

**MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Board of Governors Minutes**  
**September 16, 2020**  
**Billingsly Student Center**  
**Ball Room**

The September 16, 2020 meeting of the Missouri Southern State University Board of Governors was called to order by Alison Hershewe, Chairwoman. Governors in attendance were T. Mark Elliott, Bill Gipson, Carlos Haley, Alison Hershewe, Mariann Morgan, Anita Oplotnik, Ron Richard, and Dr. Benjamin Rosenberg. Others in attendance were Cori Reid, Dr. Paula Carson, Jon Dermott, Darren Fullerton, Dr. Mikh Gunderman, Dr. Brad Hodson, Debra Schow-Smith, Dr. Dean Van Galen, Hayley Ward, Rob Yust, Linda Eis, and Laura Boyd.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairwoman Hershewe called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

**MINUTES**

Chairwoman Hershewe asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of either the June 18<sup>th</sup> or July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020 Board meetings; none were noted.

*A motion was made by Bill Gipson and seconded by Anita Oplotnik to approve minutes of the June 18<sup>th</sup> and July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 Board meetings 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.*

Dr. Van Galen noted gratitude to the Board for their confidence in appointing him as the university's sixth president and for the warm welcome he and his wife Mary have received from Missouri Southern.

**COVID-19**

Dr. Van Galen noted the pandemic continues to impact higher education, but grateful to Southern's faculty and staff who are providing students with an in-person quality experience during this challenging time. Dr. Van Galen acknowledged the COVID-19 Task Force, especially Darren Fullerton and Julie Stamps, Director of the Willcoxon Health Center on campus, and Board of Governor Bill Gipson for all their help, support, and diligent work throughout this pandemic. Dr. Van Galen also acknowledged faculty, staff, and the student's commitment to protect not only themselves, but also those around them, creating a culture of care.

**University Budget**

Dr. Van Galen noted appreciation towards the Board of Governors for their actions taken at the July 23, 2020 board meeting to address serious, but at this point a manageable, budget challenge. Dr. Van Galen noted State appropriations and anticipated tuition revenues are approximately \$6 million less than last year. For this fiscal year, the university has reduced operating budgets across campus, and many open positions will not be filled. Also, beginning August 2020 and through May 2021, Southern has implemented furloughs, with those having higher salaries taking more days of furlough or the equivalent. Employees earning less than \$30,000 per year are not required to take any furlough days. These were difficult decisions, but Dr. Van Galen noted gratitude towards the Faculty Senate and Staff Senate leaders who were engaged and provided perspective that impacted the budget proposal presented to the Board in July.

**President (continued):****External Relations**

Dr. Van Galen noted over the past couple of months, he has had the opportunity to meet with Governor Parson and Southern's legislative delegation and noted appreciation for their expressed support for Missouri Southern. In meeting with business and community leaders, school superintendents, and education partners, it is clear that there is strong support for Missouri Southern in the region including, interest in partnering to further address the region's needs for talent and workforce. Dr. Van Galen noted for example, internship programs across campus give Southern students the opportunity to put their classroom knowledge to work and gain invaluable experience, while giving potential employers a chance to guide and evaluate talent. Dr. Van Galen also noted expanding these opportunities is one way, Southern can continue to strengthen bonds with the community. The Missouri Southern Foundation also stands ready to support MSSU. Dr. Van Galen noted the Foundation shares his belief that the university must clearly identify its fundraising opportunities and priorities, and take initial steps toward the university's first comprehensive fundraising campaign.

**Themed Semester**

Dr. Van Galen noted as Provost Carson will also mention, in support of the unique international aspect of the university's mission, this fall's themed semester will focus on the Caribbean. Dr. Chad Stebbins and others have planned great opportunities, many virtual, for learning and fun.

**Wiss Scholarship**

Dr. Van Galen noted recently he had the pleasure of meeting with Floyd and Jane Wiss to surprise them with the news that an endowed scholarship has been created in their honor. Their daughter, Maria and husband Peter, worked with the Foundation to establish the scholarship, which will benefit a junior or senior business major from the Four State Area. Floyd (who graduated from Joplin Junior College in 1966) and Jane owned and managed the Thunderbird Motel on Range Line for many years.

**Looking to the Future**

Dr. Van Galen noted communication and engagement are always important, but even more so during a time of leadership transition and a global pandemic. Dr. Van Galen noted he and the President's Cabinet will continue to host Town Hall meetings, including one this Friday, and will be scheduling a series of internal and external meetings to continue to learn about the university and community beginning with Southern's recently tenured faculty, and recent staff "Service Champ Award" recipients and, visiting with the Women in Science Club.

Dr. Van Galen also noted he has much to learn about Missouri Southern and listed several questions/challenges that were shared with faculty and staff during the Welcome Back meeting on August 14, 2020 in areas that he believes need to be among the university's priorities: Strategic Plan; Student Experience and Success; Student Recruitment; Diversity and Inclusion; Philanthropic Support; Supporting our Faculty and Staff; and Empowering U.

**Our Mission**

Dr. Van Galen noted Missouri Southern has a noble mission ~ to educate and graduate knowledgeable, responsible, successful global citizens and noted everyone on campus plays a vital role in positively impacting the over 5,000 students who are part of the Lion family this fall.

**Do What You Can**

Dr. Van Galen in closing, shared a track from Bon Jovi's upcoming album "2020 ~ Do What You Can." During the initial days and weeks of the pandemic, the singer/songwriter spent time helping feed those in need at his restaurant in Red Bank, New Jersey. Dr. Van Galen noted it's a simple message, but one that fits within the context of the challenges we all face today. Southern's administration will offer support and empathy during a time when our students need it more than ever. And, will support one another each step along the way.

**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.*

**Admissions****Fall 2020 Freshmen and Transfer Students**

Dr. Hodson noted Staff in the Office of Admissions worked over the summer to keep the University's new freshmen and transfer numbers in the black. On Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> (census day), Southern reported an increase in first-time freshmen of 2% (744 students) and an increase in first-time transfer students of 3.6% (462 students). Dr. Hodson noted while this is a modest increase, it is important to note Southern hit an institutional high point for those two numbers four years ago with our record of enrollment for 2016 ~ 1,057 freshmen and 667 transfers. Dr. Hodson noted the Office of Admissions continues to work back to those historic highs as the institutions goal.

**Enrollment Across Missouri**

Dr. Hodson shared an enrollment chart at Missouri's public universities on the first day of class Fall 2020 (four weeks prior to census numbers). The information was collected from schools across the state who voluntarily shared this information. Dr. Hodson noted Missouri Southern was the only public university in the state to have an increase in new freshmen and transfer students, and also noted the numbers from the chart reflect the challenges faced by our peers across the state.

Dr. Hodson noted the attention is now focused on the Office of Admissions from the 20<sup>th</sup> day - Fall 2020 to Fall 2021 and a number of strategies will be worked on - not only recruitment of new students but in many cases the retention of existing students.

**New Admissions Dean**

Dr. Hodson welcomed Dr. Shellie Hewitt, the new Missouri Southern dean of Admissions (as of September 1, 2020). Dr. Hewitt comes to us from the University of Central Missouri ~ working in enrollment management and most recently Director of Graduate and International Student Services. Dr. Hewitt also served in the United States Air Force for fourteen years.

**Fundraising/Gratitude**

Dr. Hodson noted charitable giving for 2020 was a record year for the period ending June 30, 2020. Over \$4.8 million was raised from donors across the country. Dr. Hodson acknowledged gratitude to the Office of Development (in an unfavorable fundraising year), and Heather Lesmeister and her *team* in University Relations and Marketing (in helping with the video shown earlier and communicating the limitations of gatherings, masks, etc.) during a very difficult time in Missouri Southern's history.

**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.*

**Missouri Southern Theatre**

Dr. Carson noted the Theatre department has been rebuilt with an emphasis of musical theatre development to make it more vibrant and viable. There are two scheduled performances this fall, "Nevermore" (October 29 – November 1), and "Christmas with Little Women" (December 3-6). While there are external restrictions on campus, but the importance of students performing in front of a live audience, Dr. Carson personally invited the Board of Governors to attend these productions.

**Honors Program Update**

Dr. Carson shared an update of outstanding credentials of honor students and focused on Community Colleges Associate level degrees processing forward to Baccalaureate degrees. Dr. Carson noted Dr. Michael Howarth, Professor, English, and Director of Honors, including the Honors Program team, have initiated meetings/signings in our neighboring states, a productive way in recruiting outstanding, high achieving students.

**Academic Affairs (continued):**

Dr. Carson noted the Honors Program continues to be a specifically-designed academic path exclusively for high-achieving students providing unique challenges and opportunities. In March 2019, the MSSU Honors Program signed an articulation agreement with the Honors Program at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College. This agreement has created a pathway for students who have successfully completed the NEO Honors Program to become members of the MSSU Honors Program once they transfer. The program also has articulation agreements with Crowder College, Ozarks Technical Community College, Northwest Arkansas Community College, and is in the process of developing one with Coffeyville Community College.

**Fall 2020 International Themed Semester: The Caribbean**

Dr. Carson noted this is the third year in a row that the university is focusing on a region (including 13 countries) rather than a specific country. This event will host 31 events (which can be accessed either in person or via Zoom) and 9 films in collaboration with the Art, Music, and English departments. Dr. Carson acknowledged gratitude to all those involved in making this happen.

**Intensive English Program Community Service Project**

Dr. Carson noted faculty members have developed a relationship with the Congregation of the Mother of the Redeemer, Seminary and Retreat Facility in Carthage, Missouri (Marian Days Festival is held here annually with an average of 70,000 people in attendance) and have created a tuition based extra credit course for the individuals who are traveling here from other countries with a limited ability to speak English. Two faculty members have volunteered to teach English to four (members of the faith) students. Dr. Carson anticipates this program moving into a fourth credit academic offering and perhaps a recruiting opportunity at Marian Days which would be advantageous for Missouri Southern.

**Student Project Spotlight: The Penning Lab (Summer and Fall 2020)**

Dr. Carson noted during the summer of 2020, Dr. Penning led a group of Southern students on a volunteer project to rediscover species of reptiles and amphibians in Southwest Missouri. Funding from the community (Go Fund Me site) was given to help trap and capture these creatures at Kellogg Lake in Carthage, Missouri. Over 150 individuals and 13 species were collected, several of which have not been reported in this region for over a century.

Dr. Carson noted in the fall of 2020, a student-initiated project (a goal to rebuild a historical trail on campus) was created to transform the trail as an outdoor classroom and study place. This project is led and built by undergraduates supervised by Dr. Penning. The goal is to provide a unique walking trail alongside a spring-fed swamp.

**Departmental Spotlight – Social Sciences**

Dr. Carson invited the Board of Governors to attend Constitution Day (sponsored by International and Political Affairs). This event will be held Thursday, September 17, 2020, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Phelps Theatre. To accommodate members in the community, Southern will also be live streaming the event via Zoom. The focus will be on the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Missouri Compromise. Dr. Carson also noted her constituents are focusing on civic engagement in terms of registering to vote and voting.

**Strategic Plan Tracking and Progress Task Force**

Dr. Carson noted this Task Force continues to provide the campus community and external stakeholders with an understanding of our institutions progress, accomplishments and challenges relating to attainment of Southern's 2018-2023 Strategic Plan. Dr. Carson also noted a current report is being compiled at this time.

**Fall 2020 Concurrent Enrollment/Dual Credit**

Dr. Carson noted dual credit continues to grow, currently 4.5% of all student credit hours of the undergraduate level are dual credit students, and 11% of total head count are dual credit students.

**Law Enforcement Academy/Faculty Recognition**

Dr. Carson noted \$71,000 in grant funds were given to conduct training on driving and traffic-related enforcement such as DWI detection.

**Academic Affairs (continued):**

Dr. Carson also shared packets regarding the 27 “New Faculty Members” and “Recognition of Faculty Years of Service.”

\*Chairwoman Hershewe noted within her 5 years of being a Board of Governor member, she has noticed Lorinda Hackett, Professor, Teacher Education, in the audience and congratulated her (and others in their service to Missouri Southern) on 20 years of service.

**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.*

**COVID-19 Fall Task Force**

Mr. Fullerton noted gratitude for all members of the Task Force who are working diligently to keep students, faculty, and staff on campus during this fall, and recommended the board view Missouri Southern’s COVID-19 Dashboard for information regarding testing, positive cases, isolation and quarantine numbers, etc. Mr. Fullerton noted this institution is currently testing an average of 20-25 students (an above average testing compared to other universities in the state) a day in the Health Center. Some challenges that the Task Force is currently dealing with is that there are no restrictions in the state of Missouri. Mr. Fullerton noted the MIAA and NCAA have restrictions for athletes, and protocols have been put into place on campus, but once people are in the community there are no restrictions.

**Modified Student Events**

Mr. Fullerton noted generally parents are invited to the First-Year Convocation ceremony, but due to the pandemic only students attended this year. The nearly 260 students were presented with a medallion and learned the MSSU customs and traditions, while wearing masks and socially distanced.

**Phi Eta Sigma**

Mr. Fullerton noted 76 students were inducted recently in this first-year student honor society. Membership is open to first-year students with a GPA of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale at the end of a full academic year.

**Project Stay**

Mr. Fullerton noted our federal programs (Trio Programs) consist of Project Stay (also known as Student Support Services), Upward Bound, and Educational Talent Search. These programs/grants require universities to reapply every 5 years. Mr. Fullerton noted his team recently received confirmation of a grant for Project Stay in the amount of \$294,701.00 a year totaling \$1,473,505.00 for the 5-year cycle. This program is set up to help with first generation students, offering tutoring and grant opportunities.

**By the Numbers**

Mr. Fullerton noted Financial Aid distributed as of Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020: Federal - \$11,330,990.00; State Aid - \$1,076,850.00; and \$4,293,379.00 in refunds. Mr. Fullerton noted 3,308 students (for Fall 2020) have their accounts paid within \$50.00 or less.

\*Chairwoman Hershewe noted gratitude toward the COVID Task Force and especially to Mr. Fullerton for leading it and also acknowledged the fact Missouri Southern is still open and meeting face-to-face.

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

*Note: Highlights of Rob’s report are as follows:*

**Residence Hall**

Mr. Yust noted construction continues ~ the framing has reached the 4<sup>th</sup> level on section “C” and they are beginning to install the roof trusses. Framing of the walls have begun on sections “A” and “B”, and plumbing on all sections are in the beginning stages. 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.

**Vice President for Business Affairs (continues):****Trail project with the City of Joplin**

Mr. Yust noted the bridge over the trail is complete. Currently the contractor is leveling the dirt, and seed and straw are being applied to protect it. Mr. Yust noted Southern's administration is currently trying to establish what can be done to keep vehicles from driving on the trail. Proposals are being reviewed for lighting and security cameras (both of which will be solar powered). Mr. Yust anticipates total completion within the next couple of weeks.

Note\* This project was initiated in February 2013.

**Director of Athletics (Mrs. Cori Reid in the absence of 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 Reports**

Mrs. Reid noted due to the pandemic, Southern athletes have been greatly affected. The NCAA has cancelled all fall sports championships for the 2020 season. Following that announcement, all student-athletes will receive a blanket waiver giving them an extra season of eligibility.

The MIAA announced postponement of all fall 2020 sports, but winter and spring are still scheduled as planned (should have confirmation by October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 regarding winter sports), Mrs. Reid noted her department remains hopeful.

Mrs. Reid noted the MSSU athletic department had 58 student-athletes earn the Division II Athletic Directors Association Academic Achievement Award. This is the second year in a row to earn the honor. To be eligible, a student athlete must be an active member of the team during the academic year.

Mrs. Reid noted the men's and women's basketball teams ranked in the top-ten for Division II with the home attendance this past season. The men ranked seventh nationally while the women's team ranked ninth.

Mrs. Reid noted the SAAC (Student Athlete Advisory Committee) officers have been selected for the 2020-2021 academic year and recently met for the first-time last night. Mrs. Reid noted this group will be relied on heavily during the pandemic to help in understanding our student athlete needs and how the administration can help them through this time.

\*Governor Gipson asked how many Lionbacker memberships does the university have at this point normally. Mrs. Reid responded – this time of year it's about 200 but, currently there are 76, a significant drop. Governor Gipson asked if there were any other ideas for recruitment. Mrs. Reid responded – from feedback given to her by Elisa Bryant, Development Officer, supporters are waiting to see if sports are going to be played.

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

Mrs. Eis noted the annual audit is progressing smoothly. BKD performed fieldwork both remote and on-campus in the first two weeks of August. Subsequent to this fieldwork, BKD received the annual Federal Supplemental Compliance information and returned again later in August to complete the additional student financial aid review. Mrs. Eis noted at this time, there are no concerns with financial aid or finance. However; everyone, including BKD, is still waiting on the supplement to the supplement for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) funding and anticipate that coming in soon and is hopeful the annual audit will still be presented at the November 18, 2020 board meeting. Of course, it's dependent on when BKD receives and implements the additional compliance procedures to do the review of the CARES funding.

Mrs. Eis noted the institution ended FY20 with \$11.9M compared to the prior year \$13.6M, a decrease of (\$1.7M). Mrs. Eis noted in reviewing the statements for the period ending August 31, 2020, the Cash Graph reflects cash at \$11.10M, a decrease over the prior year of (\$700k).

**Treasurer (continued):**

Mrs. Eis also noted as of today, the bank balance is \$22.6M, due to the federal and state student financial aid disbursements for the start of the semester.

**Statement of Net Position:****Total Assets**

As of August 31, 2020, Total Assets are \$191M and Total Liabilities are \$128M. Total Net Assets of \$63M. Mrs. Eis noted the bond payments totaling \$3.4M were made in 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 (\$1.6M).
- **Total Operating Expenses** reflect an increase of \$383k.
- **Non-Operating Revenue** increased \$1.2M. CARES funding revenue is an increase. This is offset with decreased appropriations. Mrs. Eis noted last year the withholdings/restrictions came in the last quarter of the year, this year the withholdings will be monthly.
- **Income (Loss) Before Other Revenues** reflects an increase in the current year \$14.9M, and an increase in the prior year at \$15.7M reflecting a decrease of (\$787k) from the prior year.

*A motion was made by Carlos Haley and seconded by Anita Oplotnik to approve the August 2020 financial statements as presented. Motion passed unanimously. (A copy of the financial statements for August 2020 are attached to the minutes in the permanent record book).*

**Faculty Senate President (Dr. Mikh Gunderman):**

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

Dr. Gunderman noted Faculty Senate had their first meeting on Monday September 14, 2020 and the on-going discussion included surrounding the Intellectual Property Agreement. An ad hoc committee has been selected to rewrite the agreement incorporating feedback from the faculty, administration, and legal counsel. Also, the senate solicited feedback from the senators regarding faculty load and compensation, and faculty grievance procedure. Dr. Gunderman also noted upon the collection of data, and appointment of chairs to the necessary committees, formal charges will be made to the respective committees.

Dr. Gunderman notified the faculty senate of the creation of the proposal for the Strategic Academic Task Force, a charge given to faculty senate by Dr. Van Galen and Dr. Carson, and in response to this charge, a drafted proposal was provided to faculty members.

\*Chairwoman Hershewe noted gratitude toward all faculty members for their diligence in helping keep Missouri Southern open and meeting face-to-face.

**Staff Senate President (Ms. Debra Schow-Smith):**

*Note: Highlights of Ms. Schow-Smith’s report are as follows.*

**Staff Senate Goals**

Ms. Schow-Smith noted during the 20-21 academic year the Staff Senate has agreed to pursue the following goals: Improve communication; enhance staff morale and engagement; and review and update Staff Senate Bylaws.

**Staff Conversations**

Ms. Schow-Smith noted in an effort to improve communication, “Staff Conversations” were added to the monthly meeting agenda between the Staff Senate Committee and President’s Cabinet. Topics are brought forward to Senators by staff members. Recent topics included staff appreciation ideas, voluntary retirement incentive program details, and COVID-19 procedures.

**Staff Senate Campus Beautification Day**

Ms. Schow-Smith noted gratitude towards the staff, faculty, administration and student volunteers, for helping in the first ever event two days before the Fall semester began. Two projects were completed which included the painting of Lion paws on campus roadways and assembling of Welcome Back signs that

**Staff Senate President (continued):**

were placed at all campus entrances the first week of classes. Mrs. Schow-Smith also noted perhaps having this event in the Spring of 2021.

**Quarterly Service Champs**

Ms. Schow-Smith noted three outstanding staff members are recognized each quarter (who are nominated by their peers) who must meet the five pads of the Lion Paw.

Recipients include: Martha Freeman, Administrative Assistant – Academic Outreach; Jim Hartje, Support Specialist – Information Technology; and Jeff Pooley, Manager of Procurements – Information Technology.

**Staff Senate Parliamentarian to Executive Committee**

Ms. Show-Smith noted the Staff Senate body voted to include this position as part of the Staff Senate Executive Committee. Currently, the Governance Committee is working to adjust the bylaws to make this a permanent addition.

\*Chairwoman Hershewe noted gratitude toward all staff members for their diligence in helping keep Missouri Southern open and meeting face-to-face.

**Student Senate President (Ms. Hayley Ward):**

Ms. Ward (pre-med/biology major) noted this is the first time of being on the board and greeted everyone. Ms. Ward noted executive officers will be sworn in tonight (their 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting). Current executive officers are Brent Olson, Treasurer (head of Finance Committee); Maddison Nagel, Vice President (head of Campus Development); and Chloe Hendrich, Secretary (Campus Relations Director). Ms. Ward anticipates a productive year.

**Board Committees:****Pandemic Advisory Committee (Chair, Bill Gipson)**

Governor Gipson reminded the board - this committee was brought together in collaboration with the university's COVID-19 Task Force on campus to review methods and contingencies to accomplish the university's mission safely, effectively, and efficiently during the COVID pandemic. The committee consist of Governor's Morgan, Rosenberg, Richard and Gipson.

Governor Gipson noted since the last meeting on July 23, 2020, the committee has met twice ~ August 21, 2020 (via conference call, and Governors Hershewe, Oplotnik, and Haley were also present). The purpose of this meeting was to give an update from the administration after the first week of classes. The committee heard an extensive report from Mr. Fullerton, covering all areas on campus. Updates were given from Dr. Van Galen, Dr. Wengert, Mr. Yust, and Ms. Stamps. All questions of the committee and guests were dealt with appropriately.

Governor Gipson noted the second meeting was held Monday, September 14, 2020 via conference call (with Chairwoman Hershewe also in attendance). The primary purpose for this meeting was to review and provide comments to the Task Force on a set of contingency plan guided principles that are being developed by the Task Force. The goal of this contingency planning is to provide framework to continue to deliver on Southern's mission while keeping the physical health well-being of students, faculty, and staff at a forefront.

Governor Gipson noted the committee had questions and comments on the draft document for the Task Force's consideration. In addition, the committee heard reports and updates from Mr. Fullerton, Dr. Van Galen, Ms. Stamps, Mr. Yust, and Ms. Lesmeister. All questions of the committee and guests were dealt with appropriately.

Governor Gipson also noted while preparing for this report, he looked up the term "Lionhearted" which means ~ brave and determined. Governor Gipson and on behalf of the committee, commended the members of the Task Force for their commitment and diligence in dealing with this pandemic – they are truly "Lionhearted" Lions.



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

Governor Elliott noted this committee met today before the open meeting in a closed Executive Session pertaining to RSMo 610.021 (3). Governor Elliott noted a full report of the meeting will be given to the Board of Governors while in closed Executive Session *after* this open meeting.

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

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

Governor Oplotnik noted the committee met today before the open meeting. (The committee members include Governor's Morgan, Hershewe, Rosenberg, and Oplotnik). There were three items reviewed and discussed including:

- Academic Policy ~ request a motion to support pushing back the single-course withdrawal date to the Monday of the last full week of classes consistent with the total withdrawal date.
- Student Registration ~ self-registration online without meeting with an advisor, however; an advisor will be available as always.
- Academic Program Review ~ the committee was given a Fall 2020 Academic Program Overview consisting of the top 18 subjects, and courses with the highest enrollment numbers.

On behalf of the Academic Affairs Committee, Governor Oplotnik brought forward a proposal to support pushing back the single-course withdrawal date to the Monday of the last full week of classes consistent with the total withdrawal date.

*A motion was made by Anita Oplotnik and seconded by Dr. Rosenberg to approve pushing back the single-course withdrawal date to the Monday of the last full week of classes consistent with the total withdrawal date as presented. Motion passed unanimously.*

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

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

Governor Haley noted the Budget Audit Committee met this morning to discuss the primary items below:  
*FY21 budget ~*

Governor Haley noted on a positive note, the university's budget is on track, and his team will continue to monitor the budget throughout the course of the year. Governor Haley reminded the board when approving the budget for this academic year, the committee stated in the next six months, the budget would continue to be identified and adjusted as needed.

*CARES Act Funding ~*

Governor Haley noted the committee continues to track and monitor this funding, and are currently waiting on the supplement from the Government Mrs. Eis mentioned earlier, to make sure the administration has all the needed documentation for completion.

*Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program ~*

Governor Haley noted the committee received updates of the list of employees who would like to take this opportunity.

*Minimum Wage Increase ~*

Governor Haley noted minimum wage will be going up next year and soon the committee will begin to crunch numbers to see how this budget impact will look going forward.

*Annual Financial Audit ~*

Governor Haley noted the annual audit is going well and at this time there are no concerns with finances.

### **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 Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 1 o'clock.

**Closed Executive Session:**

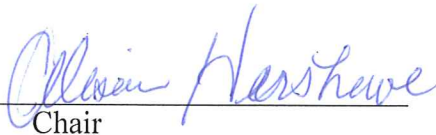
Chairwoman Hershewe noted the Board needed to go into closed Executive Session pertaining to the following state statutes:

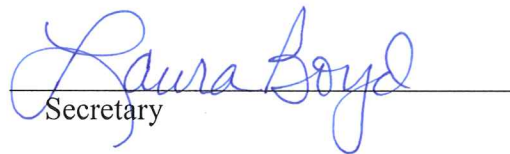
**RSMo 610.021 (1)** Legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body and any confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys; and

**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 Mariann Morgan and seconded by T. Mark Elliott under RSMo 610.021 (1 & 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