

**MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Board of Governors**  
**Minutes**

**April 21, 2017 – 1:00 pm**  
**Billingsly Student Center, Room 310**

The April 21, 2017, meeting of the Missouri Southern State University Board of Governors was called to order by Mitch McCumber, Chair. Governors in attendance were Tracy Flanigan, Jim Fleischaker, Mike Franks, Bill Gipson, Carlos Haley, Alison Hershewe, Mitch McCumber and Anita Oplotnik. Others in attendance were Dr. Alan Marble, Dr. Paula Carson, Kevin Greim (for Dr. Brad Hodson), Darren Fullerton, Rob Yust, Jared Bruggeman, Dr. Brad Creamer, Chris Owens, Jon Dermott, Linda Eis, and Sharon Odem. Amanda Gardner was in non-attendance.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair McCumber called the meeting to order at 1 o'clock and welcomed everyone including newly re-appointed and Missouri State Senate confirmed Board member, Carlos Haley.

**MINUTES**

Chair McCumber asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the March 17, 2017, Board meeting; none were noted.

*A motion was made by Bill Gipson and seconded by Alison Hershewe to approve minutes of the March 17, 2017 Board meeting as submitted. Motion passed unanimously. (Minutes are archived in the permanent record book.)*

**REPORTS**

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

Financial Statements for the period ending March 31, 2017 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 balance as of March 31, 2017, shows \$14.9 million; an increase over the prior year of \$1.6 million.

**Statement of Net Position:** As of March 31, 2017, Total Assets are \$155 million, Total Liabilities are \$77 million and Total Net Assets are \$78 million.

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

**Comparative Statement of Revenues Expenses and Changes in Net Position:** Looking at the "difference" column:

- **Total Operating Revenue** increased by \$3.8 million over the prior year. Linda noted this increase reflects registration beginning the last week of March this year versus the first week of April the prior year which has increased student tuition and fees over \$400,000 over this time last year.
- **Total Operating Expenses** increased by \$778,000. Linda noted savings due to the university moving to partially self-insured health insurance which has saved almost \$500,000 from this time last year.
- **Non-Operating Revenue (Expense)** increased by \$729,000 which also includes a decrease in regular state appropriations (\$61,000).
- **Income (Loss) Before Other Revenues** comparing the current year and prior year, an increase of \$3.7 million is shown. The current year is at \$8.7 million compared to the prior year of \$5 million making a difference of \$3.7 million.

**Treasurer (continued):**

- **Other Items:**
  - ✓ **Bank RFP** - five submissions were received and are currently being reviewed.
  - ✓ **MoHEFA Direct Placement financing** of \$5M for current campus construction projects was received on April 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - ✓ Preparations for the **annual audit** are underway. The first step is to prepare a timeline. Auditors will begin their on-campus work in June when they begin the Financial Aid portion of the audit. Each year the annual audit takes from five to six months from start to finish.

*A motion was made by Jim Fleischaker and seconded by Mike Franks to approve the March 31, 2017, financial statements as presented. Motion passed unanimously. (A copy of the financial statements for March 31, 2017, 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.*

- The first floor walls are in place and casework in the labs have been installed for the **Reynolds Hall remodel**. This portion of the remodel is anticipated to be complete by late May or early June to enable Biology classrooms, labs and the computer lab, which are currently in the Annex, to be relocated back to Reynolds in time for the fall semester. A tour of the first floor remodel will be available after the June 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.
- Fine tuning of the design of **Nixon Hall**, addition to Reynolds Hall, continues to take place. This project will be affected by what happens with the state regarding funding. The Prevailing Wage Bill could also affect this project in a positive way if it is repealed. As noted during previous Board meetings, Nixon Hall will primarily house Math classrooms and offices and is scheduled to be complete by the fall of 2018 with classes beginning in this facility in the spring of 2019.
- The **Trail Project** with the City of Joplin continues to slowly move forward. Currently the City consultant is waiting on one remaining Right of Way easement to be signed. Construction should begin in the spring of 2018.

**Director of Athletics (Mr. Jared Bruggeman):**

*Highlights of this 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:**
  - ✓ This week **Men's and Women's Track and Field teams** had three out of four of the MIAA Men's and Women's Track and Field Athlete of the Week honorees as follows: All conference honors went to Bryan Burns (Field), Vincent Kiprop (Track) and Emily Presley (Field). Vincent Kiprop was the National D2 Men's Track and Field Athlete of the Week after his 10k race at the Mt. Sac Relays in California during which he set a new MSSU record, ran the 7th-fastest time in D2 history and the 11th-fastest time in the world this year for this event.
  - ✓ **Division II Legislation/Regulations** noted included, from the Football and Safety and Standards Committee, changes in rules regarding pre-season and championship season practice regulations. These changes, based on concussion testing, will no longer allow two-a-day practices in the preseason. These changes will also limit tackling opportunities in both pre-season and championship season and require additional time off including a proposed bye week. Jared noted due to these proposed changes, the football team will be required to begin practice a week earlier this season.
  - ✓ A **special night of baseball** is being planned on April 26<sup>th</sup> at Joe Becker stadium as the Lions and Pittsburg State compete. The evening will feature an alumni pre-game tailgate, kids' activities, fireworks following the game and recognition of past baseball teams.

### Director of Athletics - updates (continued):

- ✓ A **NCAA Division II Central Region Compliance Seminar** was recently held in Kansas City. Several people from MSSU attended including representatives from Financial Aid, Registrar, Academic Services and Compliance. Jared noted it takes people from several different areas of campus to stay in compliance and thanked everyone for their support especially areas under Darren Fullerton in Student Services.
- ✓ The **Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)** will volunteer at two different events on April 29th. A balloon release with Fostering Hope for foster families and a breakfast with games for Camp Quality kids and their families in Young Gym.
- ✓ Over \$40,000 has been raised to date through **Southernfest** which featured the Rod Smith Golf Tournament followed by a Lion Pride Dinner auction.

### Executive Vice President (Kevin Greim for Dr. Brad Hodson):

*Highlights of this 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.*

Kevin noted he is reporting on behalf of Dr. Hodson who is in Japan.

- A reception to recognize donors who have enabled the creation of the **BKD Endowed Professorship in Accounting**, will take place at 3:00 today. To date over \$500,000 in commitments have been made toward this project.
- **Early enrollment numbers for summer and fall** are very positive and at this time indicate enrollment will be at or above last year. Freshman applications have increased slightly compared to last year and include positive numbers from Missouri applicants and feeder schools. Transfer applications are approximately equal with this time last year which was a record number. Registrations for Southern Welcomes are also consistent with last year's numbers indicating potential for strong enrollment numbers.
- The third annual **Sophomore Day** held on April 19<sup>th</sup> was a great success. This year's event, the largest to date, brought 2,500 high school sophomores and teachers to campus from ten different school districts. Kevin thanked the campus for its efforts to make this collaborative event, which had high involvement by University Relations and Marketing as well as various academic and non-academic areas, a success. Kevin emphasized the importance of Sophomore Day by noting from the first one held in 2015 and from the students who attended, 250 have already enrolled for the fall 2017 semester. These 250 students equal approximately 20% of the anticipated incoming freshman class.
- A **reunion for Joplin Junior College (JJC)** was held on March 31<sup>st</sup>. The reunion featured a historical presentation by Brad Belk at the Joplin Schools administration building which at one time was the location of Joplin Junior College. Over 150 people attended including 72 JJC alums. A new publication *Remember When* will continue to engage these alums and connect them to campus.

### 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 handouts distributed to the Board that are attached to the minutes in the permanent record book.*

- Many different **events** are bringing middle school and high school students from the area to campus. History Day, Earth Day and the Regional Science Fair were noted as examples taking place this spring.
- Student interviews for the **Honors Program** are finished. A record number of applicants were received this year, 129. Fifty-five students have been accepted which is also MSSU's largest Honors class. Of the students selected, 8 are valedictorians and 3 are salutatorians.
- MSSU's **Research Symposium** is scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup> and has 46 participants this year compared to 28 last year. Participants this year include eight dual credit students which reflect a unique science research class taking place with Joplin high school.

**Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (continued):**

- **NACEP (National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships) accreditation** has just been awarded to MSSU. As the sole accrediting body in the United States, achieving NACEP accreditation is a great accomplishment and will make MSSU very competitive in Dual Credit. Only 120 schools nationwide, two year and four year, public and private, have achieved NACEP accreditation.
- Dr. Carson brought the Board's attention to two campus publications: ***Border Town***, a literary magazine produced by faculty and students in English and Philosophy; and ***Blitz***, a publication by Graphic Design and Art students. A booklet for the Honors Program was also shared which highlights what it means to be a student in the Honors program at Missouri Southern as well as detail about this unique program.

**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.*

Before Darren began his report, Dr. Marble thanked Darren for representing Missouri Southern during a recent Hearing in Jefferson City.

- With ongoing efforts to encourage and enable students to finish a baccalaureate degree in four years to meet the Missouri Department of Higher Education's "**15 to Finish**" requirement, changes being made at Missouri Southern in reducing the minimum number of credit hours required from 124 to 120 and changes being made in the UE 100 (freshman orientation) class will fall under this state initiative. Also beginning enrollment a month earlier will assist both students and faculty.
- Twenty-six students were honored during this year's **Dolence Leadership awards** which are given to graduating seniors who have made significant leadership and service contributions to the university. The student of the year, Tori Page has already contributed 268 volunteer hours to CAB events and student activities. Tori is also an outstanding student academically and is a member of the Alpha Chi national honor society and Omicron Delta Kappa.
- **Dr. Ron Mitchell** is leaving the position as Dean of Students to become the Superintendent for the East Newton School District. Darren thanked Dr. Mitchell for his service to Missouri Southern during the last six years.

**Faculty Liaison (Dr. Brad Creamer, Faculty Senate President):**

*Note: Highlights of Dr. Creamer'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 last met on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Dr. Creamer noted the Board would receive a packet of all the Faculty Handbook changes that have taken place this year this summer, but did bring the Board's attention to the following changes that have been approved by the Senate:

**Teaching Load** - Full-time faculty (Tenure Track, Tenured, and Non-Tenure Track) are expected to teach a total of 24 teaching load hours within one academic year, excluding summer semesters. However, this excludes specific positions that require a higher teaching load, such as in the case of the Master Instructor, which requires a teaching load of 30 teaching hours within one academic year, excluding summer semesters. In both cases, however, teaching load hours in excess of the standard teaching load will be considered overload, which will be compensated in accordance with University policy.

**New Appointment Category** - A Master Instructor is an individual who has potential or demonstrated teaching ability/job performance and a willingness to serve the department, school, and University. A Master Instructor must have knowledge of the particular course materials and an intellectual vision for incorporating relevant teaching methodologies that are appropriate to the discipline. The Master Instructor's primary responsibility is teaching/job performance. Therefore, the Master Instructor is expected to teach a total of 30 teaching load hours within one academic year, excluding summer semesters. Because of this intensified emphasis on teaching, the Master Instructor is expected to perform either service or scholarly activity, but not both, which will be determined by the needs of the department. The nature of this additional contribution will be based upon the needs of the department and the University. Contingent upon performance reviews and the educational and financial needs of the University, a Master Instructor appointment can be renewable.

**Faculty Liaison (continued):**

Additional proposals for changes to the Faculty Handbook were brought forward for first reading and were summarized in Dr. Creamer's written report. Dr. Creamer noted these proposals require a vote by all faculty and will take place during the "All Faculty" meeting scheduled on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Creamer also brought the Board's attention to a proposal recommended by the Distance Learning committee and the Academic Policies committee to add a statement in syllabi for online courses that will enhance and encourage more communication and feedback between students and instructors.

The next meeting of Faculty Senate is scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Creamer noted this is his last meeting to report to the Board and Dr. Nick Nicoletti will begin his role as Faculty Senate president May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Dr. Creamer thanked the Board for the opportunity to report on behalf of the faculty and Mr. McCumber thanked Dr. Creamer for his service.

**Staff Liaison (Mr. Chris Owens, Staff Senate President):**

Chris reported the quarterly Southern Champs award winners have been selected and are as follows: Jeannie Gilbert, ACTS department; Mayra Gonzalez, Financial Aid; and Meghan Henson, Registrar. These staff members were nominated by their peers and are selected by a committee for their outstanding service to the university.

**Student Representative (Ms. Amanda Gardner, Student Senate President):**

Darren noted Amanda was not able to attend today's Board meeting due to a test in Organic Chemistry. Darren apologized on behalf of Amanda for her absence and also shared her report as follows: Student Senate has voted to use a portion of their appropriations for two campus improvements. They have appropriated \$10,000 for campus cameras and \$30,000 to improve the FEMA shelter to make it more useable. Darren noted the money appropriated for the FEMA shelter will be seed money for the expensive cost to improve the acoustics in this building.

Student Senate elections will take place next week and if the Missouri Governor's office does not appoint a new student representative to the Board (names have been submitted), the new president of Student Senate will report at the June Board meeting.

**Board Committees:****Academic Affairs Committee (Tracy Flanigan, Chair):**

This committee has not met since the last Board meeting. No report was given.

**Budget Audit Committee (Bill Gipson, Chair):**

Bill Gipson reported the Budget Audit committee met at 11:00 before today's Board meeting for the purpose of considering the proposed FY2018 budget which it approved. Mr. Gipson noted the finance team did a good job in preparing the FY2018 budget even though it has an \$800,000 deficit.

Mr. Gipson noted the proposed budget for FY2018 includes the allowable tuition increase, a 15% mandatory increase in MOSERS contributions, a \$2.2M state appropriation cut, \$500,000 additional principal and interest payment (MoHEFA funding) and 13 less positions.

On behalf of the Budget Audit committee, Mr. Gipson brought forward the following proposal for Board consideration in the form of a motion:

*A motion was made by Bill Gipson and seconded by Mike Franks to authorize the Administration to adopt an operating expense budget of \$80.2 million for FY2018. Motion passed.*

**Executive Committee (Mitch McCumber, Chair):**

This committee has not met since the last Board meeting. No report was given.

**Personnel Committee (Mitch McCumber, Chair):**

This committee has not met since the last Board meeting. 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.*

- After delays and conflicts, June 14<sup>th</sup> has been selected as the date for the **Board Retreat**, the day of the combined May/June Board meeting. This morning retreat will be a time to discuss strategies and challenges for the next three to five years as well as review the university's Mission, Vision, and Values statements.
- The focus of the last six to eight weeks have been working on the **Budget**. Deep cuts in state appropriations to higher education to assist Governor Greitens in staying in compliance with the Missouri constitutional requirement for a balanced budget have brought many challenges. Dr. Marble thanked members of the President's Cabinet for their diligent work in making budget cuts in each of their respective areas while still protecting the classroom. Dr. Marble noted optimism, the \$800,000 FY2018 deficit budget approved by the Board today, may be offset by the General Assembly being able to restore some of the university's lost revenue and also enrollment growth will continue next fall which will increase revenue from tuition. Dr. Marble noted the budget was in the black until the budget cuts occurred.
- Through efforts of the **Great Game of Education**, the university was well on its way to improving the "critical number" (operating cash), by the end of the year. Even with the unexpected state budget cuts and appropriation withholdings, Dr. Marble noted it will only be fair to measure "end of year cash" and mark that amount in hopes a way can be found to reward employees for their hard work improving the critical number in the future.
- **Yours to Lose** has had terrific applicants and, as noted previously, it is difficult to compete with scholarship offerings from other institutions. Dr. Marble noted one way to consider in competing, is to construct additional housing which seems counterintuitive at a time of budget restrictions, but currently over 150 more applications for housing have been received compared to this same time last year and nine more Southern Welcomes are scheduled through July. Over 300 students are on a waiting list for the new Quads and over 150 are on a waiting list for private rooms which shows a strong demand for housing. Housing has been proven to drive enrollment and construction of additional housing should be considered. Dr. Marble noted in looking to the future, "enrollment and tuition" will continue to be key factors for sustainability.
- Dr. Marble shared a chart showing Missouri Southern at the bottom of the list in **tuition revenue** per student compared to other state universities. Dr. Marble noted being heavily subsidized by state appropriations is a thing of the past and tuition at Missouri Southern is going to have to increase significantly in the near future. Currently MSSU is \$20 per credit hour lower than Missouri Western, our sister institution, and is even lower compared to other regional universities. The combination of low tuition and low state appropriations causes MSSU to receive the fewest dollars per student of any public university in the State.
- A **tuition increase**, higher than the Consumer Price Index (CPI), will need to be considered for the 2018-19 academic year. Dr. Marble noted a committee is already working on different tuition options that will benefit both students and the university.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS****Consideration of NCAA Compliance Affirmation (Dr. Alan Marble):**

As required by the NCAA on a yearly basis, Dr. Marble read the following statement and brought it forward for Board approval reaffirming Missouri Southern's endorsement of NCAA Principles. A component of the Athletic Department and Missouri Southern's mission is to incorporate the NCAA's principals of sportsmanship and ethical conduct into the comprehensive mission of the University and to meet compliance requirements. The statement read is as follows:

**NEW BUSINESS****Consideration of NCAA Compliance Affirmation (continued):**

"This statement reaffirms that a critical component of the Athletics Department's and Southern's mission is to incorporate the NCAA's principles of sportsmanship and ethical conduct into the comprehensive mission of Missouri Southern State University. As a result, I fully endorse the task of the MSSU Athletics Compliance Office to coordinate, monitor, and verify rules compliance with all NCAA, MIAA, and University requirements. A major component of the MSSU Athletics Compliance Office is to educate Athletics Department staff members, coaches, student-athletes, friends of the program, and the institution as a whole on NCAA rules, including NCAA Amateurism, through a variety of means. As a member of the NCAA, Missouri Southern State University is committed to the principle of institutional control in a manner consistent with the rules and regulations of the NCAA and the MIAA."

*A motion was made by Jim Fleischaker and seconded by Alison Hershewe to approve the reaffirmation statement confirming MSSU's endorsement of NCAA principles as read. Motion passed. (A copy of the NCAA Compliance Affirmation Statement is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book.)*

**Other Items:**

None

**Future Meeting Dates:**

Chair McCumber reminded the Board a combined May/June meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. During the morning of June 14<sup>th</sup> a retreat of the Board will be held.

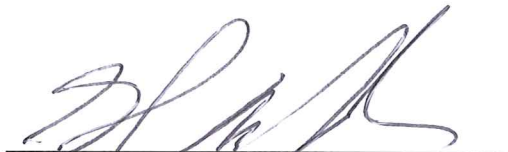
**Adjournment:**

Due to no further business, Chair McCumber asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

*A motion was made by Jim Fleischaker and seconded by Tracy Flanigan to adjourn. Motion passed.*



Secretary



Chair