

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

**April 15, 2016 – 1:00 pm**  
**Billingsly Student Center, Room 310**

The April 15, 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. Others in attendance were Dr. Alan Marble, Jared Bruggeman, Dr. Paula Carson, Darren Fullerton, Dr. Brad Hodson, Rob Yust, Dr. Brad Creamer, Elisa Bryant, Kyle Prisock, Jon Dermott, Linda Eis, and Sharon Odem; Dr. David Sharlow was absent.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Fleischaker called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

**MINUTES**

Chair Fleischaker asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the March 18, 2016, Board meeting; none were noted.

*A motion was made by Mitch McCumber and seconded by Tracy Flanigan to approve minutes of the March 18, 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 March 31, 2016 were presented as follows:

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

**Cash Graph:** The Cash Graph as of March 31, 2016, shows unrestricted cash, Board Designated Cash & Board Designated Investments at \$13.3 million; a decrease of \$1.7 million from the prior year. Linda noted the variance between Cash last year and Cash this year continues to decrease and the difference from the prior month has been cut by approximately 50%.

**Statement of Net Position:** As of March 31, 2016, Total Assets are \$144 million and Total Liabilities are \$76 million making Total Net Position as of March 31, 2016, \$68 million. Linda noted accounts receivables reflect additional student payments (which continue to be received) in the current month of \$1.1 million.

**Comparative Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position:** In looking at the "difference column", Total Operating Revenues increased \$2.8 million. Linda noted the Current Month total includes state grants of over \$196,000. Total Operating Expenses increased \$1.4 million and in the current month alone, compensation and fringe benefits were \$3.4 million. Total non-operating Revenues decreased by \$738,000 over the prior year.

**Income (Loss) Before Other Revenues:** As of March 31, 2016, compared to March 31, 2015, there is a comparative increase between the two years of \$680,000 reflecting continued improvements in operations

**Other Revenues:** Reimbursement payments of Capital State Appropriations for the remodel of Reynolds Hall continue to be received in a timely manner; \$328,000 has been received to date of which \$135,000 was received this morning.

### **Treasurer (continued):**

Work is beginning on the annual audit and a timeline for the annual review is being prepared. Auditors will be on campus in June for the Financial Aid portion of the audit and will return again in August. Linda noted the audit takes five to six months to complete each year.

*A motion was made by Bill Gipson and seconded by Michael Franks to approve the March 31, 2016, financial statements as presented. Motion passed. (A copy of the financial statements for March 31, 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** – The contractor (Crossland) has received bids from most of the subs and this project remains within budget. Light demo of the 3rd floor by Crossland will begin in a couple of weeks with the major demo occurring after the spring semester ends and before summer school begins. This project is on track to finish the 3rd floor remodel in December which will enable Chemistry to be moved from the 1st floor to the 3rd floor. Demo will then begin on the 1st floor for Biology.
- ✓ **City of Joplin Trail Project** – FEMA is still reviewing the City's application for the Trail Project.
- ✓ **Budget** – Actions at the State level are being closely monitored as the process to finalize the budget for next fiscal year continues. Another meeting of the Board's Budget/Audit sub-committee will be needed in June to finalize the FY16-17 budget.
- ✓ A routine **MOSERS Audit** has taken place this week in the Human Resources office in collaboration with Accounts Payable in the Treasurer's office as part of a routine compliance audit for MOSERS GASB reporting. These routine audits have taken place around the State since 2012 and probably won't occur at Missouri Southern again for another 5-6 years. The field work by the auditor was finished early due to the well organization in the university's payroll and personnel files with no findings expected. The auditor looked at over 90 files and was impressed with the staff and their organization. Rob thanked Jan Garner in Payroll and all of the staff in Human Resources as well as the Treasurer's office for a job well done.

### **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.*

- ✓ RFPs have been received for new progressive and robust **ticketing software** for the upcoming season.
- ✓ **Ticket revenue** per game has increased by 64% for Basketball walk-up sales from the 2012-2013 season. Comparing the 2014-2015 season to 2015-2016, walk-up sales increased over \$14,000 and these numbers do not include ticket season holders. Over \$10,000 in group sales and promotional events for football and basketball also took place last season which Jared noted was the first year for a concentrated effort in group sales and theme nights which is expected to keep increasing.
- ✓ **Student attendance** almost doubled from last year during the Basketball season. The MOSO Maniacs are back which contributes to student involvement and interest.
- ✓ **New legislative proposals** for the 2017 NCAA Convention have been released. These proposals if approved would drastically change the way outside and non-athletic scholarships are counted for equivalencies.
- ✓ The **Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)**, recently visited Foxberry Terrace, assisted living for senior adults, as part of their required community service hours. SAAC also held their final fundraising event during a recent baseball game and helped raise \$1,000 for charity. Jared noted the SAAC is involved in a lot of different types of community outreaches through the year.

**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.*

- ✓ **Sophomore Day** will take place on April 19<sup>th</sup> with approximately 2400 students, teachers and counselors from nine area school districts (Joplin, Neosho, Carl Junction, Webb City, Carthage, Diamond, Jasper, Seneca, and Monett) participating. This all day recruiting event is a cooperative effort involving Admissions, various Academic Departments, University Relations and Marketing, Faculty, Staff, and the Physical Plant. This is the second year Sophomore Day, which is scheduled on the same day as statewide ACT testing for Juniors and Seniors, has been held at Missouri Southern.
- ✓ **Dedication of the Pat Lipira Softball Complex** on April 3<sup>rd</sup> was a great event and well attended by over 200 people including several former Lion softball players. The new gate and signage for the Softball Complex are a great addition to campus.
- ✓ **Fundraising** for the Reynolds Hall remodel project is going well and is over the \$1 million dollar mark.

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

- ✓ **Academic work-in-progress** items noted included an enrollment update on Graduate students; information about an Online Course review underway in Distance Learning; review and affirmation of MSSU's Strategic Plan and Mission; and preparation for the Higher Learning Commissions' Accreditation visit.
- ✓ **Recognition and Celebrations** included:
  - **MSSU's Math Team** tied Washington University, St. Louis, for first place during the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Missouri Collegiate Mathematics Competition; this very difficult competitive competition has been won by Washington University the last 13 years! In addition to tying for first place, one student, a dual credit home schooled student at MSSU, scored a perfect score. A perfect score has never been achieved during the 21 year history of this competition which will be held at MSSU in 2017.
  - **Students from the Plaster School of Business**, claimed for the second straight year, the first place title in the National Association of Small Business International Trade Educators (NASBITE) International Student Case Competition. Business plans were submitted by 30 universities and the top three schools were invited to present during the annual NASBITE International Conference held in Newport, Rhode Island.
  - **KGCS students** have received awards in five categories from the Missouri Broadcast Educators Association competition.
- ✓ **Upcoming events** noted included the annual **HLC conference** beginning April 16<sup>th</sup> in Chicago; **Academic Recognition Ceremony** on April 27<sup>th</sup>; the first annual **Student Research Fair** on April 28<sup>th</sup>; **ITS Friday** (Ideas That Stick) on April 29<sup>th</sup> with featured speaker Dr. Conrad Gubera; the inaugural **Academic Signing Ceremony** with seniors at Joplin High School; first annual **new Faculty End-of-Year Social**; **Environmental Health & Safety Education Conference** in honor of Earth Day; and **Commencement** on May 14<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ The largest incoming class to-date (49) is expected for the **Honors Academy**. Dr. Carson noted students accepted into the Honors Academy go through a rigorous acceptance process that includes face to face interviews.

**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.*

Darren gave the following **Program Updates**:

- ✓ The **Food Service Contract** is currently in the fifth year of a five-year contract and proposals for the next contract are underway. The contract will handle all catering, residence hall meal plans, retail operations and meals for the Child Development Center. The new contract will begin on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

- ✓ The 25<sup>th</sup> annual **Dolence Leadership & Service Awards** ceremony was held on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Thirty-eight outstanding MSSU students were honored for their leadership, service and volunteer efforts.
- ✓ The **Joplin Disaster Recovery Summit**, a one-of-a-kind opportunity to learn about lessons learned from communities across the Midwest regarding how the worst natural disasters in the last ten years have been handled, will be held at MSSU on May 19-20. This unique Summit will provide an opportunity to learn first-hand perspectives from leaders and elected officials from different communities regarding the long-term process of community recovery after natural disasters. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Leonard Marcus, Harvard Kennedy School of Public Policy, who will speak on "Crisis Leadership". A FEMA Webinar will also be broadcast nationally during this event. MSSU is very proud to be the host site for this outstanding event.
- ✓ **Southern Welcome** updates included 117 students enrolling during a Transfer Student Southern Welcome held on April 13<sup>th</sup> and 150 students anticipated for the Honors Signing/Southern Welcome later this month.
- ✓ An update on **Residence Halls** included the Quad Residence Hall (newest housing) already at capacity at 202 students with an additional 221 students on a waiting list. Total housing applications are at 686 and does not include most incoming freshmen.

### Faculty Liaison (Dr. Brad Creamer for Dr. David Sharlow - Faculty Senate, President):

*Note: Highlights of Dr. Sharlow's report given by Dr. Creamer are as follows. Additional information can be found in a handout distributed to the Board that is attached to minutes in the permanent record book.*

- ✓ The **Faculty Senate meeting** held on April 4<sup>th</sup> had a full agenda. Items discussed included Academic Policy Committee Proposals; Graduate Council Committee Proposals; and proposed changes to the Faculty Handbook.
- ✓ Many concerns have been expressed by faculty regarding an **Intellectual Property Policy** being considered without faculty input. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) has assured Faculty Senate no Intellectual Property Policy is being pushed through at this time. A lengthy discussion took place between the FSEC and members of the President's Cabinet regarding an Intellectual Property Policy during a recent meeting keeping with the practice of Shared Governance. The FSEC noted considerable faculty input is desired by administration in order to create an Intellectual Property Policy at MSSU that is mutually acceptable. It is highly likely a Faculty Senate committee (perhaps the Faculty Welfare committee) will be charged with working closely with the administration to develop this policy.
- ✓ The end-of-year **All-Faculty** meeting will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup>. As is customary, faculty will elect Faculty Senate At-Large positions for the 2016-2017 Academic Year, a proposal to make changes to the Faculty Handbook will also be voted and elections held for several open committee positions. Faculty awards will also be given.
- ✓ A brainstorming meeting, led by Dr. Megan Bever, Faculty Senate Secretary, to discuss **Curricular Documents (CRDs)** was held on March 31<sup>st</sup>. This meeting generated ideas and ways to move forward with a more efficient process to handle paperwork for curricular changes/additions/deletions.
- ✓ The **final meeting** of Faculty Senate for the 2015-2016 Academic Year will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. In addition to a regular agenda, installation of next year's Senators and Senate leadership will take place.

### Staff Liaison (Elisa Bryant – Staff Senate, President):

- ✓ Staff Senate has completed its response to Faculty Senate regarding **Book Buyers** and sent a proposed solicitation policy to Faculty Senate for consideration.
- ✓ On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, **Earth Day**, Staff Senate will plant an evergreen tree donated by Ozark Nursery outside of Reynolds Hall. This tree will be the featured lighted tree during MSSU's annual holiday celebration, Southern Lights.
- ✓ Staff Senate will participate in this year's **United Way Day of Caring** on June 17<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ Elisa introduced **Chris Owens** who is the President-Elect of Staff Senate. Chris will report to the Board on behalf of Staff Senate beginning in June.

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

- ✓ Two new camp/picnic style barbeque grills have been purchased and placed by the Biology pond for campus enjoyment.
- ✓ Kyle expressed excitement regarding the tunnel mural project which he noted could not be completed without the efforts of the Art Department. Due to the involvement of the Art Department, the cost of this project will be greatly reduced from an estimated retail cost of \$20 per foot to a cost of \$6.65 per foot. When complete the mural will cover the entire length of the tunnel, approximately 150 feet.

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

Committee has not met; no report was given.

**Budget Audit Committee (Mitch McCumber, Chair):**

Mr. McCumber reported the Budget Audit committee has met twice in the last three days. The committee met on Wednesday to learn about the proposed self-insurance model for the university and this morning before today's Board meeting to discuss short-term financing to purchase equipment and furnishings for the Reynolds Hall remodel project. As a result of these meetings, Mr. McCumber brought two proposals forward in the form of motions for Board approval as follows:

*A motion was made by Mitch McCumber and seconded by Bill Gipson to authorize the Administration to move forward with soliciting proposals for consideration of transitioning to a Self-Insured Health Plan with an anticipated transition date of January 1, 2017. Motion passed unanimously.*

*A motion was made by Mitch McCumber and seconded by Michael Franks to authorize the Administration to secure short-term financing, not to exceed \$2 million dollars, in order to purchase equipment and furnishings for the Reynolds Hall remodel project. Motion passed unanimously.*

**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 minutes in the permanent record book.*

- ✓ **Budget and Legislative Priorities** included:
  - The Higher Education Funding Bill (HB3), which passed out of the House with a 2% increase and the Senate with a 6% increase (in agreement with the Governor's recommendation), is now in conference where a compromise of between 2% and 6% is expected.
  - New decision items on the priority list MSSU created last fall, funding for the UMKC Dental School program on campus, access to the Regional Center Building, and some additional funds for Reynold's Hall, remain in place at this point. However, the final version of the state budget will not be known until the legislative session ends the second week of May.
- ✓ MSSU's annual **University Budget** will not be completed and officially presented to the Board of Governors until June after the State budget process is finalized. Dr. Marble noted for the first time in several years, a "balanced budget" will be presented to the Board for consideration due to the hard work of the Board, Faculty and Staff in addition to an increasing awareness and understanding of the Great Game of Education. Included in next year's budget will be a recommendation for a reasonable salary increase for Faculty and Staff.

**President (continued):**

- ✓ Progress continues on the **Great Game of Education (GGOE)**. The Culture Committee (CC) has held its initial organizational meeting, elected officers, and establishing operating parameters. The CC's first focus will be training across campus. One example of expanding the GGOE could be salary increases that are not just simply across the board increases, but with the proper metrics in place, could be an offer of an across the board increase of "x" with the potential to increase it to "2x" if certain markers are obtained throughout the year. Determining the appropriate metrics will be a huge task and Dr. Marble noted he may reactivate the Financial Stability Committee for this work. If the university is successful in its efforts to "hit" its self-determined metrics, it is also virtually guaranteed to "hit" the Performance Funding measures established by the state which are used to determine state funding allocations.
- ✓ As previously noted, the **Higher Learning Commission (HLC)** will make a scheduled visit to campus in 2018. Two areas of weakness identified during HLC's last visit were Shared Governance and Strategic Planning. Significant improvements have been made in the area of Shared Governance and continue to be made through GGOE. Improvements in Strategic Planning have also been made and now it is time to exam Strategic Planning in a focused manner. To facilitate this focused review, Dr. Marble has asked Dr. Hodson, Dr. Carson, Dr. McGrane and Dr. Josie Welsh to take the lead in organizing a Strategic Planning committee which will move forward in the fall with this project.
- ✓ Work on the **Policy Library** continues as representatives from Husch Blackwell examine policies, procedures and guidelines that have evolved over the years. Dr. Marble noted by the May-June Board meeting this process should be at a point to present a "Policy on Policies" proposal to the Board for consideration. The Policy on Policies document will clearly identify the types of policies that are over-arching and "Organizational" in nature. It will also identify the types of policies that are "operational" in nature that can be dealt with by policy making groups like University Council & Academic Policies.
- ✓ **University Council** has completed its first year and this initial group has worked hard to accomplish a lot. Much work remains to ensure the university's "operational policies" are effective and efficient.
- ✓ Dr. Marble noted congratulations to the recipient of this year's **Governor's Award for Teaching Excellence** at Missouri Southern, Dr. Christine Eller, Nursing. Dr. Eller has taught at MSSU for 34 years. Members of Dr. Eller's family in addition to Dr. Tia Strait, Ms. Grace Ayton and Dr. Marble attended the Governor's award luncheon recently held in Jefferson City honoring the award recipients.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

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

Dr. Carson shared summary information regarding Report & Curricular Proposal items being brought forward for Board consideration. Items related to increased interest in the new Social Work program, the phasing out of the CAD Operator and Applications Certificates and increased Graduate Program offerings were included. Dr. Carson noted the Graduate Council is taking an active role in creating faculty ownership in Graduate Programs; Dr. Jennifer Dennis was recently elected Chair of the Council.

*A motion was made by Alison Hershewe and seconded by Mitch McCumber to approve Reports and Curricular Proposals as presented. Motion passed. (A copy of the Reports and Curricular Proposals memo is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book.)*

**NEW BUSINESS (continued)****Consideration of Reaffirmation of University Mission Statement (Dr. Alan Marble):**

Dr. Marble noted as preparations begin for the upcoming HLC visit, reaffirmation of the University Mission Statement is important. To provide adequate time for Board review, the Mission Statement was emailed out prior to today's meeting and also included in the Board packet.

Dr. Marble read the Mission Statement and asked for Board feedback. No changes were requested and the Mission Statement was brought forward for reaffirmation.

*A motion was made by Tracy Flanigan and seconded by Anita Oplotnik reaffirming the university's Mission Statement as presented. Motion passed. (A copy of the Mission Statement is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book.)*

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

Dr. Marble read a statement to the Board reaffirming Missouri Southern's Endorsement of NCAA Principles. The statement reaffirms a component of the Athletics Department's 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.

*A motion was made by Bill Gipson and seconded by Michael Franks 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.)*

**Student Research Initiatives (Dr. Paula Carson):**

Dr. Carson presented a PowerPoint presentation illustrating the role of faculty as it connects to the revised Faculty Handbook and as it relates to other faculty in higher education.

The faculty role in higher education and at MSSU is comprised of three different areas: Teaching, Scholarship and Service. Teaching facilitates learning in many forms; not just in traditional or historical ways. Scholarship focuses on discovery and creativeness in learning. Service, which has traditionally been in the form of committee work with an inward campus focus, is beginning to expand outside into the community.

Three current student initiatives noted were the Student Research Fair (first time ever at MSSU) involving 30 students competitively selected to present and defend their own research; Student Research Funding for sixteen students in seven different disciplines for the purpose of travel and research materials; and the Honors Program which requires all students to complete a thesis development project. Dr. Carson noted MSSU has outstanding students who compete and present at state, regional and even national conferences.

Dr. Carson introduced Dr. Brad Creamer, who shared highlights of a research project conducted in one of his 400 level Biology classes that combined scholarly activity with learning. Dr. Creamer noted scholarly activity is required for faculty tenure and promotion, but for everyone at MSSU, it enhances learning and creates excitement, provides students with a jump start on their careers, and develops critical thinking skills. Scholarly activity is not contained to one area or discipline and is best if it connects to other departments as it creates active learning.

Dr. Creamer's Biology class research project, through gene sequencing in plants, discovered a new sequence of genes. The data obtained has been published nationally and is also accessible through a link on a federal website. Students were able to apply knowledge learned, learn the process of scholarly activity and became very excited about learning throughout this process.

**Other Items:**

None

**Future Meeting Dates:**

The Board will not meet in May, but will hold a combined May & June meeting on Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Fleischaker encouraged anyone needing business brought before the Board before August to contact Sharon prior to the June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

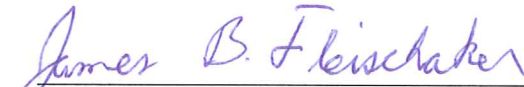
**Adjournment:**

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

*A motion was made by Anita Oplotnik and seconded by Keith Hankins for the meeting to adjourn. Motion passed.*



Secretary

  
Chair