:00 pm
Billingsly Student Center, Room 310

The January 21, 2016, meeting of the Missouri Southern State University Board of Governors was called to order by Jim Fleischaker, Chair. Governors in attendance were Tracy Flanigan, Jim Fleischaker, Michael Franks, Bill Gipson, Keith Hankins, Alison Hershewe, Mitch McCumber, and Anita Oplotnik (newly appointed). Others in attendance were Dr. Alan Marble, Jared Bruggeman, Dr. Paula Carson, Darren Fullerton, Dr. Brad Hodson, Rob Yust, Dr. David Sharlow, Elisa Bryant, Kyle Prisock, Jon Dermott, Linda Eis, and Sharon Odem.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Fleischaker called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and noted due to a class commitment, the order of the agenda needed to change to allow Danielle Campbell, a nursing major and secretary to the Student Senate, to speak regarding her experience representing MSSU at the 29th annual Missouri Governor's Student Leadership Forum. This non-religious Forum, held in Jefferson City from January 6 – 8, enabled student leaders from across the state to gather and learn about servant leadership modeled after the life of Jesus Christ. The forum challenges student leaders to think deeper, broaden their dreams, and think about how they will change the world. Students heard many different speakers including Governor Jay Nixon and talked to the homeless, prisoners, leaders from Ferguson and religious refugees.

MINUTES

Chair Fleischaker asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the November 20, 2015, Board meeting; none were noted.

A motion was made by Bill Gipson and seconded by Mitch McCumber to approve minutes of the November 20, 2015, Board meeting as submitted. Motion passed. (Minutes are archived in the permanent record book.)

REPORTS

Treasurer (Ms. Linda Eis):

Linda noted Financial Statements ending on November 30, 2015 and December 31, 2015 were included in the Board meeting packet. The most recent Financial Statements for the period ending December 31, 2015 were presented as follows:

- Cash Graph
- Statement of Net Position
- Statement of Revenues Expenses and Changes in Net Position
- Comparative Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position
- Cash Flow Statement

Cash Graph: The Cash Graph as of December 31, 2015, shows unrestricted cash, Board Designated Cash & Board Designated Investments at \$6.5 million. Linda noted, as discussed during the last Board meeting, cash at the university is cyclical and follows the beginning and ending of semesters. A lower cash balance was expected at the end of December due to the end of the fall semester. Due to the spring semester beginning one week later this year than last year, cash activity will cross between the months of January and February. A large cash spike will occur when Financial Aid disbursements take place which will also occur one week later this semester. This spike will take place the first week in February in 2016 compared to the last week of January in 2015 resulting in January 2016 having the anticipated lower cash balance as compared to the prior year. This is a timing difference but has a significant impact when there are literally millions of dollars of activity. Student fees are due on Wednesday, January 27th and beginning activity on student accounts is being seen. Linda noted the cash balance this time of the semester changes quickly and of this morning was at \$9.2 million.

Treasurer (continued):

Statement of Net Position: As of December 31, 2015, Total Assets are \$137 million and Total Liabilities are \$76 million making Total Net Position as of December 31, 2015, \$61 million.

Statement of Revenues Expenses and Changes in Net Position: This statement is presented quarterly to provide information on actual versus budget.

Comparative Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position: In looking at the “difference column”, Total Operating Revenues increased by \$1.5 million primarily due to increased tuition revenue and an increase in State Appropriations and Access Missouri Scholarships. Total Operating Expenses increased by about \$1.2 million primarily due to an extra pay period in December and increased utilities. Total Non-operating Revenues increased by \$54,000.

Income (Loss) Before Other Revenues: As of December 31, 2015, compared to December 31, 2014, there is a comparative increase of \$386,000 indicating operations are doing very well.

Other Revenues: The first reimbursement payment of Capital State Appropriations of \$62,000 for the remodel of Reynolds Hall has been received. Linda noted this reimbursement process is going very well with a very fast turnaround time.

Mr. Fleischaker asked if the cashing of two CDs approved by the Board during the November, 2015 meeting have taken place. Linda responded yes, two CDs were redeemed as approved.

A motion was made by Mitch McCumber and seconded by Tracy Flanigan to approve the December 31, 2015, financial statements as presented. Motion passed. (A copy of the financial statements for December 31, 2015, is 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.

- ✓ **Reynolds Hall Remodel** – The design/development phase is complete. The architects are working on the construction drawings with an anticipated completion date being the end of March. The third floor of Reynolds Hall is empty allowing the contractor to begin light demo of the ceiling and floor tiles and asbestos abatement; items that will not cause noise or disturb classes. The major demo of removing cinder block walls will take place in a two to three week period between the end of the spring semester and the beginning of summer school.
- ✓ **Reynolds Annex** - Work is complete and the Annex is occupied and is fully operational for the spring semester. Students and faculty are very pleased with the way this facility is accommodating their needs.
- ✓ **City of Joplin Trail Project** – Due to the City having to obtain letters from Jasper County and the cities of Webb City and Duquesne stating they do not object to changing the Base Flood Elevation on the FEMA maps for this project, this project has slowed. The City now has the documentation they need and are ready to submit the FEMA application within a few days. The City has given assurance slow, but steady progress is still being made on this project.
- ✓ **Budget** – Preparation for next year's budget is underway and a meeting of the Budget Audit committee will be needed in February. Initial information for FY17 was released by Governor Nixon last night during his State of the State Address. As of now, MSSU will receive an additional 5.5% in FY17 and an additional \$3 million for a satellite dental program in collaboration with the UMKC Dental School.

Director of Athletics (Mr. Jared Bruggeman):

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

- ✓ Work on the Department of Education's **Equity in Athletics Data Analysis (EADA)** report is complete and the report has been submitted.
- ✓ The NCAA's **Agreed Upon Procedures Audit** is complete. At this point indications are no findings, which is truly remarkable and reflects the hard work by many people both inside and outside of

Director of Athletics (continued):

athletics who worked together to make the audit a success. Jared noted special thanks to the Treasurer and Financial Aid offices for their many hours of work.

- ✓ A main focus during this year's national **NCAA National Convention** in San Antonio, was "Life in Balance" which included practice times, competition schedules, mandatory coach credentials and the health and safety of student athletes. Jared noted Division II continues to emphasize its brand of "Make it Yours" by highlighting the uniqueness of Division II for student athletes.
- ✓ **Academic Success** continues for MSSU athletes. For this past fall semester the overall GPA of MSSU's 340 student athletes was 3.08 which Jared noted is the highest since he has been at Missouri Southern; the highest team GPAs by gender were in women's volleyball and men's golf. Jared noted increased GPAs are attributed to academic tutors, academic advisors and the study table emphasis.
- ✓ A **new head coach** has been hired for the women's soccer program; Chris McNaughton. Chris comes to MSSU after three years at Division I Louisiana-Monroe as its top assistant.

Executive Vice President (Dr. Brad Hodson):

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.

Fundraising

To date, just over \$760,000 has been raised toward the \$1.5 million match of the state 50/50 project for renovating Reynolds Hall. Much of this success can be attributed to naming opportunities that were illustrated in a graph provided in Dr. Hodson's report. Anticipated completion date for fundraising for this mini-campaign is April 1, 2016.

Admissions

Unofficial enrollment numbers for the spring semester are very encouraging. Comparing the date of January 20, 2016 to January 20, 2015 an increase of nearly 300 students is shown. Dr. Hodson noted these early enrollment numbers will change and the official enrollment count will not be taken until Friday, February 12th. The drop date for non-payment of tuition and fees is Wednesday, January 27th. Dr. Hodson noted enrollment for the fall semester also looks very promising.

University Relations and Marketing (URM)

Dr. Hodson congratulated URM on the new format and look of *Crossroads* magazine which was mailed, the first time in its history, to over 30,000 alumni and friends of the university. A second edition is planned for April 2016. Anita Oplotnik suggested adding an MSSU logo to the cover of *Crossroads* to ensure people who receive the magazine will know it is an MSSU publication and not junk mail. Dr. Hodson assured Mrs. Oplotnik this needed change had already been noted and would take place beginning with the April publication.

MSSU received the "People's Choice Award" for the best booth at this week's Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce's Business Expo and congratulated URM for their great design. Dr. Hodson noted MSSU's booth featured displays from four areas: Undergraduate Admissions, the Plaster School of Business, Intercollegiate Athletics and the Campus Bookstore.

Dr. Hodson brought the Board's attention to a Legislative Priorities booklet designed for use by area legislators that contains a lot of useful statistics comparing MSSU to peer institutions. This booklet is very helpful in illustrating needs MSSU has at the state level.

Provost and Vice President for 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.

- ✓ Dr. Carson noted the following items will be discussed by faculty through Faculty Senate and through work of various committees in the upcoming semester: (1) Student residency (current policy of requiring a student to complete their last 30 hours at MSSU to earn a degree and how it compares to peer institutions); (2) What does "upper division" mean; (3) Consideration of adding tracks of study to the Bachelor of General Studies degree to enhance student learning outcomes; (4) Review D, F, (grades) & W (withdrawal) rates and identify specific at risk DFW courses and develop a plan to make

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (continued):

- improvements and increase student success rates; (5) Study the impact of changes in Classification of Institutional Programs (CIP) codes. (6) Develop a Critical Thinking and Communication “minor” for potential inclusion in “Yours to Lose” as well as other MSSU curriculums; (7) Continue to develop and finalize admissions criteria and curriculum for “Yours to Lose”.
- ✓ An upcoming HLC visit to Jane, Missouri regarding MSSU’s collaborative programs at Jane will take place soon.
- ✓ Under consideration is changing the department name “Foreign” Languages to “Modern” Languages and adding Sign Language.
- ✓ The 4th annual Research Fair will be held at MSSU on April 18, 2016. This research competition provides an opportunity for students to showcase their work outside of the classroom and involves not only students, but faculty and members of the community.
- ✓ MSSU’s new Fine Arts magazine *Vivid*, will be launched this Friday, January 22nd at the Focal Point Gallery in downtown Joplin. Dr. Carson noted this exciting new magazine has a lot of student engagement.
- ✓ The latest edition of “Focus on Faculty” was distributed to Board members and continues the tradition of highlighting faculty accomplishments and awards begun by Dr. Pat Lipira.

Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management (Mr. Darren Fullerton):

Note: Highlights of Darren’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.

- ✓ An **Enroll-A-Thon** consisting of two days of calling MSSU students who were enrolled for Fall 2015 but who had not pre-enrolled for Spring 2016 was conducted by the division of Student Affairs during the holiday break. During this event approximately 105 students were enrolled upon contact and due to this outreach over 1,100 students were enrolled from December 12th to January 8th.
- ✓ In order to enhance services and offer support to more students, an **advising realignment** has taken place by combining advisors in Distance Learning with advisors in Advising, Counseling and Testing Services (ACTS). Darren noted on average 500 students each semester have undeclared majors and are advised through the ACTS office.
- ✓ A **testing realignment** has also taken place by merging the ACTS office testing services with Distance Learning testing services. This new alignment has allowed the University to consolidate national and local tests and also campus and online testing. An online proctoring system has been purchased by Distance Learning to enable the development of a true profit center that will broaden testing and help meet national demands.
- ✓ During the fall 2015 semester, with support from the Kinesiology and Biology departments, student help dollars were used for **Supplemental Instruction (SI)** through the Student Success Center to pilot MSSU’s first SI course using peer-assisted study sessions to improve student retention and success. This successful approach to historically difficult courses will continue in the spring 2016 semester through Project Stay and the Math department for students in Math 30.
- ✓ **Spring 2016 fees** are due by 5:00 p.m. on January 27th with payment plans still available through the Bursar’s office.
- ✓ Preparations for the 2nd annual **Dress for Success** event is underway through the combined efforts of MSSU’s Career Services and the Joplin Chamber’s Young Professionals Network (YPN). Last year this event assisted approximately 100 students in receiving gently worn business attire.
- ✓ MSSU’s **Spring Career Fair** is scheduled for April 6th in the Leggett & Platt Athletic Center. Announcements to students regarding this event will take place through flyers, email, LioNet, class announcements and social media.
- ✓ A portion of the \$25,000 default prevention grant received from the Missouri Department of Higher Education has been used to purchase **USA Funds Borrower Connect Advantage™ software** as a communication tool to target, contact and enhance outreach to student loan borrowers and will assist in default prevention.

Faculty Liaison (Dr. David Sharlow - Faculty Senate, President):

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

- ✓ The **Faculty Senate** had a full agenda to discuss at its December meeting which included the Political Activity Policy and Book Buyers. Dr. Hodson presented the newly proposed **Political Activity Policy** and it was well received. The topic of **Book Buyers** needs further discussion due to faculty members voicing mixed thoughts about this topic.
- ✓ **Two curriculum items** were approved. A course in Health Sciences that was brought back from the November meeting due to needed changes in wording and graduate courses presented by the Graduate Council. Dr. Sharlow noted, to his knowledge, this was the first time graduate course changes/additions/deletions have ever been presented to Faculty Senate for approval and are a result of graduate degrees now being offered at Missouri Southern.
- ✓ **Two committee Charges** took place during the meeting; one to the Academic Policy committee and one to the Faculty Welfare committee. Both of these committees were charged to work on specific items with Dr. Carson and to give recommendations/reports to the Faculty Senate during its April meeting. Dr. Sharlow noted the fall semester ended well and the spring semester is beginning well. Faculty had good spirits at the spring semester kickoff, are united, and are looking forward to great things ahead.

Staff Liaison (Ms. Elisa Bryant – Staff Senate, President):

- ✓ Staff Senate met in January and welcomed **new member**, Sharon Fraser.
- ✓ **Two new committees** have been formed. The **Compensation committee** which will research and compare staff salaries and benefits at MSSU to similar higher education institutions and the **Community Service committee**, chaired by Pam Hosp, who did many hours of service for the Martin Luther King Jr. celebration.

Student Representative (Mr. Kyle Prisock, President Student Senate):

- ✓ Last semester was spent filling **vacant Senate seats**.
- ✓ Continued work with the **Diversity committee** will take place during the spring and Kyle noted appreciation for students being well represented on this committee.
- ✓ **Appropriations** of funds for various student clubs will also be ongoing through the spring semester.

Board Committees:

Academic Affairs Committee (Tracy Flanigan, Chair):

Committee has not met; no report was given.

Budget Audit Committee (Mitch McCumber, Chair):

Committee has not met; no report was given.

Executive Committee (Jim Fleischaker, Chair):

Committee has not met; no report was given.

Personnel Committee (Jim Fleischaker, Chair):

Committee has not met; no report was given.

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.

- ✓ The **MSSU/KCU Medical School MOU signing** held on December 18th launching the "Yours to Lose" joint acceptance program for entering freshmen at Missouri Southern was very well attended. Other agreements regarding use of the recreation center, library, sporting events, etc. are still being developed with KCU. Twenty-five students and twenty-five alternates will be admitted into this groundbreaking new program each year.
- ✓ MSSU's annual **Holiday Brunch and Awards ceremony** honoring classified and professional staff was held on December 23rd. Charles Reed (custodian) and Edward Kirkendall (Counselor) received the Classified and Professional Staff outstanding employee of the year awards. Several other employees were honored for their years of service to the University.
- ✓ The annual **Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service** was another great success. Judge Jimmie Edwards shared an outstanding message on the importance of service, successes of the past and challenges of the future to a capacity crowd in MSSU's Connor Ballroom. The late Dr. Al Cade was remembered for his life of service and for organizing the first MLK Day of Service at Missouri Southern twenty-five years ago. Dr. Marble noted thanks and appreciation to Faustina Abrahams and the Diversity committee for their work in organizing this great event.
- ✓ Beginning this spring, the campus will need to focus on **HLC accreditation** and specifically Shared Governance and Strategic Planning, the two areas of concern noted in the last HLC accreditation visit. Dr. Marble noted great strides have been made in Shared Governance and now the university will turn its attention to Strategic Planning which will truly be a constructive process and involve the newly begun Great Game of Education (GGOE). Dr. Marble drew the Board's attention to a Strategic Plan booklet that clearly states Missouri Southern's Mission, Vision, Values, Goals and Objectives to be accomplished. The work of GGOE will tie budgeting back to university Goals and Objectives which Dr. Marble noted is an area many institutions have difficulty with during the HLC accreditation process.
- ✓ Many valuable topics were covered during the recent **NCAA Convention**. One topic Dr. Marble found most interesting was presented by Dr. Hainline, Chief Medical Officer, who has created the Sports Science Institute under the NCAA umbrella to study the benefits and challenges of sports all the way from youth programs to senior adults. Dr. Hainline focused a lot on Cardiac Health and dangers from undiagnosed conditions.
- ✓ Dr. Marble ended his report by sharing **two quotes** he came across while preparing to speak recently at Kiwanis that came from a dedication ceremony for new campus buildings during the early 1960's. The first by Governor Warren G. Hearnes; "Missouri Southern is a catalyst for progress." And the second quote, during the same dedication, came from Fred G. Hughes; "I'm sure if we put the clock ahead 10 years, we would be pleasantly surprised at the changes that will have taken place." Dr. Marble noted both of these quotes are still very relevant and important to Missouri Southern.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS**Consideration of Academic Policies Proposals (Dr. Paula Carson):**

Dr. Carson noted due to the large number of Academic Policy Proposals voted on during the November Board meeting and due to the Holiday break, there were not any Proposals to come before the Board for approval, but items are anticipated needing Board approval during the February Board meeting. The Academic Policy committee is scheduled to meet tomorrow on the 22nd.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Political Activity Policy (Dr. Brad Hodson):

Dr. Hodson reported during the fall semester, the President's Cabinet began discussing the election cycle beginning for local, state and federal governments and the role of MSSU as an institution as well as employee roles and as a result, a new Political Activity Policy has been developed. This new policy, included in the Board meeting packet, has been vetted by the President's Cabinet, University Council, Faculty Senate and Staff Senate.

Dr. Marble noted this new Political Activity Policy needs Board approval, but a determination needs to be made regarding whether this Policy is a Board Policy or a University Policy. Dr. Marble noted his preference is for the Political Action Policy to be adopted as a Board Policy.

Mrs. Flanigan asked, if in the Activity Section, a specific definition of Political Activity is needed and if it is, could a specific definition be included.

Mrs. Oplotnik asked if this Policy was created at MSSU. Dr. Hodson replied yes, he created the policy, but Section I is taken directly from State Statute; Section II was developed by reviewing Best Practices at other institutions of higher education; Section II is taken from State Statute; Section IV pertains specifically to MSSU.

Mr. Gipson asked if favoring issues could also be included in this policy.

Chair Fleischaker suggested the Board submit questions to Dr. Hodson via email and this new proposed policy be brought back and placed on the agenda for the February Board meeting for a final decision. Board members verbally agreed to Chair Fleischaker's suggestion.

Missouri Governor's Student Leadership Forum (Mr. Darren Fullerton):

Note: This report information can be found under Announcements. The order of the agenda was changed to accommodate the student's class schedule.

Reynolds Annex – Before and After (Mr. Rob Yust)

Highlights of Mr. Yust's presentation are as follows:

Mr. Yust shared a brief history about the Reynolds Hall renovation project and noted the University has been seeking state appropriations for years to make this project possible. In December of 2014 Governor Nixon visited campus and toured Reynolds Hall and announced MSSU would receive Capital Appropriations of \$5.2 million with the opportunity to do a 50/50 match for an additional \$3 million (\$1.5 million plus \$1.5 million). Governor Nixon's announcement enabled the long requested and needed renovation of Reynolds Hall to become possible.

Transitioning and where to house classes and faculty during the renovation were discussed. Different options were explored including utilizing the temporary FEMA units used by Joplin R-8 after the 2011 tornado.

Due to Jeff Gibson's work with FEMA building a tornado shelter on campus, Jeff contacted FEMA and inquired about the temporary units used by Joplin R-8. After several inquiries, information led to the State of Missouri Surplus Property site and the location of the FEMA units on a storage site by 20th & Davis Boulevard.

The original cost of the 15 stand-alone units (not connected to each other) was \$940,000. Through negotiations let by Jeff Gibson, MSSU was able to purchase all 15 units for \$9,400; 1% of the original cost. In order to have the units moved from their storage location to campus, FEMA initially quoted a price of \$8,000 per unit, and again, through Jeff Gibson's negotiations, FEMA eventually agreed to move all 15 units to campus free of charge.

On February 9th and 10th of 2015, the 15 units were delivered to campus and placed in a parking lot behind the Physical Plant. Bids went out to move and setup the units in their present location and Sid Davis (Big Johns Heavy Equipment) was contracted to do the job which took 10 months to complete.

A sidewalk connecting Reynolds Hall to the Annex was built and the entire project was completed in December of 2015 with MSSU's Physical Plant employees doing an excellent job on the finish work.

Reynolds Annex – Before and After (continued)

All utilities were placed under the floors to enable the Annex to be transitioned easily if needed in the future by other campus areas. The Annex is very sturdy with 146 piers buried deep in the ground with tie downs every 10 feet. This 12,766 square foot facility houses 16 faculty offices, three lecture classrooms, a computer lab, Biology lab, two Physics labs, a Physics lab prep and storage room, a Biology lab prep and storage room, public men's and women's restrooms as well as an ADA restroom. The adjacent parking lot has 135 spaces.

Immediately following the Board meeting, members of the Board, the campus and the media enjoyed a narrated tour of the Annex.

Future Meeting Dates:

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Friday, February 19th with a meeting of the Budget Audit committee also anticipated on the 19th.

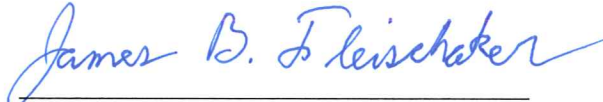
Adjournment:

Mr. Fleischaker noted a closed executive session was not needed and asked for a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Mitch McCumber and seconded by Michael Franks to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.



Secretary



Chair