

**MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Board of Governors Minutes**  
**January 14, 2022**  
**Billingsly Student Center**  
**Ball Room**

The January 14, 2022 meeting of the Missouri Southern State University Board of Governors was called to order by Anita Oplotnik, Vice-Chairwoman, in the absence of Alison Hershewe, Chairwoman. Governors in attendance were, Bill Gipson (via phone), Carlos Haley, Mariann Morgan (via phone), Anita Oplotnik, and Ron Richard. Others in attendance were Dr. Otto Borchert, Lorinda Hackett, Dr. Brad Hodson, Heather Lesmeister, Rob Mallory, Brent Olson, Mike Opfer, Dr. Dean Van Galen, Dr. Julie Wengert, Rob Yust, Linda Eis, and Laura Boyd.

Governors in non-attendance were T. Mark Elliott, Alison Hershewe, and Dr. Benjamin Rosenberg.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Vice-Chairwoman Oplotnik, in the absence of Chairwoman Alison Hershewe, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., welcomed, and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

**MINUTES**

Vice-Chairwoman Oplotnik asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the November 12, 2021, Board meeting; none were noted.

*A motion was made by Ron Richard and seconded by Carlos Haley to approve minutes of the November 12, 2021 Board meeting as submitted. Motion passed unanimously. (Minutes are archived in the permanent record book).*

**President (Dr. Dean Van Galen):**

*Note: Highlights of Dr. Van Galen'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.*

**Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs**

Dr. Van Galen introduced and welcomed Dr. Lisa Toms, Missouri Southern's next Provost and Vice-President of Academic Affairs. Dr. Toms comes to us from the University of Central Missouri, currently serving as Vice Provost for Academic Programs, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, and Professor of Marketing.

Dr. Van Galen acknowledged Lorinda Hackett, Interim Provost and VPAA for her outstanding leadership to Missouri Southern over the past six months. Ms. Hackett will return to her role as Interim Dean, College of Education on February 15, 2022.

**Coordinating Board for Higher Education**

During the CBHE meeting in December, the board reviewed proposals and selected Missouri Southern to host its June meeting. The meeting is scheduled for June 14-15, 2022. MSSU Board of Governors will be invited to attend.

**Meeting with Legislative Delegation**

On December 10, 2021, Missouri Southern hosted our local legislative delegation to campus. Discussion included the upcoming legislative session including specific requests for support of core funding increases and capital projects.

**Celebrating MSSU Employees**

The traditional celebration brunch was held on December 22, 2021 in appreciation and recognition of staff members for their years of service. In total, 56 were recognized for service ranging from 5-35 years, equaling 595 years of combined service.

**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.*

**New Student Admission**

Dr. Hodson noted admission of new freshman is up 44% overall compared to this time last year with 1,013 freshman currently admitted (application completed, meets criteria for admission, eligible to enroll for fall classes) compared to 704 a year ago (+309 admitted students). Admitted transfer students are up 32% overall, with NWACC and Crowder increase of 20 admitted students. The number of admitted international students is flat with a current increase of one admitted student. Dr. Hodson noted International student enrollment in the fall could be challenging. Japan, for example, has announced tightened travel restrictions running through December 2022 due to COVID.

**New Initiatives**

According to feedback from Admissions recruiters in the field and the admitted student numbers described above, new investments made over the last year include:

- Increasing the value of MOSO Merit
- Additional funding for campus events
- Additional marketing dollars
- Investing in the YouVisit virtual tour software

**Spring Student Recruitment Events**

The following student recruitment events planned for the fall's Lion Pride Visit Days include:

- January 6 ~ Green and Gold Tour in Seneca
- February 11 ~ Health Sciences Discovery Day
- March 2 ~ Business Discovery Day
- March 4 ~ STEM Discovery Day
- March 18 ~ Lion Pride Day
- April 1 ~ Social Sciences and International Studies Discovery Day
- April 8 ~ Education Discovery Day
- April 14 ~ Transfer Discovery Day
- April 20 ~ Crowder Enrollment Cookout
- April 23 ~ Lion Pride Visit Day
- April 27 ~ NEO Enrollment Cookout
- June 11 ~ Lion Pride Visit Day
- July 9 ~ Lion Pride Visit Day

**Endowment Reports**

Personalized reports were sent to each Foundation's 200+ endowments in December to donors or their representatives, summarizing the Foundation investment performance in FY2021 and distributions from each endowment for student scholarships, program support, or other designations. Dr. Hodson noted this annual report is a significant stewardship initiative to demonstrate the Foundation's fiscal responsibility for major philanthropic investments in the institution.

**Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (Lorinda Hackett):**

*Note: Highlights of Ms. Hackett'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.*

Ms. Hackett welcomed Dr. Toms and noted she is looking forward to working with her during the transition from Interim to Provost. Ms. Hackett also noted gratitude to MSSU colleagues and the Board of Governors for their help in moving Academic Affairs forward ~ in her tenure as Interim.

**Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (continued):**  
**Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, Inc. (ABET)**

Ms. Hackett noted the Industrial Engineering Technology (IET) program is one of 10 ABET-accredited Industrial Engineering Technology bachelor's degree programs in the U.S. which provides assurance a university program meets quality standards of the profession. The request for the evaluation visit was completed in December 2021, the self-study is due July 1, 2022, and the on-site visit will be scheduled between September and December 2022.

**Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)**

The Teacher Education program is accredited by the CAEP on evidence-based continuous improvement and quality assurance. CAEP accreditation was originally received in 2016 and MSSU was the first Missouri Teacher Education program to be recognized for this achievement. The next accreditation visit is October 23-25, 2022, and the requisite self-study was submitted December 2021.

**Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Grant**

Ms. Hackett noted TEACH Missouri is a new initiative designed to improve the perception of the teaching profession in recruiting and retaining Missouri teachers. This program has been awarded \$30,000 for strategic enrollment initiatives which will offer scholarships to transfer students interested in teaching areas such as Math, Science, and Special Education. Recently, average Missouri teacher compensation ranked 45<sup>th</sup> in the nation, while salaries of beginning Missouri teachers are the lowest in the country.

\*Vice-Chairwoman Oplotnik noted appreciation to Ms. Hackett, for all her hard work and dedication as Interim.

**Interim Vice President for Student Affairs (Dr. Julie Wengert):**

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

**Fall 2021 Degrees and Certificates**

Dr. Wengert noted as of last week, the following data were provided for student achievement awards during the Fall 2021 semester:

- Undergraduate degrees: 326
- Graduate degrees: 32
- Certificates: 136

**Student Affairs Professionals Years of Service**

Thirteen Student Affairs professionals celebrated their combined 135 years of service to MSSU during the 2021 Employee Appreciation and Years of Service ceremony on December 22, 2021, including:

- Meghan Alberts, Vallie Cook, Jessica Davis, and Sonia Liston ~ 5 years;
- Steven Benfield, Mariah Callari, Alex Gandy, Mayra Gonzalez, Debra Swearengen, and Tina Tracy ~ 10 years;
- Faustina Abrahams ~ 15 years; and
- Ken Kennedy and Julie Wengert ~ 20 years

**Student Recruitment and Engagement**

Dr. Wengert noted Student Affairs' departments concluded the fall semester with additional student engagement opportunities including:

- FYE/ACT's hosted a Trivia Night and Ugly Sweater Contest;
- The Residence Hall Association coordinated a Gingerbread House/Movie Night and Christmas Bingo event;
- Student Activities hosted the annual Southern Lights and Finals Madness event;
- The Office of the Registrar is collaborating with Admissions to introduce a Transfer Equivalences tool for prospective students, enabling them to see how transfer credits will tentatively transfer to MSSU and meet their degree using the Degree Works audit tool;
- Residence Life collaborated with the Foundation and Admissions to enhance showrooms on the dorm Tour;

**Interim Vice President for Student Affairs (continued):**

- Campus Recreation is offering tours of the new Midwestern Esports Center during the Lion Pride Visit Days;
- Student Activities has collaborated with the Foundation and Admissions to provide a few current students from a variety of student organizations at the Green & Gold Tours and Lion Pride Visit Days;
- Financial Aid enhanced the aesthetics of the Award Offer mailer and created a MOSO Merit certificate for Fall 2022 recipients;
- ACTS/FYE partnered with an ACT Prep/College Prep class at Carthage High School in explaining the college application, admission, and enrollment process;
- Global Leaders has completed recruiting visits, hosted international virtual fairs, developed promotional videos, and translated promotional materials; and
- The Trio programs have presented college-prep information to many local school districts

**Vice President for Business Affairs (Mr. Rob Yust):**

*Note: Highlights of Mr. Yust'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.*

**Construction**

Mr. Yust noted updates on the campus improvement projects, funded, by the Federal Budget Stabilization Fund including:

- Pedestrian safety in the main parking lot (completed)
- Street replacement/crosswalks (completed)
- Tunnel safety improvements (anticipated completion, February)
- Oval infrastructure
  - Revamping the entrance to Hearnese Hall (completed)
  - New pavers in front of Webster Hall (completed)
  - New pavers and seat in front of Reynolds Hall (anticipated completion, this month)
  - Paver designs in the place of the fountains (Hearnese and Spiva)
  - Sidewalk replacement and tree removal on the Oval (completed)
  - Replacement of old water line (completed)
  - Installation of new light poles on the Oval (anticipated completion, late January/early February)

**Taylor Performing Arts Center (TPAC)**

Mr. Yust noted the contractor (RE Smith) began the remediation work in November, 2021, and the block and MEP demo is approximately 60-75% complete. Steel fabrication is progressing and should begin late February, and the seating should be ordered in the few weeks. The anticipated time-line for completion is January, 2022.

**Director of Athletics (Mr. Rob Mallory):**

*Note: Highlights of Rob'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-Athlete Academic Success**

Mr. Mallory noted during the term, 198 of 421 student athletes (47%) earned a 3.0 GPA or higher and of those, 19 finished with a 3.5+, 80 earned Dean's List recognition (3.75+), and 50 recorded a perfect 4.0 GPA. Currently, the Athletic Department carries a cumulative GPA of 3.091 and has maintained at least a 3.0 GPA for seven consecutive semesters. Presently, 10 different programs have a team GPA of 3.0 or better. Women's Golf leads the way (3.596), Volleyball (3.505), Soccer (3.485), and Softball (3.451).

The NCAA recently released the Academic Success Rate and Federal Graduation Rate report for the 2011-2014 cohorts. Southern athletes were 51% compared to 33% for the overall student population ~ 18% higher.

**Director of Athletics (continued):****NCAA Division II National Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC)**

Kara Amos has been selected to serve on this three-year appointment committee, during which time, she will represent all student-athletes of the MIAA at the national level. SAAC serves as a primary governance arm representing student-athlete interests in Division II affairs. Kara will serve as a student-athlete liaison and monitor and discuss happenings on campus within conferences and the national level.

**Men's Cross Country**

This team concluded their season in November with a 13<sup>th</sup> place finish at the NCAA Division II National Championships in Tampa, Florida. All-American finishes went to JP Rutledge in 6<sup>th</sup> place and Ryan Riddle finishing 20<sup>th</sup> overall. Southern qualified as a team for the national championship with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish at the Central Regional Championship, hosted at the Tom Rutledge Cross Country Course. Ryan was "meet champion" and teammate JP finished runner-up.

**Women's Soccer Head Coach**

Sade Boswell has been selected as Missouri Southern's next head coach of the women's soccer program. Ms. Boswell comes to Missouri Southern from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas.

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

The balance at the end of December 31, 2021, is \$20M. As a reminder, this does include the \$6M in HEERF II funding rolled over from FY21. It now also includes an additional \$3.9M HEERF III funding that was drawn in December 2021. Almost \$10M of the current balance is reflective of HEERF funding.

**Statement of Net Position:****Total Assets: \$184M**

Restricted cash includes bond proceeds and the federal stabilization funding (campus improvements) and will continue to decrease over time as those funds are spent.

**Total Liabilities: \$132M****Net Position: \$52M****Comparative Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position (difference column):**

- **Total Operating Revenues:** Reflects a decrease of (\$2.6M)
- **Total Operating Expenses:** Reflects an increase of \$2.9M Many of the expenses have increased activity in the current year. Last year (FY21) had significant reduced activity due to the impact of COVID including decreases in contract services, supplies and travel (athletic, grant, employee and student).
- **Non-Operating Revenues:** Reflects an increase of \$5.5M which includes additional base appropriations and reflects the HEERF funding for both students and the institution.
- **Income Before Other Revenues:**  
Current Year: \$923k  
Prior Year: \$896k  
This results in an increase from Prior Year: \$27k

**Other items:** We are pleased to share that the Athletic NCAA Agreed Upon Procedures (AUP) is complete. The AUP is due to the University President by January 15<sup>th</sup>. This review is done every three years.

*A motion was made by Carlos Haley and seconded by Ron Richard to approve the December 2021 financial statements as presented. Motion passed unanimously. (A copy of the financial statements for December 2021 are attached to the minutes in the permanent record book).*

**Faculty Senate President-Elect (Dr. Otto Borchert ~ in the absence of Dr. David Locher, Faculty President):**

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

Dr. Borchert noted since the November meeting the Faculty Senate has:

- Eliminated a redundant Committee (Athletics);
- Created a new Intellectual Property policy;
- Created a path to promotion for a small sub-group of non-tenure track faculty;
- Clarified language in some Faculty Handbook sections;
- Streamlined Promotion & Tenure Committee membership;
- Tasked the Faculty Welfare Committee with completing the 3-year salary equity review (in progress) as mandated in the Faculty Handbook; and
- Formed an ad hoc committee to examine and clarify the unique roles of Academic Policies and the College Curriculum Oversight Committees in academic governance on campus.

**Staff Senate President (Mr. Mike Opfer):**

*Note: Highlights of Mr. Opfer's report are as follows:*

- The annual Angel Tree event provided 50 children from 26 students Christmas gifts;
- Executive-At-Large has been added as a new position on Staff Senate (Teresa Shufflin);
- Nick Reynolds will serve as Secretary due to a recent vacancy; and
- Staff Conversations continue to be a part of the committee's monthly agenda between the Staff Senate Executive Committee and President's Cabinet, recent topics included budget and construction.

**Student Senate President (Mr. Brent Olson):**

*Note: Highlights of Mr. Olson's report are as follows:*

- Mr. Olson noted the committee has been evaluating a sand volleyball proposal, a partnership between Resident's Life, Campus Recreation, and Student Senate. A decision to fund \$10,000 has been made by the committees and will be built near the Lion's Village. Anticipated completion has not been addressed at this time.
- Ideas and discussion continue regarding a "Campus Beautification" which entails rewilding and planting native grass and flowers throughout campus.
- All Student Senate vacancies have been filled

**Board Committees:**

**Personnel/Compensation (T. Mark Elliott, Chair):**

N/A

**Academic Affairs (Anita Oplotnik, Chair):**

Governor Oplotnik noted this committee met prior to the open Board meeting for the purpose of discussing Degree Programs which included:

- Undergraduate Certificates:
  - Pit Orchestra Performance
  - Interdisciplinary Photography
  - New Media
  - Professional Writing
  - Dance and Movement
  - Entertainment Business

**Academic Affairs (continued):**

- Major Programs
  - Bachelor of Science in Music Industry
  - Bachelor of Fine Arts Fashion Design
  - Bachelor of Fine Arts International Costume Design
  - Bachelor of Science Sport and Recreation Management

Other:

- The Chemical and Physical Sciences Department is dropping the Bachelor of Science in Physics and Physics Engineering as well as the Electronics certificate due to ongoing low enrollment.
- The Teacher Education Department in conjunction with the Chemical and Physical Sciences Department is dropping the Bachelor of Science in Education, Physics 9-12.

The items above have been approved/accepted by the respective College Curriculum Oversight Committees (CCOC), Academic Policies (AP) and Faculty Senate (FS) as of December 6, 2021.

*A motion was made by Mariann Morgan and seconded by Ron Richard to approve the Degree Programs as presented. Motion passed unanimously. (A copy of the approved Degree Programs is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book).*

**Budget Audit Committee (Carlos Haley, Chair):**

Governor Haley noted this committee met prior to the open Board meeting for the purpose of discussing the planning process for the FY2023 budget, which includes a Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program and the number of eligible employees who fit these criteria. No actions were taken.

More information to follow at the June 2022 meeting.

**Ad Hoc Pandemic Committee (Bill Gipson, Chair): N/A**

**OLD BUSINESS** – N/A

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Future Meeting Date:**

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Friday, March 11, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

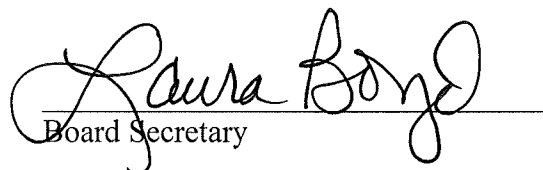
**Adjournment:**

Vice-Chairwoman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

*A motion was made by Carlos Haley and seconded by Ron Richard to adjourn.*

*Motion passed unanimously.*

  
Board Chair

  
Board Secretary