

MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY
Board of Governors
Minutes

March 18, 2016 – 1:00 pm
Billingsly Student Center, Room 310

The March 18, 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, Keith Hankins, Alison Hershewe, Mitch McCumber, and Anita Oplotnik. Others in attendance were Dr. Alan Marble, Jared Bruggeman, Dr. Paula Carson, Darren Fullerton, Dr. Brad Hodson, Rob Yust, Dr. David Sharlow, Kim Noll, Jon Dermott, Linda Eis, and Sharon Odem. Bill Gipson, Elisa Bryant and Kyle Prisock were in non-attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Fleischaker called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone; no additional announcements were made except to note a slight change in the order of the meeting agenda. Dr. Marble noted due to vocal auditions on campus today, the Chamber Singers, as part of the focus on Performing Arts, needed to perform at the beginning of the Board meeting instead of at the end.

Dr. David Sharlow spoke briefly about the high caliber of vocal students chosen to participate in the Chamber Singers and noted this very talented and dedicated group is made up of music majors and minors as well as students majoring in other disciplines. Dr. Sharlow acknowledged music professors and vocal instructors Dr. Susan Smith and Dr. Jordan Wilson who were seated in the audience.

The Chamber Singers sang two different types of songs highlighting their vocal talents, beautiful harmony and disciplined training.

MINUTES

Chair Fleischaker asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the February 19, 2016, Board meeting; none were noted.

A motion was made by Mitch McCumber and seconded by Michael Franks to approve minutes of the February 19, 2016, Board meeting as submitted. Motion passed. (Minutes are archived in the permanent record book.)

REPORTS

Treasurer (Ms. Linda Eis):

Financial Statements for the period ending February 29, 2016 were presented as follows:

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

Cash Graph: The Cash Graph as of February 29, 2016, shows unrestricted cash, Board Designated Cash & Board Designated Investments at \$14.7 million. The variances from the January cash balances are from the timing of financial aid having cleared through.

Statement of Net Position: As of February 29, 2016, Total Assets are \$147 million and Total Liabilities are \$76 million making Total Net Position as of February 29, 2016, \$71 million. Linda noted accounts receivables, as compared to the prior month, are \$12.5 million less reflecting payments on student accounts; students also received refunds for excess financial aid including electronic refunds of \$4.4 million and paper check refunds of \$2 million.

Treasurer (continued):

Comparative Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position: In looking at the “difference column”, Total Operating Revenues increased \$2.7 million. Linda discussed the additional information of Current Month totals that include state grants reflecting an increase of which \$1 million was received from Access Missouri. Linda noted due to better communication with students about scholarship options and timing of deadlines, an additional 113 students received Access Missouri scholarships (Access Missouri Scholarships do not have to be paid back). Total Operating Expenses increased by \$1.1 million over the prior year. The current month’s activity reflects compensation and fringe benefits of \$3.4 million; a monthly expense. Dr. Marble acknowledged the cost of health insurance continues to increase and in this year alone this expense has increased \$300,000 over this same time last year.

Income (Loss) Before Other Revenues: As of February 29, 2016, compared to February 28, 2015, there is a comparative increase between the two years of \$1.3 million which reflects operations continuing to do well.

Other Revenues: Reimbursement payments of Capital State Appropriations for the remodel of Reynolds Hall continue to be received in a timely manner.

A motion was made by Tracy Flanigan and seconded by Alison Hershewe to approve the February 29, 2016, financial statements as presented. Motion passed. (A copy of the financial statements for February 29, 2016, 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** – Construction drawings have been completed by the architects (Paragon) and have been sent to subcontractors. A pre-bid meeting with subs will take place on March 20th with all bids due back to the contractor (Crossland) on April 7th. MSSU’s Physical Plant staff has done a great job completing asbestos abatement on the 3rd floor of Reynolds. Light demo by the contractor will begin in April with major demo planned after the spring semester ends and before summer school begins to avoid disrupting classes.
- ✓ **City of Joplin Trail Project** – FEMA has notified the City they are still reviewing their application for the Trail Project.
- ✓ **Budget** – Preparation for next year’s budget is progressing and actions at the state level are being closely monitored. A meeting of the Board’s Budget Audit Committee is anticipated in April to review the status of the budget.

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 that is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book.

- ✓ **Men’s Basketball** qualified for the MIAA Tournament in Kansas City for the 19th-straight year. Taevaunn Prince, a unanimous All-MIAA selection, made great contributions to the team’s success.
- ✓ **Men’s Track and Field** recently competed at the 2016 NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field Championships at Pittsburg State. Jayce Thomas earned All-American honors in both the heptathlon and the high jump and Kennan Harrison earned All-American in the triple jump. Thomas was the Regional Field Athlete of the Year after posting the fourth-highest heptathlon score in Division II history and won the MIAA title. Thomas was also named the MIAA High Point winner.
- ✓ **Women’s Track and Field** also recently competed at the 2016 NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field Championships at Pittsburg State. Melanie Bower and Emily Presley earned All-American in the pole vault with Bower finishing second overall. Kaylee Morgan earned All-American in the long jump and Emily Harris earned All-American honors in the mile.
- ✓ Rachel Burleson has been meeting with area high school counselors, parents & students regarding **new initial eligibility requirements** for NCAA Division II which will require more Math and Science courses and hold student-athletes to a higher academic standard.
- ✓ Dedication of the **Pat Lipira Softball Complex** will take place on Sunday, April 3rd, at 12:30. Jared encouraged all Board members to attend this special event.

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.

- ✓ An update on progress regarding **capital project fundraising** was shared in detail in Dr. Hodson's written report. Highlights included the commitment of almost \$1 million dollars for the state match Reynolds Hall remodel project. Completion of the Baseball Stadium, End Zone Facility and the Lipira Softball Field were also highlighted.
- ✓ The **annual phonathon** took place for approximately a month during the fall semester with an increase in pledges noted. Student callers made contact with prospective donors and as a result of this one-on-one contact, 843 new email addresses, 5,036 cell phone numbers and 1,303 home phone numbers were collected to add to the database for next year.
- ✓ An **"admissions funnel"** was illustrated in Dr. Hodson's written report. An early look at the "funnel" for the fall indicates solid growth with applications increasing 10% from March 1, 2015 to March 1, 2016 and admitted students increasing by 16% compared to this same time period. Student prospects, applicants, and admits from Missouri are showing a notable early growth of 21% in application and a 26% increase in admitted students. Dr. Hodson also noted RSVPs for upcoming Southern Welcome events are very promising and the first two sessions are already filled to capacity.

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.

- ✓ **Academic work-in-progress** items noted included end of year senior exit testing; course evaluations; review of upper division requirements; searches being conducted in the areas of the Library, Music, English and Nursing; tenure, promotion and evaluation processes.
- ✓ **Dr. Christine Eller**, a member of MSSU's Nursing faculty, has been nominated for the 2016 Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.
- ✓ Dr. Carson thanked Emily Younker, Joplin Globe, for the detailed article she recently wrote regarding the **Missouri Region 6 History Day** that was held at MSSU on March 11th. This great recruiting event and interactive competition brought over 200 Junior High and High School students from 16 different schools, 10 different districts as well as 23 teachers to campus.
- ✓ The **2016 Health and Safety Expo**, recently begun by MSSU's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) department, is scheduled for April 15th. This event brings together professionals in the health and safety industry and will provide a great opportunity for MSSU students and prospective students to interact and network with area professionals. New this year will be the first ever Biohazard Games.

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.

- ✓ **Fall semester preparations** are underway and the following items were noted: Priority class registration begins on April 1st; Degree Audit Training for advisors and students is being offered by the Registrar's office; the first Southern Welcome is scheduled on April 20th which also coincides with the Honors Signing Ceremony; Processing for FY16-17 FAFSAs are in progress and as of March 14th over 3,000 have been received for the upcoming Fall/Spring semesters; names of students eligible for Foundation scholarships will be sent to departments this month and students receiving Foundation scholarships will be notified before the end of the Spring semester; FY16-17 Residence Hall applications have increased and are now available online.
- ✓ **Upcoming events** noted included Graduation Expo on March 30th; the Young Professional's Network (YPN) "Dress to Impress" professional clothing giveaway on March 31st (800 students were assisted through this event in 2015) the Spring Career Fair on April 6th (over 100 regional and national employers and graduate schools are scheduled to attend - this event is also open to alums).

Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management (continued):

- ✓ Maghan Alberts, a Navy veteran, has been hired as the **Veteran Services Coordinator** and will fill a need as an on campus resource for students who are veterans and students who are currently serving in the military.
- ✓ Progress continues on campus **smoking cessation**. Tobacco/Vapor free campus door decals are in place, cessation services through the Wilcoxon Health Center have begun including free nicotine replacement therapy products and URM is working on a marketing campaign for the main rollout that will take place during the fall semester.

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

Note: Highlights of Dr. Sharlow'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.

- ✓ **Enrollment challenges** for incoming freshman enrolling in online courses due to face-to-face classes closing quickly during Southern Welcomes has been discussed by Faculty Senate and brought to the attention of Dr. Carson and Darren Fullerton. Dr. Carson is working with Deans and Department Chairs to ensure adequate space is available for freshman to enroll in face-to-face on-campus classes instead of online classes to foster academic success.
- ✓ A detailed training session on **Curricular Documents (CRDs)** that accompany curricular changes/additions/deletions is scheduled for March 31st. This training session will allow sharing of information and input from individuals who directly work with CRDs.
- ✓ On behalf of MSSU and Faculty Senate, Dr. Sharlow submitted a written report to a recent meeting of the **Missouri Association of Faculty Senates (MAFS)**. Highlights of the report included focuses and goals of MSSU's Faculty Senate, Senate accomplishments, and university news. Two topics discussed during the MAFS meeting included proposed legislation pertaining to awarding scholarships to Dual Credit students and a MAFS Resolution stating strong opposition to the proposed legislation regarding Conceal and Carry on college and university campuses.
- ✓ The **Academic Policies Committee (APC)** continues to be diligent in sending back their recommendations and proposals for Faculty Senate Charges given to the committee last semester. The latest response pertained to textbook adoption – rental vs. purchase, access codes and academic freedom.

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

- ✓ A recommendation to Faculty Senate regarding **textbook buyers** is still being developed. Kim referred to a solicitation policy currently in the Student Handbook and noted this policy is a good starting point, but recommended it being revised to better fit the needs of staff and faculty.
- ✓ A **compensation survey** designed to gather compensation information for staff positions, including the demographic audience it will be mailed to, was distributed.

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

Due to a scheduling conflict, Kyle was absent – no report was given.

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.

Board Committees (continued):**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.

✓ **Budget and Legislative Priorities** included:

- As noted during a previous Board meeting, the **Governor's recommended budget** includes a 6% increase for higher education with 1% dedicated to STEM programs in conjunction with freezing tuition next budget year. Dr. Marble noted the Governor's budget recommendation led to the Board action during the February meeting which will hold tuition flat, but is contingent upon MSSU receiving the recommended 6% Budget increase.
- **House Bill 3** (approved by the House and now in the Senate) only includes a 2% budget increase for higher education due to different projections in growth rates; 3.1% vs. 4.1%.
- **Other proposed legislation**, being closely monitored, included proposed Bills pertaining to health center fees, meal plans for residence hall students, and conceal and carry on-campus.

✓ **The Great Game of Education (GGOE)** continues to move forward. The final membership of the new GGOE Culture Committee (CC) has been determined. The CC's initial focus will be on training for faculty and staff on the basics of open book management and financial operations which will help tie GGOE to MSSU's strategic planning goals and objectives and provide documented evidence of achievement for the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).✓ **Notification** has recently been received from the State Auditor's Office regarding involvement with an audit of Higher Education funding and affordability taking place with the Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE). Dr. Marble noted all universities in the state will be involved in this audit and complete details are not known at this time. The Board will be kept updated as the audit progresses.✓ During the last **University Council** meeting, work in small groups took place in order to do a self-examination of current procedures and discuss "What happens to MSSU students or potential students":

- 1) After being born, but before initial enrollment;
- 2) After initial enrollment, but before graduation;
- 3) After graduation, but before death.

The objective of this small group exercise was to envision and help create the ideal MSSU student "Life Cycle" from cradle to grave. The groups focused on:

- 1) What we do for students and potential students;
- 2) What they are required to do.

The exercise generated energetic and insightful discussion from each small group and it also provided an opportunity for University Council to participate in a GGOE style "mini-game". Each small group shared their thoughts and insights which provided a group learning experience.

OLD BUSINESS

None

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

Dr. Carson noted a Report regarding faculty being able to choose textbook adoption and determine whether resource materials should be digital/electronic or traditional for their individual classes was the only Academic Policy item. This Report does not need Board Approval and was included in the Board packet for informational purposes.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Consideration of Faculty Promotions (Dr. Paula Carson):

Dr. Carson noted both she and Dr. Marble have approved faculty promotion recommendations brought forward by the Promotion Committee chaired by Dr. Paul Teverow and asked Dr. Marble to present the names for Board approval.

Dr. Marble noted the Promotion Committee and Dr. Teverow did an excellent job in their diligence in reviewing each faculty member being considered for promotion and brought the following individuals forward for Board approval:

Promotion Recommendations

Instructor to Assistant Professor

- Matthew Cowdin: Law Enforcement Academy (Director)

Assistant Professor to Associate Professor

- Dr. Alla Barry: Biology and Environmental Health
- Dr. Brad Creamer: Biology and Environmental Health
- Dr. Jennifer Dennis: Biology and Environmental Health

Associate Professor to Full Professor

- Dr. Jill Greer: Social Science (Anthropology)
- Dr. Thomas Schmidt: Business Administration (Marketing & Management)
- Dr. Wendy McGrane: Academic Affairs

A motion was made by Michael Franks and seconded by Tracy Flanigan to approve individuals recommended for Promotion as presented and listed above. Motion approved. (A copy of the Promotion memo is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book.)

Tenure Recommendations

On a recommendation from Dr. Carson, Dr. Marble brought forward names of faculty members eligible for Tenure for Board approval as follows:

- Dr. William Delehanty: Social Science (Political Science)
- Devon Estes: Art (Associate professor)

A motion was made by Mitch McCumber and seconded by Anita Oplotnik to approve individuals recommended for Tenure as presented and listed above. Motion approved. (A copy of the Tenure memo is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book.)

Consideration of Jasper & Newton Bi-County Hazard Mitigation Plan (Mr. Rob Yust):

Rob shared a brief history of the Jasper & Newton Bi-County Hazard Mitigation Plan which began in 2009 when the Vice President for Business Affairs office was initially contacted by the Harry S. Truman Coordinating Council (HSTCC) to assist with the revision of the Jasper County Hazard Mitigation Plan. This Plan is designed as a tool for the county in controlling the hazardous effects of natural disasters and to improve public awareness of probable natural disasters in Jasper County. The Mitigation Plan, whose initial development began in 2009, was adopted by the Board of Governors during the March 18, 2011 Board meeting.

The Mitigation Plan adopted in 2011 expires this year (May 11, 2016). Due to the upcoming expiration of the original Plan, the HSTCC was contacted by SEMA requesting the Plan be updated and readopted. As a result, Missouri Southern has been contacted again by HSTCC requesting the Board to adopt the revised plan.

The complete Plan (several hundred pages) was brought to the Board meeting by Rob for anyone interested in reviewing it. Rob noted the Plan has not changed, and the request before the Board is only for an adoption of the revised Jasper-Newton Bi-County Hazard Mitigation Plan to reflect the 2016 adoption date.

A motion was made by Keith Hankins and seconded by Mitch McCumber to adopt the revised 2016 Jasper & Newton Bi-County Hazard Mitigation Plan as presented. Motion passed.

Performing Arts (Dr. Paula Carson):

Mr. Jim Lile, Chair of the Theatre Department, gave a short presentation including a video highlighting the wide variety of theater productions presented each year to the campus and community. Mr. Lile shared currently there are a combined 120 students majoring in Performing Arts and noted delight in the Music and Theatre departments working together as a team to enhance student learning as well as promote the university. Mr. Lile noted many of the students who major in Performing Arts are "the face of the university" and their performances are a great cultural benefit enjoyed throughout the year by all types of audiences including children. Students receive a wide variety of training including costume, lighting, and stage design, in addition to performing live.

Future Meeting Dates:

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Friday, April 15th. The Board's Budget Audit Committee will meet on April 13th at 2 o'clock; location to be determined.

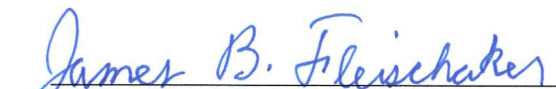
The Board will hold a combined May & June meeting on Thursday, June 9th.

Adjournment:

A closed Executive Session of the board was not needed and Mr. Fleischaker asked for a motion to adjourn. The following motion was brought forward:

*A motion was made by Tracy Flanigan and seconded by Mitch McCumber for the meeting to adjourn.
Motion passed.*


Secretary


Chair