

# MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY

## Board of Governors Minutes

April 30, 2020

Billingsly Student Center,

Room 310

In Person or Via Conference Call

The April 30, 2020 meeting of the Missouri Southern State University Board of Governors was called to order by Bill Gipson, Chair. Governors in attendance (via phone) were T. Mark Elliott, Bill Gipson, Carlos Haley, Alison Hershewe, Mariann Morgan, Anita Oplotnik, Ron Richard, and Dr. Benjamin Rosenberg. Others in attendance (via phone) were Jared Bruggeman, Dr. Paula Carson, Jon Dermott, Melissa Forsythe, Dr. Brad Hodson, Dr. Rebecca Mouser, and Dr. Julie Wengert. Others attending in person were Dr. Alan Marble, Rob Yust, Linda Eis, and Laura Boyd. Darren Fullerton and Sarah Schultz were in non-attendance.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Gipson called the meeting to order at 1:52 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

### **MINUTES**

Chair Gipson asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the January 16, 2020 Board meeting or the March 26, 2020 Board meeting. Governor Haley brought forward an error in the January 16, 2020 Board notes which read: "Total Operating Expenses reflect an increase of \$786M" under "Comparative Statement of Revenues Expenses and Changes in Net Position." The correction has been made to read: "Total Operating Expenses reflect an increase of \$786k."

*A motion was made by Alison Hershewe and seconded by Carlos Haley to approve minutes of the corrected January 16, 2020 Board meeting and approve minutes of the March 26, 2020 Board meeting as submitted. Motion passed unanimously. (Minutes are archived in the permanent record book).*

### **REPORTS**

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

**Cash Graph:**

Linda noted in reviewing the statements for the period ending March 31, 2020, the Cash Graph reflects cash at \$17.2M, a decrease over the prior year of \$826k. Linda also noted the Cash balance fluctuates daily but, as of today, the balance is \$18.2M.

**Statement of Net Position:**

**Total Assets**

As of March 31, 2020, Total Assets are \$190M and Total Liabilities are \$124M. Linda noted the university made the annual *interest only* Bond payment in the amount of nearly \$800k, leaving Total Net Assets of \$66M.

**Comparative Statement of Revenues Expenses and Changes in Net Position:**

Looking at the "difference" column:

- **Total Operating Revenue** has decreased over the prior year by (\$1.8M). Linda noted due to COVID-19, and closing campus in March 2020, auxiliary included refunds that were given to students who lived in the residence halls and were asked to move out.
- **Total Operating Expenses** reflect a decrease of \$59k. Linda noted a large amount of this was reductions from Institutional and Pell scholarships.
- **Non-Operating Revenue** decreased (\$640k). Linda noted the Perkins line included a large payment back to the federal government to begin closing out the Perkins Loan program.

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**Treasurer (continued):**

Appropriations will also change in April due to the reduced revenue from the State of Missouri due to the economy.

- **Income (Loss) Before Other Revenues** reflects an increase in the current year \$3.8M, and an increase in the prior year at \$6.1M reflecting a decrease of (\$2.3M) from the prior year.

**Other:**

Linda noted meetings would be scheduled soon for the BKD's annual audit.

*A motion was made by Anita Oplotnik and seconded by T. Mark Elliott to approve the March 2020 financial statements as presented. Motion passed unanimously. (A copy of the financial statements for March 2020 are 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:*

**Residence Hall**

Mr. Yust noted all pier drilling is complete and 80% of the grade beams have been poured. The under-slab plumbing is complete in two sections, the floor slabs have been poured, and the foundation work is complete in one section. The pre-fab wood framing sections are scheduled to be delivered next week in preparation for construction of the first level. The residence hall will be approximately 92,000 square feet, four story facility, and house approximately 300 students. Mr. Yust noted the project is scheduled for completion by Summer 2021 with occupancy in the Fall 2021.

**Trail project with the City of Joplin**

Mr. Yust noted D & E Plumbing, having achieved other trail projects for the City, has been selected as the contractor for this project. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a pre-construction meeting will be scheduled as soon as the "shelter in place" order is lifted. Mr. Yust noted construction should begin soon after the meeting, and anticipates completion of this project in the Fall 2020.

Note\* This project was initiated in February 2013.

**Director of Athletics (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.*

**Sport Program Report**

- *Track and Field:*  
21 individuals qualified for the 2020 NCAA Division II Indoor Championships. Bryan Schiding, Southern's Head Coach, was named the Central Region Men's Head Coach of the Year, and Division II National Men's Coach of the Year. Jason Francis was named the Men's Assistant Coach of the Year.
- *Men's Basketball*  
Cam Martin was named an All-Region and All-America selection, and finalist for the Bevo Francis Small College Basketball Player of the Year Award. Elyjah Clark, Kinzer Lambert, and Cam Martin were named All-MIAA selections. Braelon Walker was named to the MIAA All-Defensive Team.
- *Women's Basketball*  
Destiny Cozart and Chasidee Owens were named All-MIAA selections this year.
- *Spring Sport Updates*  
The NCAA and the MIAA made the decision to cancel all spring competitions following the COVID-19 pandemic. Spring student-athletes received waivers so they would not lose eligibility.

**Director of Athletics (continued):**

- *Baseball*  
Zach Parish became the MIAA's All-time Strikeout King this season, surpassing the previous mark of 349 (previously set in 1976), and currently has 352 strikeouts, and eligible to return next year.

**MIAA News**

- The Webcasting Task Force recently selected Blue Frame (five-year contract) for the vendor and anticipate increases in revenue under the new subscription model. (Mr. Bruggeman serves on this task force).
- The COVID-19 Task Force meet weekly and adjust issues with NCAA legislation changes.
- Mr. Bruggeman serves on the Membership Committee and will be doing site visits in July 2020, with potential members, Rogers State and Newman University.

**Executive Vice President (Dr. Brad Hodson):**

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

**Fundraising**

- Dr. Hodson noted Missouri Southern alumni, friends, faculty, and staff have contributed towards the "Lions Helping Lions" student assistance fund. More than 271 students have applied for assistance, 70 in the first hour the portal opened. At this time, there are 66 gifts totaling \$19,555. Disbursements will be made for at least 75 students. Dr. Hodson also noted in the last week, twelve more checks were written for students. The maximum award given will be \$250.

**Admissions**

- Dr. Hodson noted Admission of freshmen and transfer students are up 23.6% over last fall (1,386 last year to 1,713 this year, an increase of 327 students) a reflection of the economy, and Southern's efforts in removing barriers to applying, such as waiving application fees for the five feeder high schools (Webb City, Carthage, Carl Junction, Neosho, and Joplin) and Crowder College.
- Dr. Hodson noted during the COVID-19 pandemic when high schools were operating at a distance, it was difficult for seniors to acquire their transcripts or test scores. Missouri Southern's Office of Admissions began granting provisional admission to students lacking these credentials. At this time, more than 100 students have been provisionally admitted for the fall, who would not have been able to complete their application or enroll otherwise.

**Digital Marketing**

- Dr. Hodson noted Admissions has seen an increase in digital engagement in the past six weeks of prospective students through social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn all of which, has generated more traffic to Southern's website, which is linked to MSSU's social media efforts.
- ❖ Governor Gipson questioned the Common App and what the ratio was in getting students enrolled and what Southern's history looks like. Brad noted he would get those numbers/percentages to the board.

**Academic Affairs (Dr. Paula Carson):**

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

- Dr. Carson noted due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, students will have the opportunity to convert to an optional, alternative grading scale. Due to changes made to course delivery as a result of the current situation, a university policy has been created for a Pass/Low Pass/Unsatisfactory course grade option which will be used for the Spring 2020 semester. The P/ (Pass) LP/ (Low Pass) U (Unsatisfactory) grades will have no impact on the grade point average GPA.
  - ✓ A grade of Pass (P) shall be defined as the student scoring in the "A to C" range of the course. Credit will be awarded.

### **Academic Affairs (continued):**

- ✓ A grade of Low Pass (LP) shall be defined as the student scoring in the “D” range in the course. Credit will be awarded.
- ✓ A grade of Unsatisfactory (U) shall be defined as the student not passing the course. No credit hours will be earned or course requirements fulfilled for grades of U.
- ✓ Classes with a Pass (P) or Low Pass (LP) grade will be eligible to meet undergraduate general education requirements.
- ✓ Classes with a Pass (P) grade will be eligible to meet master’s requirements.
- ✓ Classes completed with a Pass (P) will meet prerequisite requirements for future classes if the prerequisite requires a grade of C or higher.
- ✓ All majors that require a course letter grade of “C” or higher will be considered as fulfilled with a Pass (P) grade.
- Dr. Carson noted several Faculty Engagement Initiatives at this time:
  - ✓ MOSOlive – keeping students engaged
  - ✓ Lion Club Academy – plans are to re-open on May 11, 2020 following the CDC guidelines.
  - ✓ Distance Learning – updates are sent out each morning regarding instructional information regarding software, technology, etc.
  - ✓ Lecture Capture – faculty lectures are filmed daily utilizing the on-campus studio.
  - ✓ Faculty Motivational Videos – nearly 20 faculty members have recorded inspirational videos for student’s encouragement.
  - ✓ Placement Tests – for incoming Freshman, these tests can still be offered in accordance with CDC guidelines.
  - ✓ Virtual Pinning Ceremonies – are replacing traditional gatherings.
  - ✓ Parking lot hotspots and computer labs – remain open and operational.
  - ✓ Distance Learning/Information Technology/Academic Affairs – continue to meet regularly to ensure effective continuance of operations across divisions.
- Dr. Carson noted recently three faculty members have successfully completed dissertations. Congratulations to Dr. Zach Rice (Special Education), Dr. Charles Withnell (Geology/Biology) and Dr. Don Linn (Music).
- Dr. Carson shared Missouri Southern’s notables during campus closure:
  - ✓ Lion Co-op has served over 100 students since the stay-at-home order was issued.
  - ✓ A virtual vocal concert was created by Drs. Keith Talley and David Sharlow and since was included in a Forbes article highlighting arts during the pandemic and school closures.
  - ✓ The MSSU-KCU Research Lab collaborated with Nemotech to 3-d print protective masks that can withstand sterilization.
  - ✓ A graduating visual arts student recently completed a mural for her class project in Miami, Oklahoma.
- ❖ Governor Haley requested an update regarding the Dental Hygiene Program. Dr. Carson noted the students will be back in the clinic on May 4<sup>th</sup>, (following CDC guidelines). Southern is tripling up on remediation and most students will be completing in June. Dr. Carson also noted there will still be some incomplete grades, but fewer than most universities due to the ability of getting back into the clinic.
- ❖ Chair Gipson asked to go back to Dr. Hodson’s report regarding admitted students who actually enrolled in the fall 2020.  
Dr. Hodson (requested and received the information during the meeting) noted the answer to that question is 34%.

**Vice President for Student Affairs (Dr. Julie Wengert, Assistant VP for Student Affairs in the absence of Mr. Darren Fullerton):**

*Note: Highlights of Mr. Fullerton'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.*

**Student Success Center**

Dr. Wengert noted due to the rapid transition to totally online education, the support services within Student Affairs took all student support areas online and are currently functioning to assist Southern's students. *Disability Services* is working with faculty and students to ensure all student accommodations are being met on-line, the *Student Success Center* has moved to online tutoring and academic support using Blackboard Collaborate, *Counseling* is meeting with students through "telehealth" appointments using Microsoft Teams, and *Advising* is reaching out to students to assist in enrollment by phone, email, and virtual means.

**CARES Act Funding**

Dr. Wengert noted Missouri Southern has applied for funding under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The funding opportunities include (1) *Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, Student Aid* (Southern is eligible to receive \$2,378,137), this grant application was submitted on April 15, 2020. Funds are to be distributed to students as emergency assistance grants. (2) *Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, Recipients Institutional costs* (eligible amount is \$2,378.137), this grant application was submitted on April 23, 2020. The institution can use these funds to defer expenses to moving courses online, to reimburse refunds given to students for housing and meals, etc.

Dr. Wengert anticipates receiving these funds within the next few weeks.

**Residence Life**

Dr. Wengert noted due to the COVID-19 closure, Residence Life was forced to have students leave the residence halls. At this time, refunds have been given for housing (\$554,547.69) and meals (\$252,450.84). Currently only 51 students are still housed on campus.

**Lions Care Calling Project**

Dr. Wengert noted 52 staff members across campus have been coordinating and assisting in calling every Missouri Southern student (to date, 55%) to check-in and see how they are adapting to online education, providing online resources to assist the student, and to assist them in enrollment for next semester. Students (3 ½%) have received additional assistance in financial aid, tutoring, counseling, advising, career services, etc. The MSSU COVID-19 webpage lists a variety of student support services that are being offered virtually or online.

**Southern Welcome**

Dr. Wengert noted currently, all Southern Welcomes have been moved to a new online format. Advisors and Admissions staff have currently enrolled 372 incoming freshmen and transfers. The First-Year Experience Office may possibly provide an on-campus event during the summer 2020 to welcome all incoming students. Dr. Wengert noted an overall enrollment report shows the university is down 15% from this time last year in credit hours and current students who are enrolled for the fall are at 58% which is comparable to this time last year.

**Faculty Senate President (Dr. Rebecca Mouser):**

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

Dr. Mouser noted most of the focus has been on changing platforms to online and working with students to ensure they are getting the education and resources needed.

Other topics in her report included:

- ✓ Faculty Senate continues administrative duties and meet virtually to discuss academic policies regarding curriculum.

**Faculty Senate President (continued):**

- ✓ Currently reviewing several policies that the committee has been rewriting or working toward rewriting this semester.
- ✓ Faculty Senate will have a virtual meeting on Monday, May 4, 2020 which should include the election of new officers and seating of new members.
- ✓ Mikh Gunderman was introduced as the next Faculty Senate President and will be attending the next Board of Governors meeting set for June 18, 2020.

Dr. Mouser noted it has been an honor serving the faculty, as this meeting would conclude her position as Faculty Senate President, and thanked the Board for entrusting her with this position. Dr. Mouser also noted appreciation for how well the Presidential Search has been going and the Board's encouragement of faculty, staff, and students' voices being heard.

Chair Gipson noted appreciation to Dr. Mouser for her work during her time on the Board, including the Presidential Search Committee. Governor Hershewe, also noted appreciation for serving on the Presidential Search Committee, and included gratitude towards the faculty's smooth transition online for Missouri Southern students.

**Staff Senate President (Ms. Melissa Forsythe):**

*Note: Highlights of Ms. Forsythe's report are as follows.*

**Elections**

Ms. Forsythe noted in her report – In March, the Staff Senate Secretary resigned and Steven Brunson, IT Applications Software Developer, was elected to the position. Academic Affairs Project Manager, Brenda Beasley, filled the vacant Senate seat. The Elections Committee is currently preparing for AY 21 Senate elections.

**COVID-19**

Ms. Forsythe also noted the Staff Senate Committee has been working diligently towards creating cloth masks, for those who wish to wear them, when Southern employees return to work on campus.

**Student Senate President (Dr. Julie Wengert, VP for Student Affairs representing Ms.****Sarah Schultz in her absence):**

On behalf of Ms. Schultz, Dr. Wengert noted highlights of her report below:

- ✓ The executive team continues to meet, and the most recent appropriation was given for the pollinator planting project located behind Nixon Hall.
- ✓ Student Senate hopes to finish up the Lion's Den project with decorative wraps and columns with club banners soon.
- ✓ Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the "Kansas Clean Up" scheduled for March 28, 2020 was cancelled.
- ✓ Officer elections are underway.

On behalf of Ms. Schultz, appreciation was expressed toward Southern's administration, faculty, and staff for the prompt attention in getting classes online, and appreciation toward the Board for allowing her to advocate for the Student Body while serving as Student Senate President.

Chair Gipson noted appreciation to Ms. Schultz for her time on the Board as Student Senate President.

**Board Committees:****Academic Affairs Committee (Anita Oplotnik):**

*Note: Highlights of Governor Oplotnik's report are as follows.*

Governor Oplotnik reported the Academic Affairs Committee met at 10:00am before the Board meeting and discussed candidates for Promotion and Tenure. On behalf of and recommendation by the Promotion and Tenure Committee, Dr. Marble, and the Academic Affairs Committee, Governor Oplotnik brought forward the following proposal in a form of a motion, for Board approval:

## **Board Committees:**

### **Academic Affairs Committee (continued):**

#### **Five faculty members for consideration of Promotion:**

Dr. Susan Craig, Full Professor, Teacher Ed  
Dr. Susana Liso, Associate Professor, Spanish  
Mr. Kyle McKenzie, Associate Professor, Art  
Dr. Rebecca Mouser, Associate Professor, English  
Dr. Nicole Shoaf, Associate Professor, Political Science

#### **Six faculty members for consideration of Tenure:**

Dr. Rabindra Bajracharya, Physics  
Mr. Ward Bryant, Communications  
Ms. Megan Douglas, Marketing Management  
Dr. Bill Fischer, History  
Dr. Carissa Gober, Teacher Ed  
Dr. Mikh Gunderman, Criminal Justice

#### **Two faculty members for Promotion and Tenure:**

Ms. Amber Mintert, Associate Professor, Art  
Mr. Ed Outhouse, Associate Professor, Art

*A motion was made by Anita Oplotnik and seconded by Dr. Rosenberg to approve Promotions and Tenure's as presented. Motion passed unanimously.*

### **Budget Audit Committee (Carlos Haley):**

*Note: Highlights of Governor Haley's report are as follows.*

Governor Haley reported the Budget Audit committee met before today's Board meeting to discuss several financial items including the CARES Act and state withholdings; cash flow and being consistent, good stewards; tuition rates for FY2021; and a Lion Share Distribution Policy.

The FY2021 Budget was also discussed and will be finalized before the June 18, 2020 meeting.

On behalf of the Budget Audit Committee, Governor Haley brought forward a recommendation before the board to authorize the administration to set the following **tuition rates for FY2021** including:

- ✓ In-state and Lion Pride tuition rate at \$248.73 per credit hour.
- ✓ Out-of-state tuition rate at \$497.46 per credit hour.
- ✓ Distance Learning tuition rate at \$299.88 per credit hour.
- ✓ Graduate tuition rate at \$350.00 per credit hour. (no change)
- ✓ Dual Credit tuition rate at \$50.00 per credit hour. (no change)

*A motion was made by Carlos Haley and seconded by T. Mark Elliott to approve the tuition rates for FY2021 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.*

*(A copy of the tuition rates for FY2021 are attached to the minutes in the permanent record book).*

- ❖ Dr. Marble noted a reminder regarding In-state tuition which also includes fees such as the recreation center, health center, parking, technology, etc.
- ❖ Governor Oplotnik recommended a comparison break down regarding tuition prices (before the next meeting) of other University's in the state. Mr. Yust noted in collaboration with his team, would get this information to the Board as soon as possible.

On behalf of the Budget Audit Committee, Governor Haley brought forward a recommendation before the board to authorize the administration to finalize and implement the **Lion Share Distribution Policy:**

**1.0 Purpose:** The Board of Governors direct University Management to analyze available unrestricted cash on hand at the end of each fiscal year. The University's available unrestricted cash on hand is largely determined by the change in Current Assets/Cash Balance per the Audited Financial Statements.

**2.0 Scope:** Fiscal year end cash on hand target.



**Budget Audit Committee (continued):**

<sup>2</sup> 0 Policy: Based on an analysis of the available audited cash balance on hand at the end of each fiscal year, the Board of Governors may authorize the Administration to issue a Lion Share distribution to qualified employees (as defined below) after the following considerations:

- ✓ There must be a minimum of \$1M increase in the available unrestricted cash on hand as reflected in the annual Audited Financial Statements in comparison to the previous fiscal year.
- ✓ A minimum of \$500K of the increase is to be retained in the University's cash reserves.
- ✓ All future known cash obligations are to be considered.
- ✓ A qualified employee is defined as one who is paid continuously over a 12-month period (excludes adjunct & seminar instructors & seasonal employees) and/or being employed a total of four consecutive months prior to the Lion Share payment month.

3.1: The Board of Governors Budget Audit Committee will monitor the cash position to ensure that cash balances are consistent with the above thresholds. The policy amounts will be assessed annually, or as needed, to determine if they should be modified. The Board of Governors reserves the right to determine the Lion Share Distribution amount, if any.

4.0 History: This policy may be revised, edited, changed or removed at any time with or without notice to applicable individuals.

*A motion was made by Carlos Haley and seconded by Ron Richard to approve the Lion Share Distribution Policy as presented. Motion passed unanimously.*

*(A copy of the Lion Share Distribution Policy is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book).*

**Personnel/Compensation Committee (Alison Hershewe)**

Governor Hershewe noted the committee met this morning before the Board meeting to discuss the semi-final interviews that were conducted recently regarding the 6th President of Missouri Southern. There will be a recommendation to the full Board at the closed session as stated in the statute "RSMo 610.021 (3) Hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting of particular employees by a public governmental body when personal information about the employee is discussed or recorded" immediately following the Board meeting.

**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.*

**COVID-19**

Dr. Marble noted Missouri Southern's faculty and staff gave up spring break to convert all classes to DE, which put the university a week or two ahead of many of our regional peers in making the shift. Dr. Marble noted gratitude for the faculty's efforts, and the student's remarkable resilience, determination, and understanding as the conversion to DE was implemented, including recognition for their contributions to making the completion of this semester a success. Dr. Marble noted IT and Distance Learning are to be commended as well. The summer semester will also be comprised of DE classes. Dr. Marble anticipates a normal fall 2020 semester with face-to-face classes and a full array of on campus activities. Back up plans are being developed, should they be needed.

**Budget**

Dr. Marble noted the COVID-19 pandemic caused a major disruption in tax revenues flowing to the State of Missouri as unemployment spiked, sales tax revenue plunged, and the 2019 income tax filing deadline was pushed to July. Accordingly, the Governor imposed restrictions (withholdings) that reduced Southern's core budget by 1/12 (or one month's appropriation). Southern is fortunate to have adequate reserves to manage this shortfall, and the passage of the federal CARES Act will help buffer us into the fall. However, the Missouri General Assembly has scrapped the previous FY21 budget and are starting from scratch this week using the new assumptions about revenue for the year. Assuming revenue projections are lower, it is reasonable to expect core budget cuts for FY21. That scenario would put great

**President (continued):**

importance on fall enrollment for revenue generation and reemphasize the need for cautious spending to control expenses. The prospect for additional federal funding is possible, perhaps likely, but until new legislation is proposed, passed, and signed into law, it cannot be counted on.

**CARES Act**

Dr. Marble noted this piece of federal legislation allocates \$4,756,274 to Missouri Southern with \$2,378,137 directed to students and \$2,378,137 for university expenses. Funds from the CARES Act will be available via the grants.gov portal. Student funds will be direct deposited into their bank accounts, or mailed to the last known address of the student. Southern is currently in the final stages of developing a distribution formula to accurately and quickly distribute the student funds when they are received.

Dr. Marble noted the Governor has recently re-opened the state with some restrictions and guidelines. The President's Cabinet will be meeting next Monday to review those guidelines so that Missouri Southern will be in compliance when campus opens on May 11, 2020.

Dr. Marble noted appreciation to Don Mihulka, Southern's new Chief Information Officer, and Scott Snell, Director, Distance Learning for their great work in collaborating with faculty to get classes on line, and also noted appreciation towards Kevin Greim, Associate Vice President, Development in his support with "Lions Helping Lions." Dr. Marble noted there are many special people on campus that could be identified, which makes Missouri Southern such a great place.

**OLD BUSINESS – N/A**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Consideration of Academic Policies Proposals (Dr. Paula Carson) – N/A**

**Future Meeting Date:**

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 1 o'clock.

**Commencement**

Chair Gipson noted the Spring Commencement Ceremonies have been postponed. Plans are to invite the Spring 2020 graduates back on campus to be recognized along with the Fall 2020 graduates on December 12, 2020. Dr. Marble also noted URM (University Relations and Marketing) is currently collaborating with faculty to create a virtual graduation page on the MSSU website.


**Closed Executive Session:**

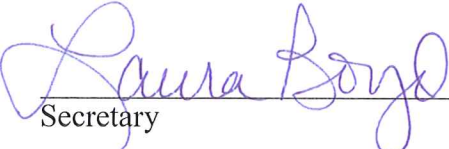
Chair Gipson noted the Board needed to go into closed Executive Session pertaining to the following state statute:

**RSMo 610.021 (3)** Hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting of particular employees by a public governmental body when personal information about the employee is discussed or recorded.

*A motion to go into a closed Executive Session was made by T. Mark Elliott and seconded by Mariann Morgan under RSMo 610.021 (3). A roll call was made by Laura Boyd, Board Secretary, with each attending Board member voting in favor of the closed Executive Session.*

*At the conclusion of the Executive Session, a motion was duly made and passed to adjourn the meeting.*

  
Chair

  
Secretary