

MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY
Board of Governors
Minutes

June 14, 2017 – 1:00 pm
Billingsly Student Center, Room 310

The June 14, 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, Dr. Brad Hodson, Darren Fullerton, Rob Yust, Dr. Andrea Cullers (representing Faculty Senate), Chris Owens, Amanda Gardner, Jon Dermott, Linda Eis, and Sharon Odem. Jared Bruggeman was in non-attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair McCumber welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1 o'clock.

MINUTES

Chair McCumber asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the April 21, 2017, Board meeting; none were noted.

A motion was made by Mike Franks and seconded by Jim Fleischaker to approve minutes of the April 21, 2017 Board meeting as submitted. Motion passed unanimously. (Minutes are archived in the permanent record book.)

REPORTS

Treasurer (Ms. Linda Eis):

Linda noted due to the combined May/June meeting of the Board, financials for both April and May were included in the Board packet. Due to the financial statements for the period ending May 31, 2017, containing the most recent information, they 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 balance as of May 31, 2017, shows \$13.2 million; an increase over the prior year of \$2.9 million.

Dr. Marble noted the importance of marking the amount of Cash the University has on June 30th and if possible rewarding employees perhaps mid-year for their hard work in maintaining and even increasing cash during this difficult budget time of decreased appropriations.

Statement of Net Position: As of May 31, 2017, Total Assets are \$156 million, Total Liabilities are \$82 million and Total Net Assets are \$74 million.

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

- **Total Operating Revenue** increased by \$3.7 million over the prior year. Tuition reflects an increase of almost \$2 million which is due primarily to increased enrollment and expanded masters programs.
- **Total Operating Expenses** increased by \$1.2 million. Linda noted savings due to the university moving to partially self-insured health insurance continues to be seen.
- **Non-Operating Revenue (Expense)** increased by \$545,000 which has been offset by a decrease in regular state appropriations.
- **Income (Loss) Before Other Revenues** comparing the current year and prior year, the current year is at \$3.7 million, compared to the prior year of \$700,000, making a difference of \$3 million.

Treasurer (continued):

- **Other Revenues** show an increase of \$6.8 million which is primarily comprised of state reimbursements for Reynolds and Nixon Hall.
- **Other Items:**
 - ✓ **Bank RFP** – From the bid sent to 12 vendors for depository services, 5 vendors submitted proposals. Two finalists were selected to come to campus for on-site presentations. The review committee comprised of Michelle Arwood, Alicia Hughes, Leslie Forest, Jan Garner, Al Stadler, and Jim Sayles, made a selection of Simmons Bank as MSSU's new depository service provider. Linda thanked the review committee for their hard work and noted the committee (comprised of wide campus representation) spoke very highly of Simmons Bank and the services they will offer. Simmons was selected for both their pricing and interest rates. Mid-September to the first of October is the target time for rollout. Linda also noted Simmons is highly respected and has a reputation of solid banking experience.

Bill Gipson asked what the effective date is for Simmons to go live and Linda responded, October 1, but it could be as soon as mid-September.

- ✓ **Auditors**, in conjunction with the annual audit, will be on campus next week to begin fieldwork.

A motion was made by Bill Gipson and seconded by Anita Oplotnik to approve the May 31, 2017, financial statements as presented. Motion passed unanimously. (A copy of the financial statements for May 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 renovation of **Reynolds Hall** is complete and is being used for summer classes. With its completion, over 50% of Reynolds is now remodeled. To accommodate the next phase of renovations, a large Math classroom will be setup in the Annex for fall classes and adjunct instructors will also be relocated to the Annex.
- Work continues on the design of **Nixon Hall**, the addition to Reynolds Hall, in order to decrease the cost. Nixon Hall will primarily house Math classrooms and offices and should be completed in the fall of 2018 with classes beginning in this new facility in the spring of 2019.
- The **Trail Project** with the City of Joplin continues to be slow. The City has started engineering this project and plans to start construction in the spring of 2018.
- Missouri Southern has been selected as an **All Star Finalist** at the Great Game of Business "Gathering of Games" annual conference scheduled in Dallas in September. Several different awards will be given during this conference and nothing is official, but an email has been received stating "Congratulations on being named the 2017 Pioneer Award winner!" Rob noted appreciation to Scott Cragin, Jeff Gibson, Landon Adams and the Culture Committee as well as other GGOE committees for their tremendous efforts in this initiative which has definitely contributed to increasing the university's cash position. As an example to illustrate the success of GGOE, Scott Cragin is currently in Australia giving a presentation about GGOE at EduTech, a major Higher Education conference.

Director of Athletics (Mr. Jared Bruggeman):

Jared was unable to attend the Board meeting. His report was provided in hard copy and is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book.

Executive Vice President (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.

- During the last six months, the various divisions under University Advancement have been charged with and have developed three year **Vision Plans**. These Plans include goals and measures with specific outcomes for accountability and will include annual reports.

Executive Vice President (continued):

- The Missouri Southern Foundation recently received a **\$1 million gift** from the estate of Harrison and June Harper. In the 1970s the Harpers established an endowed scholarship and this gift, triggered by Mrs. Harper's death, will be an addition to this existing scholarship. Mr. Harper, who was a pioneer in Joplin aviation, passed away in 1977.
- As announced in December 2016, Debra and David Humphreys donated \$1 million to establish the **Debra and David Humphreys Excellence Award**. In conjunction with the Humphreys Excellence Award, a Scholars Committee was established to determine which outstanding students in seven academic areas would be offered assistance with their education through this donation. Twenty-eight recipients have recently been selected from regional high schools in a 50 mile radius of Joplin and will be offered awards. Dr. Hodson noted \$100,000 of this donation will be awarded each year for ten years.
- As of yesterday, June 13th, **fall enrollment** is showing a 5% increase from this same time last year which had record enrollment. Enrollment numbers will fluctuate, but fall enrollment is looking strong.
- The latest edition of **Crossroads** magazine, mailed in May to nearly 40,000 constituents, features MSSU's nationally recognized expert on reptiles, Dr. David Penning.
- The "go live" date of July 1 for the new **Raiser's Edge** database conversion is fast approaching. Prior to this conversion, the university had approximately 36,000 records of alumni and friends in its database but thanks to efforts of the Development Team, especially Teresa Shufflin, the Raiser's Edge database will now have 96,000 records. This very involved process has taken two years to complete.
- Five new members of the **Missouri Southern Foundation Board of Directors** have recently been elected. These outstanding new members are as follows:
 - Mrs. Sallie Beard, retired MSSU administrator, Joplin
 - Mr. Steve Koelkebeck, President, Southwest Missouri Bank, Carthage
 - Mr. Dan Stengel, retired MSSU Accounting Professor, Joplin
 - Mr. Bryan Vowels, Financial Advisor - Wells Fargo, Joplin
 - Mrs. Dorothy Willcoxon, Community Leader, Joplin.

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.

- **MOMOM (Missouri Mission of Mercy)** took place at the Leggett & Platt fieldhouse from June 8-11. This event provided treatment for 1,253 patients in need of basic dental care. Many MSSU students, faculty, and staff volunteered to assist during this event.
- A list of **Study Abroad** trips taking place during the spring and summer semesters as well as short-term faculty led trips were highlighted in Dr. Carson's written report. The list included a number of different countries with trips for a variety of majors.
- **Faculty updates** included eleven new hires for the fall semester; eight phased retirements; and four full retirements. Dr. Carson noted the number of commitments to hire are about equal to replacement position hires reflecting efficiency.
- Through **Concurrent Enrollment** for the 2016-2017 school year, 3,409 credit hours were provided to high school students; an increase of 566 hours from the previous year. The national accreditation for concurrent enrollment obtained last October is a great accomplishment for the university and will attract even more students. Dr. Carson noted concurrent record enrollment is anticipated next year.

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.

- Approval has been received from the United States Department of Education for **federal recertification** for financial aid dollars through 3/31/2023. Darren noted this is very significant due to MSSU offering approximately \$33 million dollars in aid to students each year.
- Thirteen different **federal student aid related bills** were introduced last month in the legislature and are being carefully monitored including a Bill tying Pell to interest rates. Year-round Pell was signed into law in May thanks to efforts of Senator Blunt.
- Information regarding **SB 52, Suicide Awareness and Prevention**, which will require development and implementation of a policy to advise students and staff on suicide prevention programs available on and off campus was shared.
- **Testing Services** has received approval for a computer lab on the Crowder College-Jane campus which will be used as an MSSU testing site. This new test site will benefit MSSU's Teacher Education department which has a cohort of students at this site.
- Each year from a Trust allocation, outstanding students are selected to receive **Spencer Bartlett Respect Awards**. This year a total of \$7,200 was awarded and one of the \$1,500 winners was Blair Freed who spoke to the Board this spring about her experiences while at MSSU including being accepted into "Yours to Lose".
- **Title 9 Training** opportunities will be available for the Board during the fall semester. Information will be provided at a later date.

Faculty Liaison (Dr. Andrea Cullers (Faculty Senate Secretary) presented on behalf of Dr. Nick Nicoletti (newly elected Faculty Senate President):

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

Faculty Senate's last meeting for the spring semester took place on May 1st. Results of that meeting included three changes that were approved to the Faculty Handbook as follows:

- A proposal pertaining to requiring regular and substantive feedback during Distance Learning courses between the instructor and students throughout the length of the course.
- A proposal for revising the representation formula that determines the number of representatives each department has based on the number of Voting Faculty in the department.
- A proposal to change the Senate's Committee on Committees (SCOC) representation with regards to specific voting members and removing the Graduate Council as an SCOC.

Scott Cragin attended the meeting on behalf of GGOE and provided notification the Culture Committee needed two new members. As a result of this need, Dustin Faulstick and Michael Garoutte were elected to serve on the Culture Committee.

In addition, items from AP (Academic Policy) Report 16.17.28 were discussed and approved (detail provided in the written report). New Senators were seated and elections were held for next year's Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

The next meeting of Faculty Senate is scheduled for Monday, August 28th.

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

Staff Senate met this morning and elected four new members: Professional Staff - Robin Douglas and Classified Staff - Kandee Behnke, Melissa Forsythe, and Scott Meeker.

Staff Senate's Community Service Committee is helping coordinate this year's United Way's Day of Activity scheduled on Friday, June 23rd; 29 individuals are forfeiting a day off to participate in this community event.

Chris noted this was his last Board meeting as Staff Senate President and Sharon Fraser will attend the next Board meeting as the incoming Staff Senate president. Chris thanked the Board for the opportunity to report to the Board during his time as Staff Senate president.

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

Student Senate had two major events take place at the end of the spring semester; the Outstanding Senate Awards and an End of Year Pool party. Both events, which took place before finals, were well attended.

Amanda noted this will be her last Board meeting representing Student Senate and thanked the Board for the opportunity to report on behalf of students to the Board.

Dr. Marble noted, on behalf of the Board, Darren had a token gift showing appreciation to Amanda for reporting to the Board and sharing information regarding Student Senate during the past year. Representatives for Faculty Senate and Staff Senate are paid employees of the University, but Student Senate representatives volunteer their time.

Darren Fullerton also expressed gratitude and appreciation to Amanda for the work she has done on behalf of Student Senate.

Mitch McCumber noted the feeling across campus is one of wanting every student to succeed. Mr. McCumber also thanked Amanda for her time and efforts.

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):

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

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.

Mr. McCumber noted, during this morning's Board retreat, MSSU's Strategic Plan was one of the agenda items discussed and thanked Board members for their attendance and input.

Dr. Marble noted the retreat was only the beginning of meetings and work is anticipated to continue in the fall which will include a SWOT analysis involving both faculty and staff. Dr. Marble also thanked the Board for their input and participation during the retreat and beginning discussions on Cyber Security and Adult Learners.

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.

- This morning's **Board Retreat**, in addition to beginning discussions on Cyber Security and Adult Learners, also served as the kickoff to develop MSSU's new Strategic Plan.
- The **Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE)** met last week and provided critical insights into Governor Greiten's administration as they work to put their policies into place. Zora Mulligan, Commissioner of the Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE), shared information with CBHE members regarding priorities of the new administration which include addressing items considered "risk factors" facing the State of Missouri as follows: 1) Cybersecurity and/or Cyberterrorism; 2) Opioid Epidemic; 3) Natural Disasters (floods, tornadoes, earthquakes); 4) Infrastructure Challenges (aging roads and bridges); 5) Financial Fluctuations caused by external events (foreign currency manipulation, etc.), and 6) Workforce Development in both hard and soft skills.
- **HB3**, passed by both the House and Senate, included a 6.58% core budget cut for all public colleges and universities, but \$3 million was added back into the budget for the UMKC/MSSU Dental School partnership as a line item. Currently this bill is on the Governor's desk and has not been signed.

President (continued):

- The **Council on Public Higher Education (COPHE)** also met last week and began the process of discussing legislative priorities for next year which included priorities to restore cuts to core funding and develop a new plan for the Performance Funding Model. As a result, two work groups have been established: the CFO Council, on which Rob Yust represents MSSU, will work to find efficiencies through joint purchasing as well as other mechanisms; and a committee on the Performance Funding Model, on which Brad Hodson represents MSSU.
- Discussions at the semi-annual meeting of Presidents of the **Mid-America Athletic Conference (MIAA)** included minor scheduling changes to various sports, associate conference memberships and issues surrounding concussions. Dr. Marble noted the discussions on concussions were significant and included the sport of soccer.
- Dr. Marble congratulated employees on the great job being done on developing the **Great Game of Education (GGOE)** and noted work is taking place to finalize an agreement with SRC and the Great Game of Business regarding compensation for promoting GGOE to other higher education institutions. Dr. Marble also noted Dr. Scott Cragin is in Sydney, Australia finishing a presentation about GGOE at the EduTech conference. Dr. Marble also noted and thanked Landon Adams for his great work developing and helping implement Huddle Rhythms in conjunction with GGOE on campus.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS**Consideration of Board Policies (Dr. Alan Marble and Mr. Rob Yust):**

Dr. Marble noted due to the efforts of Husch Blackwell in conjunction with the President's Cabinet, four new Board policies, (1) Board Conflict of Interest Policy; (2) Delegation of Authority to the University President Policy; (3) Open Records & Meetings Policy; and (4) Policy on Policies are coming before the Board today for consideration.

The new Board policies, noted in the previous paragraph, plus one additional policy, Attendance, were emailed to the Board prior to today's Board meeting for review by Rob Yust. At the request of the Board, the Attendance Policy was tabled to allow additional time for discussion and input. The Cash Policy, approved by the Board during the January 25, 2017 meeting, was also emailed.

Rob asked the Board Chair, Mitch McCumber, if each policy needed a separate motion for approval. Mr. McCumber responded a separate motion for each policy was not necessary and asked for one motion to approve the following policies.

A motion was made by Mike Franks and seconded by Jim Fleischaker to approve the following new Board Policies as presented: (1) Board Conflict of Interest Policy; (2) Delegation of Authority to the University President; (3) Open Records & Meetings Policy; and (4) Policy on Policies. Motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of Promotion and Tenure (Dr. Paula Carson):

On behalf of and recommendation by the Tenure Committee, Promotion Committee, and Dr. Marble and as required by the Faculty Handbook, Dr. Carson brought forward the following:

Eight faculty members for consideration of **Tenure**:

- ✓ Dr. Bradley Creamer, Biology and Environmental Health
- ✓ Dr. Holly Hackett, Psychology
- ✓ Dr. Cherona Hicklin, Teacher Education
- ✓ Dr. Susana Liso, Modern Languages
- ✓ Dr. Melissa Locker, Teacher Education
- ✓ Mr. James Marsh, Industrial Engineering and Technology
- ✓ Dr. Susan Tucker, Psychology
- ✓ Ms. Lucy Wang, Spiva Library

Consideration of Promotion and Tenure (continued):

One faculty member for **Promotion:**

- ✓ Dr. Holly Hackett, Associate Professor, Psychology

Dr. Marble noted these faculty members are examples of the extraordinary work and dedication taking place by MSSU faculty and congratulated them on this accomplishment which they have worked very hard to achieve.

A motion was made by Tracy Flanigan and seconded by Alison Hershewe to approve all eight faculty for Tenure and one faculty member for Promotion as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Carson also noted consideration is being given to merging the Tenure and Promotion Committee into one committee beginning next year.

Consideration of Academic Policy Proposals (Dr. Paula Carson):

Dr. Carson brought forward one Academic Policy Proposal for consideration. This proposal, pertaining to expiration of credits, will place a time limit of 12 years on degree credits. Credits older than 12 years will be required to undergo an academic review and will be subject to validation by the school/department. This process will ensure academic quality is maintained and determine if current degree requirements are satisfied.

A motion to approve the Policy for Expiration of Credits was made by Jim Fleischaker and seconded by Carlos Haley. Motion was approved unanimously.

Election of Board Officers (Mr. Mitch McCumber):

Mr. McCumber noted it is time for the Board to hold its yearly election of officers for Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary and asked for nominations as follows:

Chair:

A motion was made by Tracy Flanigan and seconded by Alison Hershewe to nominate Mitch McCumber for Board Chair. Motion was approved unanimously.

No additional nominations were made and the following motion was brought forward for approval:

A motion was made by Anita Oplotnik and seconded by Mike Franks for nominations to cease and elect Mitch McCumber, Board Chair. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. McCumber thanked the Board for their support.

Vice Chair:

A motion was made by Tracy Flanigan and seconded by Mike Franks to nominate Bill Gipson for Board Vice Chair. No additional nominations were made.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer:

A motion was made by Jim Fleischaker and seconded by Bill Gipson to nominate Linda Eis for Treasurer. No additional nominations were made.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Secretary:

A motion was made by Alison Hershewe and seconded by Jim Fleischaker to nominate Sharon Odem for Board Secretary. No additional nominations were made.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Other Items:

None

Future Meeting Dates:

Chair McCumber noted the Board typically does not meet in July and the August Board meeting date has changed from Friday, August 18th to Monday, August 21st due to many activities taking place for the start-up of the fall semester around August 18th. The start time for the Board lunch on August 21st will remain at noon followed by the Board meeting at 1 o'clock.

Closed Executive Session:

Chair McCumber noted the Board needed to go into a Closed Executive Session pertaining to the following two state statutes:

RSMo 610.021(2) leasing, purchase or sale of real estate by a public governmental body where public knowledge of the transaction might adversely affect the legal consideration therefore.

RSMo 610.021(3) relating to "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 Bill Gipson and seconded by Mike Franks under RSMo 610.021 (2) and RSMo 610.021 (3). A roll call vote was taken by Sharon Odem, Board Secretary, with each Board member voting in favor of the Executive Session.

At the conclusion of the Executive Session a motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Sharon Odem

Laura Boyle
Secretary

Chair
Chair