

MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY

Board of Governors

Minutes

March 16, 2018

Billingsly Student Center, Room 310

The March 16, 2018 meeting of the Missouri Southern State University Board of Governors was called to order at 1 o'clock by Mitch McCumber, Chair. Governors in attendance were Tracy Flanigan, Mike Franks, Bill Gipson, Carlos Haley, Alison Hershewe, Mitch McCumber, and Dr. Benjamin Rosenberg. Anita Oplotnik was in non-attendance. Others in attendance were Dr. Alan Marble, Dr. Paula Carson, Dr. Brad Hodson, Darren Fullerton, Rob Yust, Justin Maskus (representing Jared Bruggeman), Jon Dermott, Nick Nicoletti, Sharon Fraser, (Garner Rudroff representing Joe Blank), Linda Eis, and Laura Boyd.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair McCumber welcomed everyone.

MINUTES

Chair McCumber asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the February 16, 2018 Board meeting; none were noted.

A motion was made by Alison Hershewe and seconded by Mike Franks to approve minutes of the February 16, 2018 Board meeting as submitted. Motion passed unanimously. (Minutes are archived in the permanent record book).

REPORTS

Treasurer (Ms. Linda Eis)

Linda noted financial statements for February 28, 2018 was included in the Board packet.

Cash Graph:

Linda noted in reviewing the statements for the period ending February 28, 2018, the Cash Graph reflects cash at \$19M an Increase of \$2.1M which includes a lot of student financial aid disbursement activity.

Statement of Net Position:

Total Assets of \$174M, Total Liabilities of \$95M, making Total Net Assets \$79M. Linda noted Missouri Southern has paid the semi-annual bond payments of nearly \$620k. This is an interest only payment.

Comparative Statement of Revenues Expenses and Changes in Net Position:

Looking at the "difference" column:

- **Total Operating Revenue** increased over the prior year by \$623k.
- **Total Operating Expenses** increased by \$1.8M. Linda noted the health insurance transition from fully insured to partially self-insured. Last year Missouri Southern had premium savings from the transition and an immature claims year. As the university moves in to a fully mature year, we can now see all claims paid from the partially self-funded plan whereas last year, some claims were still paid under the old fully insured plan.
- **Non-Operating Revenue (Expense)** decreased (\$1.4M) noting (\$1.3M) decrease in state appropriations.

Treasurer (continued):

- **Income (Loss) Before Other Revenues** reflects the current year increase \$9.3M, and an increase in the prior year at \$11.8M reflecting a decrease of (\$2.5M).
- **Other Revenues** – Decrease (\$5.5M) primarily from the difference in state capital appropriations requests for the Reynolds/Nixon Hall project for both years. Linda noted a reimbursement request of \$393k was made this week.

A motion was made by Mike Franks and seconded by Bill Gipson to approve the February 28, 2018 financial statements as presented. Motion passed unanimously. (A copy of the financial statements for February 28, 2018 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:

- Construction continues with steel "I" beams being installed to the south of Reynold's Hall to shore up the hillside and road, nineteen of the forty-six piers have been drilled and poured. Demolition has also begun with the stair tower at the southeast corner of Reynold's hall, which connects the walkway to **Nixon Hall**. This project is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2018 with classes beginning the spring of 2019.
- Architects were on campus to conduct constituent meetings with staff, students and an outside advisory party regarding the football **Stadium renovation and Residence Hall construction**. The cost and design of the stadium renovation will be paid solely from generous donations. Discussions took place regarding design, location and budget. More to follow.
- The **Trail Project** continues with the city of Joplin acquiring the final right of way from the Northpark Mall. The City is waiting on a signed easement from the Mall owners, which entails a revised lease agreement. Construction is anticipated to begin the fall of 2018.

Director of Athletics (Justin Maskus, representing Mr. Jared Bruggeman):

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.

Updates**Sport Program**

- ✓ The **Missouri Southern men's basketball team** ended the season 20-10 and advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the sixth time in program history.
- ✓ **Track & Field teams** recently finished the season; the women placed 11th and the men 16th. In all, the Lions had seven All-American performances and a National Champion. Emily Presley was the champion in the pole vault for the third time in her career, while Bryan Burns and Allie Heckemeyer won multiple All-American honors. Allie was also named the NCAA's Elite 90 award winner for the women at the event. This award is given to the individual competing at the National Championships with the top GPA (Allie's GPA is 4.0) she has won the award twice. The men's track and field team is currently in seventh place in the national Program of the Year standings.
- ✓ The **baseball team** is 17-3 overall and is ranked 11th nationally in the latest coaches poll and is 5-1 in the MIAA. The team will travel to Nebraska-Kearney for a three-game series.

Director of Athletics (continued):

- ✓ Kalie Mader is the new **Volleyball Coach** she comes from Blinn College in Texas and has a 95-44 record at the junior college level.

Executive Vice President (Dr. Brad Hodson):

Note: Additional information can be found in a handout distributed to the Board that is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book.

Fundraising

- Over one hundred donors gathered on March 14, 2018 for a **Leadership Annual Giving Lunch**. The purpose of this event was to create enthusiasm among those donors who annually make gifts of \$1,000 or more to Missouri Southern.

University Relations and Marketing

- A record number of licensing partners (114 to date) have renewed their contract to offer MSSU branded apparel and products. The largest licensee in terms of sales in 2017 was BSN Sports, which reported \$90,000 in total sales. MSSU receives 10% of that amount for a standard license. Recently, the **Target store in Joplin** placed an order for several MSSU branded apparel items they plan to sell this fall. This is the first time Joplin Target has carried MSSU merchandise.

Missouri Southern Foundation

- The Missouri Southern Foundation closed March 16, 2018 on the acquisition of the former Joplin Public Library building at 300 South Main in downtown Joplin. The Joplin City Council approved the gift of the facility in the fall and since that time, structural, mechanical, and environmental audits have been conducted. With no areas of concern raised by those audits, the transfer of ownership proceeds today. A task force representing on-campus, downtown and city stakeholders also met during that time and has forwarded a recommendation to the president regarding occupancy by campus academic departments and support services. MSSU will begin working on a fundraising campaign for the renovation of that facility and turning it into a downtown campus.

Tuition & Fees

- Dr. Hodson noted that both he and Dr. Marble have been to Jefferson City in the last few weeks speaking with Missouri legislators regarding Missouri Southern Funding. Dr. Hodson provided a spreadsheet to the board regarding “Missouri Public University Total Funding Comparison” and “Missouri Public University Tuition and Fees Comparison” (both of which the legislators have heard a lot of). Missouri Southern is at the bottom of both lists. The spreadsheet also entailed examples of other universities in the state of Missouri with the same equivalency for appropriations and tuition fees that Missouri Southern gets, and how it would affect their budget if given the same portion.

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.

Updates:

Dr. Carson gave updates on the following:

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (continued):

- **MDHE Core 42 Timeline and Impact**
Final implementation of Core 42 should be completed by April 15, 2018. This involves altering every major that Southern offers. Dr. Carson thanked every department on campus for the work each person has done in helping to carry out this new curriculum.
- **Non-traditional Credit Earning Mechanisms**
This includes the Registrars, ACTS and Academic Affairs office involving Experiential Learning and Retro Credit.
- **Deans and Faculty Searches**
At this time, two dean searches and seven or eight faculty searches have been conducted for fall of 2018. Committees have met and are now in the deliberating stages to hire.
- **Tenure and Promotion Midterm Meetings**
At this time there have been more than 43 meetings involving handbook revisions.
- **Three-year Compensation Review**
Also involving the handbook – the Academic Affairs department is working with the Faculty Senate and other various committees requiring this review.
- **Writing Coordinator – (Megan Bever, Assistant Professor, History)**
Dr. Carson gave handouts regarding Practices in Technology and Writing presented by The Writing Program and Teaching & Learning Committees. This event will be held April 4, 2018 @ 3:00 pm in BSC Ballroom.
- **Grant for Law Enforcement Police Car**
Recently the department received a grant to purchase a Charger.
- **Internship Tool Kit**
Dr. Carson noted Academic Affairs is working with a team in Student Affairs and Career Services to improve intern placements.
- **Textbook Options Exploration**
Due to rentals and new publishing, Missouri Southern is looking at new options for textbooks.
- **Student Travel Committee**
Dr. Carson reported new policies are constantly being looked at to keep Missouri Southern students safe.
- **Routine Civil Rights Audit**
This will take place April 4, 2018
- **Campus Events (National History Day, Science Fair, & Regional Music Competition)**
These events will take place in April.
- **Spring Faculty Development Grants**
Missouri Southern has accepted \$6,500 in spring faculty development grants.
- **KCU: Yours to Lose, Research Lab & Research Forum**
Participants of the research forum met on March 21, 2018.
- **HLC Update:**
The original input will be April 1, 2018.
- **Women's History Month Panel & CyberSecurity Workshop** will be held March 30, 2018.
- **Writing Program and Teaching and Learning Workshop** will be held April 4, 2018.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (continued):

➤ **Frankenstein Week**

This event was held March 5-10, 2018 due to the book “Frankenstein” being written by Mary Shelley in the spring of 1816.

Dr. Carson also explained a book called “Bordertown” written by Missouri Southern students will be given to the Governors at the next board meeting.

Vice President for Student Affairs (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.

Southern Welcome Orientation

The Southern Welcome Committee has made numerous revisions to the University’s new student orientation (Southern Welcome) which is traditionally held in the summer. One of the improvements is to offer an online Orientation to MSSU for students who cannot attend at the University. On average there are between 200-250 students that cannot make it to Southern Welcome.

University Experience Sub-Committee

This committee has been meeting all year to review all courses under the UE designation. The committee has reviewed UE100-the University Experience Freshmen Seminar course. Recommendations for this course, including syllabus changes, are in the process of being presented to the academic policies committee. The committee is currently reviewing UE150–College Academic Skills. These changes will be submitted to Academic Policies in the fall. The next review will be for UE105–Career and Life Planning.

Summer Pell Grants Available

Pell Grants could be available to students who take six hours in the summer (even if they were full-time fall, spring students, and used their full annual award). Sub-Unsub Direct Stafford loans require 6 hours of enrollment for summer term. Undergraduate or Graduate programs require at least six hours for loans for any semester, including summer. Sub-Unsub Direct Stafford Loans will be paid in two installments (June 14, 2018 and July 12, 2018).

TRIO Budgets for FY 2019

MSSU would like to thank Congressman Billy Long, who signed onto a bipartisan letter encouraging the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education to include an increase in funding for Federal TRIO programs in FY 2019. Additionally, as Congressman Long understands the value and impact the TRIO programs have on Missouri Southern State University’s campus, he will personally advocate to House leadership regarding the funding for TRIO programs in the FY 2019 budget.

Career Services

The fourth annual “Dress to Impress” event was held on March 14, 2018. This event is co-sponsored by MSSU Career Services and the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals Network. This year also included volunteers from a variety of local businesses, as well as community leaders from the Leadership Joplin Program. Indigo Sky Casino donated the use of pipe and drape staging which served over 328 students.

Faculty Senate President (Dr. Nick Nicoletti)

Note: Highlights of Dr. Nicoletti’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.

Faculty Senate President (continued):

Dr. Nicoletti noted the first item of discussion was the new MSSU Buyout-Policy. This policy involves buying out courses, for example if you get an external grant funding for a project, part of the funding can be used to buy out a course. The idea is to specify what you would like to buy out, how much to pay in for benefits, and anticipate the cost to replace yourself with an adjunct. The faculty Senate unanimously approved this policy. The senate will report on this vote to the University Council on March 26, 2018.

Dr. Nicoletti also noted the Faculty Senate discussed many aspects of Health insurance including:

- A third plan option closer to the base plan, which the HSA plan has replaced -
- Prescription drug cost reduction on higher deductible plans -
- Clear and concise information regarding costs from healthcare providers -
- In-Network vs. Out-Network differences -
- Getting costs reduced for family plans -
- Clear understanding of which payments go toward the deductible and which do not -
- HSA fees and choice of bank -
- Whether the MSSU subsidy will increase with costs, just as employee premiums are increasing with costs -

Dr. Nicoletti noted one of the changes is to have the decision-timeline for Health Insurance to begin earlier in the year, rather than during the summer. This would increase faculty input, as faculty tend to be on campus less during summer months.

Staff Senate President (Mrs. Sharon Fraser)

Mrs. Fraser noted Staff Senate members participated in the Green Dot Training. This training educates staff, faculty, and students to transform the culture of campus aggressiveness and alleviate unacceptable behavior. Tani Montee, Administrative Assistant - First Year Experience, and Josh Doak, Director, Residence Life, led the Green Dot Training.

Mrs. Fraser also noted the presidents of the Faculty Senate (Dr. Nicoletti), Staff Senate (Sharon Fraser), and Student Senate (Joe Blank), have been meeting together during lunch to show transparency with shared governance on campus.

Mrs. Fraser noted members of the Staff Senate are actively participating in Staff Senate committees and University committees on campus.

Student Senate President (Garner Rudroff representing Mr. Joe Blank)

Mr. Rudroff noted elections for student senate would begin late April. Garner also reported the Student Senate has allocated \$7,700 this semester towards a new trophy case, and banners on campus. Each club will have a 2x3 banner with images of their organization to be displayed in the Lion's Den with the hope more students will get involved on campus. Mr. Rudroff also noted Student Senate has allocated nearly \$60,000 this year, with \$30,000 going towards the FEMA shelter with plans of making it more sound proof, allowing students to entertain activities.

Board Committees:

Chair McCumber noted a Planning Session meeting took place at 10:00 am before the board meeting regarding Missouri Southern's Mission Statement.

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.

Budget

Dr. Marble recalled the Governor's budget cuts of 10% across the board and withholds of another 10% that can be regained by achieving all six performance-funding measures. However, the 10% cut would cost the university nearly \$2.4 million and would require a 20% tuition hike to offset. The total cut to Missouri higher education would total nearly \$92 million. The latest budget approach coming out of the House would restore \$68 million of the \$92 million, if colleges and universities would agree to freeze tuition next year. In addition, if colleges and universities decide not to agree with the tuition freeze the restoration would shrink to \$38 million and \$30 million would be added to the Access Missouri scholarship fund. Dr. Marble noted these scholarship funds would be great if they were coming from new money, but as it is, the funds are in effect being taken from our core budgets. Currently, every college and university in the state is contemplating what to do and the path forward remains unclear for many. It is very clear for Missouri Southern because of being underfunded in both appropriations per FTE and tuition per FTE. Southern is working with local delegation and the Higher Education Commissioner in an effort to come up with a solution of very low tuition and very low appropriation levels that have compounded over the years to put MSSU over \$1,000 below the nearest colleague in terms of total revenue per FTE. If Missouri Southern could reach the level of the next lowest university, it would add almost \$5 million in new revenue to the budget. Dr. Marble noted the intent was to present university budget options to the board this month, but with the state appropriation and tuition freeze conversations, thought it would be best to delay until next month. It is not clear how long this budget battle may drag out so there is a chance conversation could be even later coming to the board with a budget proposal. These are strange and difficult times.

Fees

Dr. Marble explained many of our sister institutions are adding or raising supplemental fees as a surrogate for tuition increases, which appear to students randomly assessed, and are very difficult to determine prior to receiving the first bill for a semester. Fortunately, Southern students do not get charged nearly as many fees as other institutions charge and are quite low by comparison. Missouri Southern feels that by rolling the fees currently on books into tuition provides a much more transparent and understandable base for students and parents to plan financial aid, payment plans, etc.

MOCAP

Dr. Marble noted a special state appropriation was made to create the Missouri Center for Advanced Power Systems Research (MOCAP) with lab equipment and a dry room on campus. The Center is located in the Mills Anderson Criminal Justice building. The Center is a collaborative effort involving several Missouri universities, including Missouri University of Science & Technology, Missouri State University, the University of Missouri – Columbia, and Missouri Southern. The MOCAP consortium developed several courses that continue to be offered online by each of the participants. A local battery company recently visited the campus with an interest in testing and prototype development in the lab. This company expressed a strong desire to involve our students in the projects. Dr. Marble noted this could be the launch of something very beneficial for both our students and the community in general.

President (continued):**Great Game of Education (GGOE)**

Dr. Marble acknowledged the work of the Great Game of Education explaining even though the university is challenged once again by a reduction in state appropriations, Southern is in much better shape due to the expense controls on campus everyone contributes to. Dr. Marble noted it is very unfortunate that even though the state recognizes GGOE and the efficiency, it has produced; budgets are still cut at the same rate as the less efficient organizations. The GGOE team has even been invited to present workshops at other state colleges and universities to help create synergies and efficiencies, but the recognition does not seem to make any difference when it comes to the level of state appropriations or the ability to increase tuition. Dr. Marble also noted although this treatment has been very discouraging the GGOE team continues to soldier on with confidence and optimism. The team has elected to focus on the things like retention and ignore those we cannot control (such as the state budget). Dr. Marble expressed his appreciation and respect for their courage to accomplish so much during this difficult stretch in Missouri higher education.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS**Consideration of Academic Policies Proposals**

None at this time

Jazz Connection (Dr. Paula Carson, Dr. Keith Talley, and Dr. Phillip Wise)

A presentation of Missouri Southern's Jazz Ensemble Group was shared with the board. Cassie Mathes, Director of University Relations and Marketing, and her team at URM were responsible for putting this presentation together. Dr. Carson thanked both Dr. Talley and Dr. Wise for all the work they do and recognized the students involved with Jazz Ensemble. Dr. Talley thanked Dr. Marble for requesting something that the music department could showcase, which has resulted in the Jazz Ensemble Recording from Winterwood Studios in Eureka Springs Arkansas. The ensemble includes Missouri Southern students: Mansa Campbell - Trumpet, Tyler Graves - Piano, Bailey Clark - Singer, Josh Newburry - Bass, Raemon Wilson - Drums and Mark Knolls, Saxophone.

Dr. Wise noted currently there are four Missouri Southern Jazz ensembles and each ensemble is very active, recently performing nationally in Iowa, and local for the Joplin Area Association for the blind. Dr. Wise noted a concert will be held April 19, in Corley Auditorium, April 26 which involves all 4 jazz combos, also in Corley Auditorium, April 27, at Gusano's and May 2, Corley Auditorium.

Dr. Wise noted canned goods and non-perishable food items are graciously received at the door of Jazz concerts for Crosslines Ministries. The Jazz program works with Crosslines in supplying food for our community in need. A copy of the Jazz Ensemble groups CD was given to each Board member.

Other Items

- ❖ Chair McCumber noted next month's board meeting will be held on April 25th instead of April 20th due to a scheduling conflict. There will also be a committee meeting on April 25th before the board meeting beginning at 10:00 am.

Other Items (continued):

- ❖ Chair McCumber also noted discussion for next month's board meeting will include the frequency of board meetings anticipated to be held in January, March, June, September, and November. This change in the board meeting schedule would involve bylaw changes as well.
- ❖ Chair McCumber congratulated Dr. Marble on being named an "Icon of Education" for 2018. Dr. Marble was recognized in the February 2018 issue of Ingram's Magazine, (a Kansas City Missouri publisher, the leading business publication in Missouri and Kansas for more than 40 years).
- ❖ Governor Haley noted the Board meeting time change next month should allow the board members an opportunity to attend Southernfest which includes the Rod Smith Golf Tournament beginning @ 9:00 am and the Lion Pride Dinner Auction beginning @ 6:00 pm.

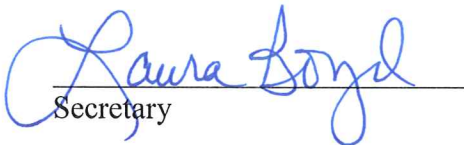
Future Meeting Dates:

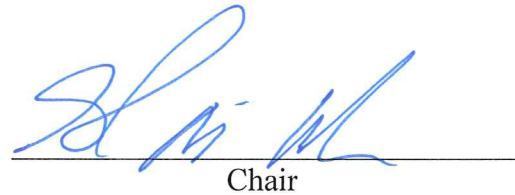
The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for April 25, 2018 at 1 o'clock.

Adjournment:

Chair McCumber asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

A motion was made by Mike Franks and seconded by Bill Gipson to adjourn. Motion passed.


Secretary


Chair