

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

The September 9, 2022, meeting of the Missouri Southern State University Board of Governors was called to order by Chairwoman Anita Oplotnik. 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, John Hammons, Bethany Kendrick, Dr. David Locher, Rob Mallory, Dr. Brad Hodson, Dr. Lisa Toms, Dr. Dean Van Galen, Shellie Hewitt, Linda Eis, and Elaina Johnson.

Elizabeth Martin was in non-attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairwoman Oplotnik called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. She thanked Governor Alison Hershewe for her service as Chairwoman over the last two years and her great leadership during a presidential search and COVID.

Chairwoman Oplotnik appointed Elaina Johnson as recording secretary for this meeting.

A motion was made by Bill Gipson and seconded by Alison Hershewe to approve Elaina Johnson as recording secretary for this meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairwoman Oplotnik also welcomed KCU attendees, Dr. Marc Hahn, President of Kansas City University, and his team, who will participate in a signing ceremony later in the meeting.

MINUTES

Chairwoman Oplotnik asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the June 9, 2022 Board meeting; none were noted.

A motion was made by T. Mark Elliott and seconded by Carlos Haley to approve minutes of the June 9, 2022 Board meeting as submitted. Motion passed unanimously. (Minutes are archived in the permanent record book).

Chairwoman Oplotnik asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the special June 29, 2022 Board meeting pertaining to the MOSERS pre-payment option; none were noted.

A motion was made by Carlos Haley and seconded by Mariann Morgan to approve minutes of the June 29, 2022 Board meeting as submitted. Motion passed unanimously. (Minutes are archived in the permanent record book).

Chairwoman Oplotnik asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the special September 1, 2022 Board meeting for the contract extension of the sports medicine program; none were noted.

A motion was made by Bill Gipson and seconded by Ron Richards to approve minutes of the September 1, 2022 Board meeting as submitted. Motion passed unanimously. (Minutes are archived in the permanent record book).

Academic Affairs Committee: Dr. Benjamin Rosenberg

A portion of the Academic Affairs Committee report was moved up in the agenda to accommodate the MSSU/KCU signing ceremony. Governor Rosenberg and the Academic Affairs Committee recommends for approval of expansion of the partnership agreement between Missouri Southern University and Kansas City University.

A motion was made by Dr. Benjamin Rosenberg and seconded by Mariann Morgan to approve partnership agreement. Motion passed unanimously.

Board moved to Ballroom for the signing of the partnership agreement.

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.

Administrative Changes

Dr. Van Galen introduced several new staff members and staff changes to the Board. Bethany Kendrick is our new Director of Communications and External Relations. She comes from Labette Community College. Dr. Shellie Hewitt has served as Dean of Admissions since Sept 2020. As of July 1 this year, she also is responsible for University Marketing and Communications. Linda Eis is now Chief Financial Officer and oversees Human Resources. Jeanie Nice is the new Administrative Assistant to the President.

Events

Chairwoman Oplotnik, Governor Rosenberg and Governor Morgan were thanked for their participation in the August 25th recognition of 13 faculty members who recently earned promotions and/or tenure.

Faculty and staff attended a Welcome Back meeting held on August 18th. In the meeting eight reasons for optimism and excitement were revealed: Czech themed semester, renewed campus vibrancy, reopening of TPAC, aspirational strategic plan, health science innovation center, campaign launch Lions Forward, strong new student enrollment and great people. Dr. Van Galen highlighted several of the reasons including Czech themed semester with 38 Czech semester events planned. There will be courses co-taught by MSSU faculty and faculty from Czech Republic in art, business, and history. In early December, 18 students will be visiting the Czech Republic and Austria as part of the international tour. A second item highlighted was the Health Science Innovation Center. This project was included in the state budget for one-time dedicated funding where the state will provide \$15 million, and we are seeking matching funds from individuals and organizations. The building is envisioned to be located next to Billingsly Student Center to complete the oval. The center will provide new spaces for hands on learning and training, while also supporting potential expansion in health science programs including nursing. Initial conversations with faculty include envisioning some new immersive spaces such as simulation hospital, expanded cadaver lab, and some collaborative research space. Third area highlighted was the campaign, Lions Forward. It will be our first comprehensive capital campaign in 18 years. This campaign will showcase the great things we're doing here at MSSU and the impact it will have on students. Finally, Great People. Our most recent recipients of the Service Champ award are Kelly Desmond, Lonnie Hulette, and Leona Belk.

A question was asked about the reopening of TPAC. TPAC is scheduled to be opened in November, right on schedule. At this point no events will be held there until after the first of the year just in case there are any issues. Exterior structural issues have been resolved.

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.

Fund raising Campaign

Several months have been spent working on the preparatory activities of the fund-raising campaign. This includes developing a prospect portfolio, developing a theme and a logo, and updating policies. Following the approval of the campaign priorities during the Budget committee meeting earlier in the morning, the campaign case statement will be developed.

Evaluation of Instructional Spaces

Efforts were undertaken this summer to assess the physical condition of all 228 instructional spaces on campus. Every classroom, laboratory and studio was visited and assessed of their condition. Not only were the physical conditions assessed, but the furniture, technology, and instructional writing surface were evaluated to determine those areas in most need of attention. These needs will be incorporate in our three-year facilities improvement plan which will be part of the fiscal year '24 budget.

New Foundation Directors

There are four new members of the Missouri Southern Foundation Board of Directors: Dr. Jana Allison, Dr. Beth Barlet, Mr. Jeff England and Mr. Will Lynch. They replaced two Directors who termed out and two unfilled positions. This election brings the total number of Foundation board members to 35.

A question was asked about the potential overlap between the evaluation of the structure and the contract we have with Johnson Control. The work of Johnson Control helped in the condition of the structural spaces. We would have scored far worse if we hadn't taken on the initiatives from the Johnson Control project.

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.

Upward Bound

The Upward Bound program has been awarded a new 5-year grant from the US Department of Education. Upward Bound works with high-school student families who meet the federal income guidelines and/or are first generation students to help prepare them for enrollment in college.

Honors Program

The Honors Program received national recognition for having the highest engagement percentage among its students. The program accepted 36 new students for the fall semester.

Department of Art and Design

The Department of Art and Design was recently awarded \$10,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support the MSSU African Art Collection Preservation. This grant will support the purchase of storage solutions and preservation supplies to house the MSSU African Art collection.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (continued)

Early Med School Acceptance Program

Fifteen students began their college experience on Saturday, August 20th with the Green Coat Ceremony. The program will be changing the name from Yours to Lose (YTL) to MSSU KCU Early Acceptance Program (MKEAP).

Adult Degree Completion Program

Currently, there are seven students in the program with more in the pipeline. Eight-week online general education courses are being created, and the Credit for Prior Learning process is being streamlined so future students can advance through the academic programs at their own pace.

Strategic Planning

The Strategic Planning Process is moving forward. The External Environmental Scan group completed their project and presented the results to the Strategic Plan Task Force at the August retreat. Six internal stakeholder sessions were held in June, with the final two sessions occurring the week of September 12th. Student input sessions and external stakeholder sessions are being scheduled in September and October. Student surveys will be distributed in October. When all the input has been gathered, the SPTF will evaluate it to determine if the mission statement and statement of core values communicate our “who” and our “why”. The input will also be used in the drafting of the University Strategic Goals and the Objectives.

Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer (Ms. Linda Eis):

FY22

Audit: FORVIS (formally BKD) was on campus the week of June 20 for financial aid testing and finance walkthroughs. They returned in August to perform finance fieldwork. Since then, we have been working through the remaining items and the report. We have a new GASB (GASB84 Leases) that will impact our assets and liabilities on the statement of net position as well as our expenses on the statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net position. We anticipate presenting the annual audit at the November 11 Board meeting.

Cash Graph:

Ms. Eis noted the balance at the end of August 31, 2022, is \$16.3M. As a reminder, we processed the prepayment of the FY23 MOSERS retirement contributions. This prepayment saves us between \$140k and \$150K. As an item of note, student refunds are being issued as we speak this week.

Statement of Net Position:

Total Assets: \$197M

Total Liabilities: \$132M (a semi-annual interest only bond payment was made in September in the amount of \$3M).

Net Position: \$65M

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

- **Total Operating Revenues:** Reflects an increase of \$185k.
- **Total Operating Expenses:** Reflects a decrease of (\$8.6M). A large portion of this decrease is the timing of financial aid. Scholarships represent a (\$7.8M) decrease.
- **Non-Operating Revenues:** Reflects a decrease of (\$3.2M) that includes the impact of timing of financial aid for Pell Grants (\$3.4M). Base appropriations reflect an increase of \$235k. New this year is the appropriations from MOSERS reimbursement of \$32k. This is the first year the state has provided funding to offset the difference in the percent increase in the MOSERS rate and is drawn down monthly. As we move forward, we will be able to recoup \$400k to \$500k.

Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer (continued)

- **Income Before Other Revenues:**

Current Year: \$12.9M

Prior Year: \$7.4M

This results in an increase from Prior Year: \$5.5M

A question was asked about the GASB being related to lease obligations and what impact it will have to the balance sheet, if it will be similar to the large GASB68 (Net Pensions) impact several years ago. It will not at all be that large. Final numbers are not available yet.

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

Financial Services

As part of the reorganization structure, the Business Affairs Division has merged with some offices and will now be called Financial Services. It houses many of the same offices as before.

Director of Human Resources

Christina Means is the new Director of Human Resources. She is a Missouri Southern alum and brings 23 years of experience.

Strategic Employment Recruitment and Retention Analysis (SERRA)

The FY23 budget provides funding for us to embark on an analysis of our workforce strategy. The analysis will guide us to recruit and retain the very best talent.

Insurance Open Enrollment

The kickoff date for open enrollment is October 19. We are providing information in advance of that date as we have a new carrier this year. We will be moving from Cigna to Anthem. The new insurance with Anthem will begin January 1, 2023. The insurance committee invested a tremendous amount of work to complete this task and was able to save \$1M in university cost in a calendar year. For the fiscal year, it will be half of this amount, \$500k. The \$1M consists of transitioning to a new carrier, changes in the specialty pharmacy costs and changes in the rate structure to employees. The rate structure changed to mostly a set amount regardless of the option selected. We are still partially self-funded, and we do have stop-loss insurance to help with major medical claims.

Dean of Admissions (Dr. Shellie Hewitt)

Note: Highlights of Dr. Hewitt'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 Update

For the fall, our new student enrollment is up 5.84% as of today. We are up in graduate and international enrollment as well. We are slightly down in transfer enrollment. Reasons for the upward trend is the implementation of our MOSO Merit Scholarship and by hosting more on campus events, we're able to inform potential students of what it's like to be a Lion.

Dean of Admissions (continued)

Web Redesign

Over the summer we completed phase 1 of the process which included reviewing the entire university's website and gathering performance analytics. With that we are now in phase 2 which includes mocking up our main pages. We are still on target to be complete by summer 2023.

FY23 Marketing Plan

This plan supports the university's goals for recruitment, enrollment and brand awareness. The plan will focus on Missouri Southern's strengths of quality and excellence, new programs, health sciences and global education.

Governor Hershewe asked, based on the projected numbers for MOSO Merit, what were the actual numbers and how do they compare to the projections. Dr. Hewitt agreed to gather the information and report back to Governor Hershewe.

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.

Southernfest

Southernfest, the Athletic Department's largest annual fundraiser, had record levels of engagement and dollars raised. There were nearly 200 golfers and 360 attendees at the Green and Gold gala. Final numbers are not yet available, but gross receipts are in excess of \$100,000, and we are estimating to come in at around \$72,000 in net proceeds.

Mental Health Initiatives

The Athletics Department has taken several steps to be proactive in trying to address mental health issues of students and athletes. On July 28, all Athletic staff and coaches participated in QPR training (Question, Persuade, Refer). Also, this summer the Athletic Department launched a new partnership with Talkspace, a convenient, professional, personal therapy students can access via private messaging from a secure digital platform. Lastly, there's a campus-wide program entitled The Bandana Project where participants tie lime green bandanas to their backpack signifying they can provide local and/or national resources that can assist students in need.

Name, Image and Likeness Partnership

In July the Athletic Department announced the launch of Icon Suite, in partnership with Icon Source. Missouri Southern was the first Division II institute to partner with Icon Source. This platform brings national and local NIL marketplace to our student athletes, provides education and opportunities, as well as automatic deal disclosures and compliance.

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

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

Faculty Senate usually meets on the first Monday of the month, but Labor Day precluded that this month so there is nothing new to report. Future Senate meetings will take place before BOG meetings as usual.

If Faculty Senate President reports included photos like the administrative reports do, this one would have three photos. First a photo of faculty members frustrated by all the time and energy that went into reorganizing every Senate committee in response to the campus reorganization, especially Jean Coltharp who did most of the heavy lifting. Second would be a photo of [some] happy faculty members due to the reduced service load that resulted from shrinking and combining some of those committees. Third would be a photo of faculty with a grin-and-bear-it expression on their faces due to the increased costs for health insurance for all MSSU employees starting in January. It is a sacrifice we are making on behalf of the university.

Staff Senate President (Ms. Asley Brownfield):

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

Even though it is only September, the Community Service Committee in Staff Senate is already working on the Angel Tree program. In a few short months, we'll have a Christmas tree out in front of the President's suite in Hearn Hall. Faculty, staff and students can collect angels off the tree to provide gifts for families for Christmas. The distribution of those gifts will be during Southern Lights in December.

As Dr. Van Galen mentioned earlier, three staff members received awards for the Quarterly Service Champs. Kelly Desmond, Lonnie Hulette, and Leona Belk.

Staff Senate continues to work on the Staff welfare on Campus. We were able to give all staff on campus drink coupons to Sonic to boost morale. We continue to think of ideas to help increase that throughout the year.

Student Senate President (Ms. Elizabeth Martin):

Note: Ms. Martin was unable to attend the meeting today.

Board Committees:

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

Governor Elliott had nothing to report.

Academic Affairs (Dr. Benjamin Rosenberg, Chair):

In our committee meeting earlier today we received reports on faculty awards, new faculty, a very interesting presentation on faculty data and information on new programs. The MOU with Kansas City University was addressed earlier in the meeting. Committee reviewed and approved faculty handbook updates.

A motion was made Dr. Benjamin Rosenberg and seconded by Mariann Morgan to approve the updates to the handbook. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget Audit Committee (Carlos Haley, Chair):

The Budget Audit Committee met this afternoon and had a brief update on the prepayment of MOSERS. We appreciate the Governors' appropriation for the reimbursement of MOSERS difference. The committee would like to entertain a motion before the full board to approve the seven Campaign Priorities.

A motion was made by T. Mark Elliott and seconded by Bill Gibson to approve the seven campaign priorities. (A copy of the Campaign Priorities is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book).

Committee is still waiting for the start and implementation of the Strategic Employment Recruitment and Retention Analysis. An RFP will be developed and distributed for the next budget year.

Governor Bill Gipson stated that it would be appropriate for the Campaign Priorities to be read so they could be reflected in the minutes. Governor Carlos Haley reviewed as requested. The seven campaign priorities are broken down into 3 areas: Enhancing the Student Experience (student scholarships, student success center, BSC activity center, athletic excellence fund), Fostering Academic Excellence (academic excellence, immersive learning opportunities) and Building the Campus of the Future (Health Science Innovation Center).

T. Mark Elliott was asked if he OK with motion to approve the campaign initiatives, he was. Bill Gibson was asked if he was OK with second. The modification on the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS – N/A

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Secretary to the Board of Governors:

Chairwoman Oplotnik called for a motion to appoint Jeanie Nice as the Board Secretary replacing Laura Boyd. Laura Boyd was thanked for her years of service. She was excellent.

A motion was made by Dr. Ben Rosenburg and seconded by Alison Hershewe to approve Jeanie Nice for Board Secretary starting with next meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Future Meeting Date:

The next meetings of the Board are as scheduled:

November 11, 2022

January 13, 2023

March 10, 2023

June 8, 2023

Closed Executive Session:

Chairwoman Oplotnik 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 roll call was made by Chairwoman Anita Oplotnik, 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