

**MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE
UNIVERSITY
Board of Governors
Minutes June 9, 2022
Billingsly Student
Center
Room 310**

The June 9, 2022, 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. Rosenberg.

Others in attendance were Ashley Brownfield, Kevin Greim, John Hammons, Heather Lesmeister, Dr. David Locher, Rob Mallory, Elizabeth Martin, Dr. Lisa Toms, Dr. Dean Van Galen, Dr. Julie Wengert, Rob Yust, Linda Eis, and Laura Boyd.
Dr. Brad Hodson was in non-attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairwoman Hershewe called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. and welcomed everyone including Senator Bill White, Representative Lane Roberts, and Representative Bob Bromley for the special purpose of recognizing Rob Yust on his upcoming retirement. Dr. Van Galen acknowledged Rob's accomplishments and proclamations were read and given by guests Representative Bob Bromley, and Senator Bill White. Chairwoman Hershewe also presented Rob with a card/gift and spoke on behalf of the board of his 29 years of service and much gratitude for a job well done.

Dr. Chad Stebbins, Director, International Studies, recognized two faculty members for their distinguished service to Missouri Southern, Dr. William Kumbier and Dr. Conrad Gubera, who were being brought forward for consideration of being awarded Emeritus Faculty Status. Dr. Lisa Toms briefly shared eligibility requirements for this prestigious honor, which includes significant contributions in areas of teaching, job performance, scholarly, and creative activities. Faculty must hold the rank of associate or full professor and retire after a minimum of 15 years of service. Governor Oplotnik entertained a motion to confirm Dr.'s Kumbier and Gubera for Emeritus Faculty Status.

A motion was made by Anita Oplotnik and seconded by Dr. Rosenberg to approve Emeritus Faculty Status for Dr. William Kumbier and Dr. Conrad Gubera as requested. Motion passed unanimously. (Minutes are archived in the permanent record book).

MINUTES

Chairwoman Hershewe asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the March 11, 2022, Board meeting; none were noted.

A motion was made by Bill Gipson and seconded by Ron Richard to approve minutes of the March 11, 2022; 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.

President (continued):**Commencement**

Dr. Van Galen noted two commencement ceremonies were held on Saturday, May 14, 2022 (the first traditional ceremony since December 2019 ~ pre COVID) with more than 680 associates, baccalaureate, and master's degrees awarded. Katie (Gariss) Marsh, a 2002 MSSU graduate, provided an inspiring commencement address.

Legislation Session

Missouri Southern is grateful for the continued support of our local legislative delegation for their continued support of higher education. Key legislative budget actions still require approval by Governor Parson which includes:

- A 5.4% core budget increase for all public higher-education institutions (this would translate to an approximate \$1.4 million increase for MSSU).
- Funds to help higher-education institutions offset increases in MOSERS costs for FY2023, including \$512,000 for MSSU.
- Approval and 50% state funding of a package of capital projects for higher education, including a \$30 million (total) Health Science Innovation Center at Missouri Southern. Efforts are underway to secure the necessary 50% match.

Strategic Planning

Southern's current strategic plan launched in 2018 and will sunset next year 2023. It is anticipated that the Board of Governors will review the plan in April 2023 with implementation to take place on July 1, 2023.

A Strategic Plan Task Force has been formed for the purpose to plan and lead activities, including seeking input from a range of internal and external stakeholders. Provost, Dr. Lisa Toms will chair the task force, and Dr. Van Galen will be an ex-officio member.

CBHE (Coordinating Board for Higher Education)

Missouri Southern will be hosting CBHE's Board and Staff on June 14 and 15, 2022.

Acknowledgment

Dr. Van Galen noted appreciation to Dr. Julie Wengert for her dedication in filling the interim position of Vice President of Student Affairs (since Darren Fullerton's retirement ~ January 2021). Due to the restructuring of four colleges to three, Julie's new role (beginning July 1, 2022) will be Associate VP of Student Success.

Gratitude was also shown towards Heather Lesmeister, who will be leaving Southern on June 9, 2022. Heather will be joining Spiva Center for the Arts as their new Executive Director.

*Chairwoman Hersheve also acknowledged both Dr. Wengert and Ms. Lesmeister for their commitment to MSSU.

Executive Vice President (Kevin Greim in Dr. Brad Hodson's absence):

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.

Prospective Students Visiting Campus/Student Admission

Mr. Greim noted staff in Admissions hosted more than 620 prospective students on campus this spring, and as a result of those efforts and others, admission of new freshman is up 17% overall compared to the same date last year (1,460) with 1,708 freshmen currently admitted. Admitted transferred students are down 9% currently, with thirty-nine fewer transfer students admitted as of May 31, 2022, compared to the same date last year.

Executive Vice President (continued):

The College Tour

The Amazon Prime series “The College Tour” is now in post-production of filming Missouri Southern and should be completed the first week of July 2022. The full episode (highlighting ten different areas on campus) will be available in November 2022 and distributed to over 60,000 high-school counselors across the U.S. Southern will have full access to all footage shot for use in other marketing campaigns in the coming years.

Fundraising Campaign Feasibility Study

The J. F. Smith Group recently completed its feasibility study for a comprehensive fundraising campaign (commissioned by the Missouri Southern Foundation). The firm interviewed over one hundred major donors and reviewed over six hundred responses to an online survey of all alumni and friends in the Foundation database. Information will assist the university in answering critical feasibility questions.

Further discussions with the J.F. Smith Group are scheduled and will assist the university in going forward with the comprehensive fundraising.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (Dr. Lisa Toms):

Note: Highlights of Dr. Toms 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.

Study Abroad Activities

Dr. Toms noted excitement regarding the return of study abroad activities. Seven faculty led trips occurred over the last few weeks. Two trips went to England, two to Italy, one to the Czech Republic, one to Spain, and one to Sweden. Eighty students and thirteen faculty members spent between 10-15 days exploring the elements in these countries that align with learning outcomes of the programs in which the students are enrolled.

Additionally, this spring semester, six students were enrolled to study abroad the entire semester, and eight students plan to study abroad for the entire fall 2022 semester.

Summer STEM Days

Dr. Toms noted Southern will also be hosting various on campus activities for our future Lions. The kinesiology department has hosted the lifetime sports academy and have received positive feedback from students and parents.

Strategic Planning

Dr. Toms noted the Strategic Planning Task Force will consist of twelve faculty, staff, and administration throughout the university to represent their constituents.

Activities leading up to the roll out and implementation through the fall of 2023 include:

- *Summer 2022 ~*
 - External Environmental Scan
 - Internal Stakeholder Input
 - Internal Data Gathered
- *August/September/October ~*
 - Results from the External Environmental Scan presented
 - BOG Retreat for Stakeholder Input
 - SPTF Retreat to plan work for fall
 - Mission Statement/Core Values Review
 - Gather input from students
 - President to present Vision Statement to campus
 - External Stakeholder Input (alumni and other community members)
 - Internal Stakeholder Input

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (continued):

- *November/December ~*
 - Student Input
 - First Draft of Mission Statement/Core Values
 - Discussion of Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives

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.

Student Recruitment & Engagement

Dr. Wengert noted through a collaboration with Admissions, professional advisors from the ACTS department visited six of our top feeder high schools to facilitate enrollment for the Fall 2022 semester. Late April and early May, students were able to make a personal connection with an advisor, and plan academic schedules.

Food Truck Friday

This event took place on the campus each Friday in April (located on the Oval) with more than ten different vendors who attended and prepared local cuisine.

Phi Eta Sigma

Forty-four students were inducted into the freshman honor society, Phi Eta Sigma, on Friday, April 8, 2022.

Global Leaders

The Global Leaders program hosted Shanna Slavings, assistant professor of communications on Monday, April 18, 2022, and Frank Warren, founder of PostSecret on Tuesday, April 26, 2022.

Divisional Goals

Dr. Wengert noted three divisional goal highlights throughout the course of the academic year that were anticipated for this academic year and the progress made on each goal ~ which include:

- The Division of Student Affairs will provide consistent branding of intentionally planned and coordinated activities for students for the 2022-2023 academic year.
- Using the Presence Software, the SA Division will establish a baseline percentage of the student population of whom is reached through programming for the 2021-2022 academic year.
- Each employee in the Division of Student Affairs will either: recruit one new freshman or transfer student to attend MSSU for the Fall 2022 semester or start one new program designed to recruit and/or retain enrollees.
 - *ACTS/FYE & Project Stay* ~ High school educational & workshop visits/events
 - *Bursar* ~ Financial Forgiveness Project
 - *Financial Aid* ~ Redesigned award offer packets and mailed MOSO Merit certificates
 - *Global Leaders* ~ School visits, promo materials, international recruitment events, & individual phone calls
 - *Recreation Center* ~ E-sports Arena & Club
 - *Registrar* ~ Transfer Equivalency Tool
 - *Residence Life* ~ Enhanced dorm tour experience
 - *Student Activities* ~ Supply current students with recruitment events
 - *Student Success Center* ~ Tutor Club RSO

*Governor Gipson acknowledged Dr. Wengert's leadership given throughout the pandemic and her dedication and collaboration while directing the COVID Task Force.

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.

Campus Improvements

Mr. Yust noted everything has been completed on the campus Oval with the exception of the following:

- Fiber optics tie-in ~ waiting on various parts
- Tunnel ~ more sealant needed, waiting on assured temperatures
- Landscaping ~ more hydroseed needed, depending on weather

Taylor Performing Arts Center (TPAC)

Mr. Yust noted the wall remediation is nearly complete. The old seats and carpet have been removed and the new seats and carpet have been ordered. The new rigging should be installed in the next few months with the flooring, seating, and curtains to follow. The entire building will be thoroughly cleaned prior to the re-opening (anticipated by November 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.

New Head Men's Basketball Coach

Mr. Mallory noted on April 5, 2022, Sam McMahon was named the new Head Men's Basketball Coach. Sam comes to us from Southeast Missouri State University where he served as an assistant coach.

Director of Athletics (continued):**All-Athlete Banquet**

Student-athletes from every program gathered in Young Gym for the first time since May 2019. On May 9, 2022, students were recognized as seniors, new student-athletes advisory committee officers, presentation of individual program and Lionbacker awards, and awarding of department-wide honors including:

- Team Service Award ~ Women's Soccer
- Individual Service Award ~ Riley Lavar (Women's Soccer)
- Male Athlete of the Year ~ Ryan Riddle (Men's Cross Country & Track & Field)
- Female Athlete of the Year ~ Lacy Stokes (Women's Basketball)
- EO and Virginia Humphrey Award ~ Riley Lavar

Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)

The committee set a goal of raising \$2,000 for Make-A-Wish and through various activities such as the "miracle minute" change collection, bake sales at home events, and "Pie-a-Coach," more than \$2,000 has been raised.

SACC also elected new leadership for the 2022-2023 academic year including:

- Riley Lavar ~ President
- Kara Amos ~ Vice-President
- Dionnte White ~ Secretary
- Kelie Henderson ~ Pride Promoter
- Bryan Candrl ~ first alternate for MIAA SAAC
- Kara Amos ~ serve on the NCAA Division II National SAAC representing the MIAA

*Chairwoman Hersheve commended all student-athletes for their accomplishments.

Treasurer (Ms. Linda Eis):

Cash Graph:

Ms. Eis noted the balance at the end of May 31, 2022, is \$23.6M. As a reminder, this includes the \$6.1M in HEERF II and \$7.1M HEERF III.

Statement of Net Position:

Total Assets: \$187M

Total Liabilities: \$133M

Net Position: \$54M

Comparative Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position (difference column):

- **Total Operating Revenues:** Reflects a decrease of (\$4.2M).
- **Total Operating Expenses:** Reflects an increase of \$4.8M. Many of the expenses have continued to increase over the last year (FY21) which had significant reduced activity due to the impact of COVID. One item of savings to note is the phone system update has given the university an offset savings of more than \$200k. Ms. Eis noted last year HEERF/CARES money (in the amount of \$2.6M) was given to our students, this year increased to \$7.6M, which some used to put towards their student account balance.
- **Non-Operating Revenues:** Reflects an increase of \$9.1M which includes increased base appropriations of \$4.5M.
- **Income Before Other Revenues:**
 - Current Year: \$2.02M
 - Prior Year: \$1.95M
 - This results in an increase from Prior Year: \$70,755

Other items: Ms. Eis noted, her office is gearing up for the annual audit with BKD. BKD has merged with another firm ~ DHG (Dixon Hughes Goodman). Effective June 1, 2022, the new company will be known as FORVIS (FORward and VISion) to become a top 10 national professional service firm. The university will continue working with our same team (Ryan, Kyle and Allison) from the Springfield/Joplin offices. The auditors were on campus recently working with MSSU on another new GASB implementation. The kick-off SFA (student financial aid) testing will begin on June 20, 2022.

A motion was made by T. Mark Elliott and seconded by Bill Gipson to approve the May 2022 financial statements as presented. Motion passed unanimously. (A copy of the financial statements for May 2022 are attached to the minutes in the permanent record book).

Faculty Senate President-Elect (Dr. David Locher, Faculty President):

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

Dr. Locher noted *normally* at this time, there would be a new Faculty Senate President representing faculty, but unfortunately, he will remain seated as President due to the unfortunate passing of Dr. Otto Borchert.

Dr. Locher will continue in this role until the end of the fall semester, at which time, Amber Carr (President-Elect) will assume the role as Faculty Senate President.

*Chairwoman Hersheve acknowledged condolences for the loss of Dr. Borchert.

Dr. Locher noted the primary focus from the faculty senate has been the restructuring and reorganization of the academic colleges and acknowledged Dr. Jean Coltharp for her work with reorganizing various committees.

Staff Senate President (Ms. Asley Brownfield):

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

*Chairwoman Hersheve introduced the new Staff Senate President, Ashley Brownfield, Coordinator, Project Management, IT.

Ms. Brownfield noted there are various Staff Senate goals in her report but emphasized continuing to make the campus a great place to work for staff and faculty and students to learn.

Quarterly Service Champs were recognized during the May Staff Senate meeting, including:

- Christina Hamilton, Program Coordinator ~ Honors/Global Leaders
- Devin Korth, Central Receiving Coordinator ~ Physical Plant
- Dee Treat, Custodian-Plaster Hall ~ Physical Plant

Staff Elections were held in May and conducted entirely online. Over 130 ballots were cast to fill 10 Senate Seats.

Student Senate President (Ms. Elizabeth Martin):

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

*Chairwoman Hersheve introduced the new Student Senate President, Elizabeth Martin.

Ms. Martin noted this past academic year was very productive with great leadership, many of which were seniors, and highlighted three large projects that have been completed (or near completion) since March 2022 including:

- Collaborated with the Kinesiology Club in allocating \$4,500 for exercise equipment on the MSSU walking trail.
- Allocated \$20,000 toward the Green and Gold solar power hammock and canopy that contain outlets for charging phones, laptops, etc.
- Recently, three clubs presented in "The Lion Tank" (a version of "Shark Tank" ~ students gave ideas and concerns of campus improvements that their organization would like to see). The \$10,000 prize went to the MSSU Clay Club who will use their funds to begin a community garden on campus.

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

Governor Elliott noted this committee met prior to the open board meeting and he will be providing a full report during the closed executive session.

Academic Affairs (Anita Oplotnik, Chair):

Governor Oplotnik noted this committee met prior to the open Board meeting for the purpose of several items including Strategic Plan, KCU Dental School, Adult Degree Program, and Nursing Program updates.

On behalf of the recommendations of the Promotion and Tenure Committee, recommendations of the Provost, Dr. Lisa Toms, recommendations of Dr. Van Galen, and recommendations of the Academic Affairs Committee, Governor Oplotnik brought forward a faculty list for Promotion and Tenure approval including:

- Dr. Diana Allan, Music ~ Tenure
- Dr. Alla Barry, Biology ~ Promotion, Full Professor
- Dr. Christine Bentley, Art & Design ~ Promotion, Full Professor
- Dr. Otto Borchert, **posthumous*, CIS ~ Tenure
- Dr. Will Delehanty, International/ Political Affairs ~ Promotion, Full Professor
- Dr. James Donelson, Chemistry ~ Promotion, Full Professor
- Dr. Amy Gates, English ~ Promotion, Associate Professor

Academic Affairs (continued):

- Dr. Katie Kilmer, Biology ~ Promotion, Associate Professor
- Dr. David Penning, Biology ~ Promotion, Associate Professor
- Dr. Victoria Rhodes, Biology ~ Tenure
- Dr. David Sharlow, Music ~ Promotion, Full Professor
- Dr. Carla Smith, Kinesiology ~ Tenure & Promotion, Full Professor
- Dr. Zak Watson, English ~ Promotion, Full Professor

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

Budget Audit Committee (Carlos Haley, Chair):

Governor Haley noted this committee met prior to the open Board meeting to discuss the FY2023 budget (which is currently on track), final numbers for the Voluntary Incentive Retirement Program, and FY2023 Tuition. Governor Haley brought forward a recommendation before the board to authorize the administration to set the following tuition rates for FY2023 including:

- In-state and Lion Pride Oceanic tuition rate at \$267.53 per credit hour.
- Out-of-state tuition rate at \$535.06 per credit hour.
- Distance Learning tuition rate at \$320.42 per credit hour.
- Graduate tuition rate at \$350.00 per credit hour (no change); and
- Dual Credit tuition rate at \$50.00 per credit hour. (no change).

A motion was made by Carlos Haley and seconded by Bill Gipson to approve the tuition rates for FY2023 as presented. Motion passed unanimously. (A copy of the tuition rates for FY2023 are attached to the minutes in the permanent record book).

On behalf of the Budget Audit Committee, a motion was made by Carlos Haley and seconded by T. Mark Elliott to authorize the Administration to adopt a revenue budget of \$75.3 million for FY2023 and to authorize the Administration to increase compensation approximately \$1 million effective July 1, 2022. Motion passed unanimously. (A copy of the FY2023 Budget is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book).

On behalf of the Budget Audit Committee, a motion was made by Carlos Haley and seconded by Mariann Morgan to approve the Delegation of Authority Policy, which will tie into an administrative policy effective July 1, 2022, giving Dr. Van Galen authorization to identify, designate, and delegate contract and authority.

Motion passed unanimously. (A copy of the Delegation of Authority Policy are attached to the minutes in the permanent record book).

Ad Hoc Pandemic Committee (Bill Gipson, Chair):

*Chair Hershewe acknowledged Governor Gipson and his team for their dedication given in the last couple of years due to the COVID pandemic.

*Governor Gipson acknowledged the COVID Task Force for a job well done.

No report was needed.

OLD BUSINESS – N/A**NEW BUSINESS****Election of Board Officers (Chairwoman Hershewe):**

Chairwoman Hershewe 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:

NEW BUSINESS (continued):

Chair:

A motion was made by Ron Richard and seconded by Dr. Rosenberg to nominate Anita Oplotnik for Board Chair. No additional nominations were made, the motion was approved unanimously.

Vice Chair:

A motion was made by T. Mark Elliott and seconded by Anita Oplotnik to nominate Carlos Haley for Board Vice Chair. No additional nominations were made, the motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer:

A motion was made by Bill Gipson and seconded by Carlos Haley 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 Anita Oplotnik to nominate Laura Boyd for Board Secretary. No additional nominations were made, the motion was approved unanimously.

Future Meeting Date:

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Friday, September 9, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.

Closed Executive Session:

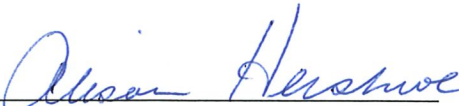
Chairwoman Hershewe noted the Board needed to go into closed Executive Session pertaining to the following state statutes:

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 Carlos Haley and seconded by Mariann Morgan 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.


Board Chair


Board Secretary