

MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY

Board of Governors

Minutes

September 19, 2019

Billingsly Student Center, Room 310

The September 19, 2019 meeting of the Missouri Southern State University Board of Governors was called to order at 1 o'clock by Bill Gipson, Chair. Governors in attendance were T. Mark Elliott, Tracy Flanigan, Bill Gipson, Carlos Haley, Alison Hershewe, Anita Oplotnik, and Dr. Benjamin Rosenberg. Others in attendance were Dr. Alan Marble, Dr. Brad Hodson, Dr. Paula Carson, Darren Fullerton, Rob Yust, Jared Bruggeman, Jon Dermott, Dr. Rebecca Mouser, Melissa Forsythe, Sarah Schultz, Linda Eis, and Laura Boyd.

In non-attendance, Mike Franks (submitted his resignation on Friday, September 13, 2019).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Gipson called the meeting to order at 1 o'clock and welcomed everyone including Greg Carter, of Blanchard, Robertson, Mitchell & Carter, P.C. (in Jon Dermott's absence), and Delores Honey, Foundation Board member.

MINUTES

Chair Gipson asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the June 13, 2019 Board meeting; none were noted.

A motion was made by Tracy Flanigan and seconded by Alison Hershewe to approve minutes of the June 13th, 2019 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 August 31, 2019 the Cash Graph reflects cash at \$12.9M an increase of \$418,642 over the previous year.

Statement of Net Position:

As of August 31, 2019, Total Assets are \$179M; Total Liabilities are \$102M, making Total Net Assets \$77M. Linda noted the annual semi-bond payment of \$2.7M was made for the month of September.

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 (\$851k).
- **Total Operating Expenses** reflect an increase of \$677k.
- **Non-Operating Revenue (Expense)** decreased (\$165k). Linda noted this variance is due to timing of current year appropriation. The university received \$436,500 of the \$1.8M state appropriation monies just yesterday, September 18, 2019.
- **Income (Loss) Before Other Revenues** reflects a gain in the current year \$15.7, and a gain in the prior year at \$17.4M reflecting a decrease of (\$1.7M) from the prior year.

Other Items:

Linda noted the annual audit for FY2019 was performed on campus by BKD the first two weeks of August. The audit is going well and her team is on track to present at the November Board meeting.

Treasurer (continued):

A motion was made by Anita Oplotnik and seconded by T. Mark Elliott to approve the August 2019 financial statements as presented. Motion passed unanimously. (A copy of the financial statements for August 2019 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 the new parking lot is complete and in use. The sub-contractor is currently pre-drilling each of the 184 pier locations in preparation for the actual drilling process. The final blueprints will be complete soon and the project will go to bid early October. Mr. Yust anticipates construction to begin October or November. The layout of the new building will be four-stories, roughly 92,000 square feet and house approximately 300 students. The anticipated date of completion is summer, 2021.

Trail project with the City of Joplin - deliberations continue, the City is waiting on the mall/theatre to sign off on the trail documents.

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

- The men's and women's cross-country teams will be hosting the 30th Annual Missouri Southern Stampede, Saturday, September 21, 2019 at the Tom Rutledge Cross Country Course. More than 2,500 runners will be competing in multiple races. The men are ranked sixth nationally while the women are ranked 17th.
- The men's and women's basketball teams will have MIAA Media Day on October 9, 2019 at the College Basketball Experience in Kansas City inside the Sprint Center. The men's team is currently ranked 4 nationally.

Alumni Events hosted by Athletics this month:

- Baseball Alumni reunion (including a golf tournament)
- Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross-Country Alumni reunion (prior to the Southern Stampede)
- Soccer Alumni
- Coordinating All-Football Alumni Reunion for Homecoming

Other news:

- Watch Party for the Chiefs vs. Ravens game (former MSSU player, Brandon Williams currently playing for the Ravens) on Sunday, September 22nd at noon at the North End Zone facility.

Lionbackers & Annual Campaign:

- Based on year to date, numbers are up and Mr. Bruggeman anticipates an increase once basketball season begins.

Facility Usage this academic year:

- MSSU will be hosting the MIAA Conference Championships, MSHSAA Class 4 Sectional Cross-Country Race, and the NCAA Regional Cross-Country Meet.

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.

Executive Vice President (continued):

Admissions

- Census day was Friday, September 13th and at that time, enrollment was down 6.7% from last fall with enrollment standing at 5,604. Dr. Hodson acknowledged Michael Sanders, Dean of Admissions and his team for their efforts in initiating the no application fee for local schools and the Common Application fee reflecting an 11% increase in the number of applications received (2,251) and a 12% increase in the number of admitted students (2,238).

Fundraising

- The fiscal year 2019 ended on June 30th with a 10% growth in the number of donors, scholarship dollars awarded surpassed \$1 million dollars for the first time in the university's history, and total funds transferred to the university increased nearly \$300,000 to \$2.65 million.
- A matching gift campaign caused a spike in the year-end giving of 93 gifts totaling \$21,710, a 542% increase over the prior year. Dr. Hodson expressed gratitude towards Brandon Weaver (Class of 2013) who provided the matching funds that facilitated this increase.
- The Office of Development has been able to leverage hundreds of publicly available data points to identify new prospects for major gifts by using "Target Analytics" a service provided by Blackbaud, a recently purchased database system. Recently a scan of Southern's alumni and donor database through these data points yielded 1,600 individuals the data would suggest capable of making a major gift and 1,200 individuals likely to make a planned gift. Currently, gift officers are reviewing those prospects to prioritize for final solicitation.

Missouri Southern Foundation

- The Missouri Southern Foundation received a clean audit of its financial statements and accounting practices for the 5th year consecutively. The \$40 million enterprise processes more than 6,000 gifts annually totaling \$3 million and more than 1500 separate payments to vendors on behalf of those donors. Dr. Hodson noted the clean audit is a testament to the commitment of the Foundation board, leadership, and staff to ensure the appropriate use of all donor funds to benefit the students of Missouri Southern.
- After a six-month comprehensive search, the Missouri Southern Foundation has selected Fund Evaluation Group (FEG) of Cincinnati, Ohio to manage the multi-million-dollar investment portfolio. The transfer of assets to FEG will begin soon with an estimated January 1, 2020 start date for Outsourced Chief Investment Officer (OCIO) management. Dr. Hodson noted gratitude towards the search sub-committee, Bryan Vowels (Wells Fargo), Scott Boudreaux (Arvest Bank), Patrick Scott (Heartland Financial), and Ross Alcorn (Edward Jones).
- The Foundation welcomed four new board members, growing the boards overall number to 23 including:
 - Beverly Block – retired MSSU professor of business;
 - Deron Burr – President, People's Bank of Seneca;
 - Perry Davis – Executive Vice President, Leggett & Platt; and
 - Vicky Mieseler – CEO, Ozark Center

(note: three of the four new board members are graduates of Missouri Southern and the fourth is a former faculty member who served the institution for decades)

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.

Academic Affairs (continued):**New Faculty Members**

Dr. Carson noted 24 new faculty members have been hired for this academic school year and shared a handout of their academic credentials. Dr. Carson noted this new cohort brings over 255 years of academic service.

Oceania Semester

Dr. Carson shared a handout of the Fall 2019 Oceania Themed Semester events from 14 independent countries including Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, and Nauru.

Perkins and related Grant Programs

Dr. Carson noted Missouri Southern has been awarded nearly \$300,000 in the last 2 years for equipment such as radiology/x-ray technology, ambulance simulators, new computer/technology labs, SIM patients, and K9 gear.

Credentials and Awards

Dr. Carson noted the university ended last year with a phenomenal number of graduate degrees. May of 2019, 54 graduates were awarded, an increase from 27 the previous year. Dr. Carson also noted in May of last year, 127 Certificates were awarded, an increase of 23% from the prior year. At this time, there are over 30 concurrent certificate options available to enable graduates to finish with multiple credentials.

Enhancements to Academic Facilities

Dr. Carson noted appreciation to the Physical Plant for their help this past summer - including: Converting a classroom in Reynolds Hall to a research lab for Biology faculty and students; Snake lab (186) expansion has more than doubled; Rat lab for Biology has been created; All faculty offices in the Plaster School of Business were remodeled; Relocated the African Art Collection to the Library; Court Room is near completion in the Criminal Justice Center; Gipson Center for Healthcare Leadership area was created; and 13 new Steinway-family pianos including one Grand Piano were installed.

Southern Supervisory Academy

Dr. Carson noted the university has started a new initiative (led by the Human Resource Department) in an effort to enhance succession planning for various levels of leadership to campus with the anticipation of producing experienced and capable leaders. There are currently 56 students enrolled in the Southern Supervisory Academy.

Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Carson noted the Strategic Plan implementation (collecting base line data and tracking activity) continues to go well.

Focus on Faculty

Dr. Carson shared a handout of scholarly activities and participating scholars in the issue of Focus on Faculty, created by Dr. Wendy McGrane. Dr. Carson noted the issue represents the enormous talent, capabilities, and contributions of Missouri Southern's faculty. Dr. Carson also noted in the past, MSSU has given an Advising and Teaching Award, however; this year a Research Award has been added. The two recipients are Dr. Michael Howarth (English and Honors Program), who has written a number of books (most currently "Fair Weather Ninjas"), and Dr. David Penning (Biology and Environmental Health), for his groundbreaking research, national and global media, but largely due to the increase number of students in his lab.

Vice President for Student Affairs (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.

Southern Students Receive International Award

- Gil Johnson and Whitney Blodgett, were awarded the Cave Young Investigator Joint Runner-Up Best Poster Award at the 19th Congress of the International Federation of Associations of Anatomists, held August 9-11 at the ExCel convention center in London, England. The award was in recognition of their work identifying pseudoreplication in human anatomical studies. The title of their poster was "Etiology of Pseudo conclusion phenomenon of pseudoreplication in human anatomical research." The students presented their work alongside graduate and medical schools' from across the globe. Prior to this year, only one other school in the United States has received this award.

Student Enrollment Confirmation

- Mr. Fullerton noted gratitude to faculty who submitted rosters, financial aid, Blackboard activity, bookstore activity, residence hall charges, meal counts, etc. for the help in confirming the 4,958 students.

By The Numbers

- Student refunds in the amount of \$4,783, 710 were processed on September 6th, 2019. (E-refunds - \$3,257,248 for 1,157 students, and Paper Checks - \$1,526,462 for 923 students).

Missouri Southern's Career Services hosts Community Day

- Community Day was held on August 21, 2019, featuring 140 area businesses (a record high of participants). Employers, businesses, and organizations from the Joplin area helped "Welcome" MSSU students, faculty, and staff to campus for the fall 2019 semester.

Faculty Senate President (Dr. Rebecca Mouser):

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

The full executive committee for the 2019-2020 term include:

- ❖ Dr. Rebecca Mouser, President (English and Philosophy)
- ❖ Dr. Mikh Gunderman, President-Elect (Criminal Justice)
- ❖ Ms. Jean Coltharp, Secretary (Mathematics)
- ❖ Dr. James Lile, Parliamentarian (Theatre)
- ❖ Dr. William Fischer, At-Large (History)
- ❖ Dr. Grant Lathrom, Past President (Mathematics)

Dr. Mouser noted the first meeting was held on Monday, August 26, 2019 to discuss concerns and ideas for the upcoming year. An executive meeting was held on August 28, 2019 with the President's Cabinet, followed by a meeting with the Faculty Senate on September 9, 2019 at which time, liaisons were appointed to all committees, and elections were held for the remaining positions open on the executive committee. The Hybrid course policy was also discussed, an item carried over from the May 2019 meeting.

Dr. Mouser noted concerns of the senate regarding the expected process for selecting Dr. Marble's successor. Discussion continued with strong faculty voices in the process and look forward to working with the search committee and Board of Governors.

The committee revisited the fifth proposal from the May 2019 meeting concerning Promotion and Tenure and the selection of a Handbook to guide the requirements (at this time, this proposal has not been forwarded to the Board for approval).

Staff Senate President (Ms. Melissa Forsythe):

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

Chair Gipson welcomed 2019-2020 Staff Senate President Melissa Forsythe (Administrative Assistant and Acquisition Specialist, Library), to the board.

Ms. Forsythe noted two new officers have been selected for Staff Senate including: Nathan Hicks, Secretary (Admissions Counselor), and Diana Fordham, Parliamentarian (Instructional Designer, Distance Learning).

Recipients of the 2nd Quarterly Service Champ's include:

- ❖ Kandace Logan, Administrative Assistant (Project Stay);
- ❖ Melissa Harrison, Advising Services Coordinator & Data Specialist (ACTS); and
- ❖ Wendy Brunner, Communications Specialist (Admissions).

Winners are selected based on nominations from staff. To meet the criteria for nomination, the nominee must meet the attributes of the five pads of the lion paw: Respect to campus community, Positive attitude, Pride in work, Exemplary dependability, and Excellence in customer service. The 3rd Quarter nominations will begin October 1, 2019.

Ms. Forsythe noted the Community Service Committee will begin taking applications for the Angel Tree in October. The Angel Tree is an annual service project that Pell-eligible students can submit applications for their child(ren) to receive gifts donated by the MSSU community. Volunteers can select a child's wish-list and purchase gifts not to exceed \$50. Volunteers wrap presents in early December and gifts are handed out during Southern Lights. Last year, this project provided gifts for 107 children.

Ms. Forsythe also noted recently the Staff Senate sent out a survey to 350 professional and classified staff members for the intent to help Staff Senate better focus priorities and projects. There were 134 respondents for a response rate of 38%.

Student Senate President (Ms. Sarah Schultz):

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

Ms. Schultz noted appreciation toward those who helped with the Lion's Den project including a Foundation Board member who donated \$1,500 towards the project and the physical plant for painting.

Ms. Schultz also noted the hydration stations have been delivered and should be installed soon and new senators were recently sworn in.

Ms. Schultz noted excitement for the new academic year to begin.

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) discussed Fast Track, a program recently approved by the Missouri Governor offering funds to support adults to continue their education if over the age of 25 and have been out of school for two years. There is some funding for this program, however, at this time, details for this program are not entirely worked out. Governor Oplotnik noted on behalf of Dr. Carson, Missouri Southern has 10 – 12% of students that could potentially qualify for this program and receive funds.

Governor Oplotnik also noted the Faculty Handbook updates were reviewed by the committee which were approved at the last Board of Governors meeting in June, 2019. Ms. Oplotnik noted appreciation for the work that went into creating the handbook.

Governor Oplotnik noted an update was given by Dr. Schooler on the Gipson Center, and shared information regarding the open house on October 1st, at 10:00am.

Budget Audit Committee (Carlos Haley):

Governor Haley reported the Budget Audit committee met before today's Board meeting and discussion included the new Residence Hall project, designs, layouts and also the financing components of Bonds. Governor Haley noted the committee will bring a new Bond resolution to the Board for approval in November.

Governor Haley shared an update regarding the Perkins loan funding project. The Federal Government has decided to close out this program the end of this fiscal year. This will require Missouri Southern to make a payment back to the Federal government. Once the committee has the final numbers, they will be presented to the Board for review.

Governor Haley also noted the committee is reviewing RFP's to be more efficient in Southern's energy use. Once the committee has submission, they will be brought before the Board for approval.

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.

State Budget

Dr. Marble noted while there is an uncertainty of the Governor's proposed FY2021 budget he anticipates the Governor will continue to focus on infrastructure and workforce development. Also, those who gauge economic growth or contraction statewide are predicting a revenue increase of nearly 1.5%. With this in mind, Dr. Marble's team plan to meet with area legislators sometime in October to share the university's priority needs for the coming year.

COPHE

Dr. Marble noted one of the issues expected to be discussed again during the COPHE (Council on Higher Education) General Assembly this year is Campus Carry legislation. This is an area that COPHE's position has been taken that has resonated with lawmakers. Each college and university board should have the right to determine the best approach to firearms, or weapons of any type, on the campus they are responsible for governing. Dr. Marble does not anticipate COPHE to stray from this position.

DHEWD

Dr. Marble noted MDHE (Missouri Department of Higher Education) absorbed the workforce development programs of the DED (Department of Economic Development) to form a newly named agency, the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (DHEWD). The new department is housed in the Truman Building as opposed to the Jefferson Building where MDHE previously resided. Zora Mulligan will serve as Commissioner of the newly formed department.

CBHE

Dr. Marble noted CBHE (Coordinating Board for Higher Education) spent most of the past year contemplating a new "equity formula" for allocating funds among public universities called "True Up." Three models emerged: 1) Delaware Model, weights research and professional programs heavily; 2) NCHEMS Model (National Center for Higher Education Management) weights student Pell Grant eligibility and undergraduate enrollment heavily; and, 3) Compromise Model (a simple averaging of the Delaware and NCHEMS models). Missouri Southern stood to benefit from any of the three models and it appeared the Compromise Model would be recommended for CBHE approval by DHEWD staff before a last-minute alternate plan was submitted by the community colleges. Dr. Marble noted at this time we do not know details of this model, but should know in the near future. The Coordinating Board tabled True Up for further comment and discussion.

Empowering U (GGOE)

Dr. Marble noted Nick Nicoletti would be discussing the second stage of GGOE (Great Game of Education) we now call Empowering U, and recognized an exciting development in the system expressing gratitude to everyone on the Empowering U Committee for the time and energy given to this effort.

President (continued):**Themed Semester**

Dr. Marble noted gratitude towards Chad Stebbins, Frank Pishkur, Christine Bentley, Kevin Greim, and Chelsey Conley for their work in organizing and hosting the reception of the Oceania art exhibit for patrons in the Spiva Art Museum on campus. Dr. Marble noted the reception was beautifully planned, and encouraged everyone to visit the museum.

Bob Corley

Dr. Marble noted recently the university lost a faithful patron, Robert (Bob) Corley, who passed away on September 6, 2019. There will be a memorial service for Bob on campus Friday, September 27th, at 2:00pm in Corley Auditorium in Webster Hall.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS**Great Game of Education (GGOE) transitioning to Empowering U**

Dr. Nicoletti noted the open book management initiative of the Great Game is being rebranded. The university will be shifting from the financial side to the student success side. Empowering U is creating a training manual which will help with onboarding from ground up, allowing faculty and staff to implement this on campus. The Website will also be modified transitioning from the Great Game to Empowering U. Re-branding names include:

- ✓ Critical number will now be critical metric;
- ✓ Huddle, now check-in;
- ✓ Huddle rhythm, now check-in schedules;
- ✓ Mini games, now process improvement challenges;
- ✓ Mini game effect, now challenge impact;
- ✓ Scoreboards, now dashboards.

Oceania Semester

Dr. Chad Stebbins, Professor, Institute of International Studies, shared information regarding Southern's 23rd Fall Themed Semester, Oceania (brochures were handed out to each Board member).

Dr. Stebbins noted each fall semester, Southern faculty choose a country or region to focus on, part of Southern's state wide international mission. The university is charged by the state to offer every student a global experience, bringing the world to campus. Oceania's 14 countries (primary focus Australia and New Zealand) include 30 events and 11 films all of which are open and free to the public.

Dr. Stebbins introduced Dr. Jason Willand, Associate Professor, Biology and Environmental Health, who shared a brief summary to the Board regarding the imminent danger of the Great Barrier Reef.

Dr. Stebbins also introduced Dr. Jim Lile, Professor, Theatre, who spoke on behalf of Southern's play "Hanging Man."

Future Meeting Date:

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2019 at 1 o'clock.

Governor Flanigan

Chair Gipson and Dr. Marble recognized Governor Tracy Flanigan for her service to the Board (January 7, 2014 – September 19, 2019) as she would not be seeking re-appointment. A plaque was given and kind words expressed by Chair Gipson on behalf of the Board. Governor Flanigan noted

Governor Flanigan (continued):

appreciation to the Board and acknowledged the strength and leadership of both Dr. Marble and the Board of Governors.

*Chair Gipson also noted Governor Mike Franks resigned from the Board on Friday, September 13, 2019 and read aloud the resignation letter to the Board. Chair Gipson anticipates hearing from Governor Parsons soon to appoint both successors.

*Chair Gipson shared new committee assignments to each Board of Governor and read the names out loud for the record (attached).

Closed Executive Session:

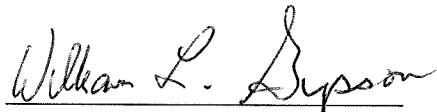
Chair Gipson noted the Board needed to go into closed Executive Session pertaining to the following state statutes:

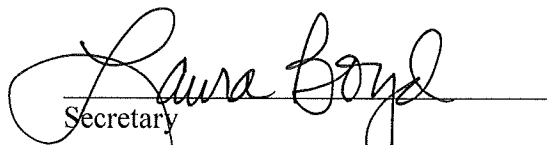
RSMo 610.021(3) Relating to “hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting of particular employees by a public governmental body when personal information about the employee is discussed or recorded”.

RSMo 610.021(11) Specifications for competitive bidding, until either the specifications are officially approved by the public governmental body or the specifications are published for bid.

A motion to go into a closed Executive Session was made by Anita Oplotnik and seconded by Alison Hersheve under RSMo 610.021 (3) and (11). 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