

Missouri Southern State University
Board of Governor's Meeting
Wednesday January 20th, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.
BSC Ballroom

Board members in attendance were: Chairwoman, Alison Hershewe, Governor T. Mark Elliott, Governor Bill Gipson, Governor Carlos Haley, Governor Mariann Morgan, Governor Anita Oplotnik, Governor Benjamin Rosenberg, and in attendance by phone was Governor Ron Richard.

Missouri Southern State University representatives present were: Dr. Van Galen, Jared Bruggeman, Rob Yust, Heather Lesmeister, Dr. Paula Carson, Dr. Julie Wengert, Dr. Mikh Gunderman, Kevin Greim presenting on behalf of Dr. Bradford Hodson, Debra Schow-Smith, Haley Ward, and Elaina Johnson.

Non-Missouri Southern Attendees in attendance: Jon Dermott and the BKD auditors, Ryan Sivill and Kim Hamm.

Announcements:

Dr. Van Galen and Dr. Carson recognized Dr. Chris Moos as the recipient of the 2020 Missouri Governor's Award for Excellence in Education.

Dr. Moos was very appreciative of the award and recognition.

Chairwoman Alison Hershewe expressed gratitude for Dr. Moos and his hard work on behalf of the Board, as well.

Minutes:

Chairwoman Alison Hershewe asked if there were any additions or corrections that needed done to the November 18th, 2021 meeting minutes; none were noted.

A motion was made by T. Mark Elliott and seconded by Bill Gipson to approve the minutes for the November 18th, 2020 Board meeting as submitted. The Motion passed unanimously.

The minutes will be archived in the permanent book of record.

Chairwoman Alison Hershewe asked for permission from the Board to move an item of new business, the approval of the BKD audit, before the Board Reports.

Governor Haley will introduce the auditors. Ryan Sivill and Kim Hamm from BKD will present the results of the audit from the last fiscal year (2020).

Kim Hamm started the presentation by stating they did issue a clean or unmodified opinion of the financial statements. They were presented fairly in all material respects the financial position of the University, in regards to the fiscal year ending June 30th, 2020. The letter also refers to the Missouri Southern Foundation, and that it is a discretely presented component unit of the University and it is audited by a separate firm.

In planning and performing, BKD does consider the internal controls over the financial reporting and compliance of the University, but they do NOT issue an opinion on the internal structure. The management's discussion and analysis are part of the report and deemed unaudited.

The reports presented today do not include the single audit which covers the compliance element, when the university is spending Federal funding. This is due to the compliance supplement, which directs the auditors where to focus. Since those Federal funds were new, they did not have time to get that compliance supplement issued. It was issued in December 2020, and the testing is starting and underway. The university should receive information this week (January 20th, 2021) on the information to start pulling. The compliance supplement deadline date has been extended to June 30th, 2021 as opposed to March 31st, 2021.

Chairwoman Alison Hershewe entertained a motion to approve the audit presented by BKD. A motion was made by Anita Oplotnik and a second by Governor Carlos Haley. The Motion passed unanimously.

President Dr. Van Galen:

The Spring Semester has commenced, and there is nothing like the energy and the optimism the students bring to campus. They were welcomed by a volunteer crew. The crew provided the students with a personal welcome, giving directions to class, two free Missouri Southern masks and a cup of hot chocolate.

We have begun this semester similar to the Fall. We are providing many courses in high flex format, and offering students engaging experiences with protocols in place to protect our students and broader community. I continue to be grateful to our faculty, students and staff for their extraordinary work, patience and flexibility during this pandemic.

Just prior to Holiday Break, we held our annual Years of Service and Superior Service award event. It was done virtually from Corley Auditorium. Congratulations to the Superior Service award recipients; Lori Musser, from Disability Services and Tara Schneider from distance learning. This event is a great reminder that Missouri Southern is a great place to learn and work, because of the people.

Dr. Van Galen thanked Dr. Julie Wengert for agreeing to serve as interim Vice President of Student Affairs, for calendar year 2021. Stating she will be a valuable addition to our campus senior leadership team.

He highlighted two items that are included in the report to the Board. Governor Parson's announcement to release significant funds to support higher education.

Next from the November meeting one of our two legislative priorities at the 2021 legislative session is securing one-time capital funds to repair and reopen the Taylor Performing Arts Center. We have increased the initial request from \$2 million dollars to \$2.5 million dollars adding the remediation of the balcony. This project has been ranked as one of the top 10 most critical higher education capital needs in our state.

Foundation report by Kevin Greim on behalf of Executive Vice President Dr. Bradford Hodson:

Mr. Greim presented Dr. Hodson's report which mainly deals with fund raising and alumni efforts. He feels we are having a good year from the fundraising stand point. He indicated it will be a very good second quarter, due to the market doing well and the constituents feel engaged it is a good combination for us.

He briefly discussed the Endowment report included in only the Governor's books. This report has been well received from a stewardship standpoint. This is sent to everyone that is designated as a contact to an endowment. It could be the donor or a relative of the donor. Giving them a snapshot of the endowment performance. It provides a lot of good information that is specific on their funds. This is the third or fourth one that has been sent out. It is sent out annually, and it has led to reinvestment in our endowments.

A video was shown in regards to Global Leaders. The purpose of the video is another way to get our message out to people. Bryan Vowels, a MSSU '92 graduate, is going to participate in promoting this project.

Academic Affairs report by Provost Dr. Paula Carson:

Dr. Carson indicated there are two points of business she would like to talk about today. She started the discussion with the update on the MSSU Strategic Plan. Late December, they completed an update on the status of where we are in the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is intended to serve as a guiding document for research and used toward developing the update. There was uncertainty of how the pandemic is setting us back and closing certain doors, but also opening other windows.

The update is now available, it was developed by a subcommittee of the University Council representing all the different divisions. There are 45 reporting units on this campus and 44 were able to report meaningful progress through out the entire pandemic period. This will be shared once it has been vetted through our internal processes.

Another super ordinate goal they have is to improve enrollment, ensure that we do whatever we can to create a viable, vibrant residential community on campus. We are looking into the development of some new academic programs. This process will begin with the faculty and percolate up through the seven steps of the process. She shared the foundational items of criteria that we will be deploying to make sure the programs meet our desired expectations. They will include student demand and occupational demand. Elevating the intellectual appeal of our University. We want to clearly identify our strategic differentiators and take advantage of those. We want to offer programs that other universities, other institutions of higher education in the market cannot offer or replicate. We are looking to implement this commencing in fall.

A few good points to share are; the collaboration that has been forged between our college of education and Carthage R9 school district. This program falls into the category of “grow your own.” Where you have your own students graduating from a district and you support them in financial and non-financial ways to pursue a college education. With the knowledge and expectation by both, that they will return to your district and teach. There are two scholarship students, the Carthage R9 Foundation has a donor that is financially supporting our students. We would like to continue to grow this program in other areas.

We have been awarded over \$800,000 dollars in academic grants. We were awarded a \$200,000 dollar grant just before the holidays. Allowing the dental students an opportunity to work with vulnerable populations and apply sealants.

One of our strategic missions is to pursue all available accreditations for our professional programs. We were notified that for the first time ever,

the school of music has achieved NASM. (National Association of Schools of Music) a premier accreditation for music programs. We have been working on getting this since 2016, making a lot of investments and curricular changes and facility improvements.

Student Affairs report by Interim Vice President Dr. Julie Wengert:

Dr. Wengert started off by saying the excitement is back in the air for us! She wants to highlight a few items in her report, starting with the continued counting of student successes for Fall 2020. The Registrar's office will continue conferring degrees throughout the 6 weeks after commencement.

We have been trying to engage our students in a different and virtual manner. The pandemic has provided us the opportunity to learn what students learn by virtue of interacting, rather than focusing on the quantity of students they are reaching.

We celebrated the years of service recognizing 13 student affairs individuals equated to 145 years of service. Pointing out that 45 of those 145 years, are from Christy Phillips in the Student Affairs Office.

On a final note, we are reapplying for the educational talent search program grant, which operate on 5-year cycles and will be submitted in February.

Business Affairs report by Vice President Rob Yust:

Mr. Yust started off by discussing the ongoing construction projects. One is currently wrapping up. The other is the Residence Hall project. It is divided into 3 different sections and as the trades go up on one section and they finish their work, they can then start on another section and repeat the process until complete. The roof is on and the contractors are finishing the sheet rock on section C. On section B, the steel framework in the core is completing and they're framing the walls and installing glass storefronts. The facilities are coming along nicely and hope to have a mocked-up room, soon.

The trail project is complete, for the most part. MoDot has blessed the final repairs made by the city, and have signed off on the project.

We will be installing a piece of exercise equipment that was funded by the wellness program.

Sharing that we received notification from the state of additional buckets of money being received by the state. First one being a pass through of the federal budget stabilization funds from the feds through the state to us. That is about \$2.1 million dollars, and that will be used for deferred

maintenance. We have setup a task force to determine the best way to utilize those funds.

When the budget was adopted in July, right out of the shoot the Governor withheld over \$880,000 of appropriations. In October, we received notification the Governor was going to release one half of those funds, \$440,000, gross and \$427,000 (after the Governors 3% withheld) net to Missouri Southern. We received notification that the other half is going to be released, making us whole with the appropriations. It will be drawn down over the course of the next 6-months.

Athletics report by Athletic Director Jared Bruggeman:

Mr. Bruggeman has three small points to highlight from his report. Cam Martin was selected to receive the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame, special achievement award.

We are resuming the Fall, Winter and Spring sports. They will be taking place in the Spring semester, including football, soccer, volleyball, men's and women's basketball, indoor and outdoor track, golf, baseball, and softball.

We are hosting the MIAA baseball tournament, near commencement.

The department has been working with the social unrest and dealing with diversity and inclusion initiatives. They have been working on our mission statement, talking about objectives, including a splash page on the athletics website talking about diversity and inclusion.

Treasurer report by Linda Eis:

Linda Eis provided a detailed report showing the financial statements for December 31, 2020. The Cash graph reflects cash at \$12.2M, an increase over the prior year of \$538K. The Statement of Net Position reflects Total Assets \$175.2M, Total Liabilities \$125.3M, Total Net Assets \$49.9M. The Comparative Statement of Revenues Expenses and Changes in Net Position reflects total operating revenues (decrease) (\$1.9M), total operating expense (decrease) (\$3.3M), Non-operating Revenues (Increase) \$1.7M. Income before other revenues; Current year \$892K – Gain; Prior year (\$2.2M) – loss; Increase from prior year \$3.1M.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Bill Gipson and seconded by Anita Oplotnik. The motion passed unanimously.

Faculty Senate report by President Dr. Mikh Gunderman:

Dr. Gunderman reported their first meeting was scheduled for February 1, 2021, and no updates are available at this time. He did indicate he felt the fall meetings were very productive. They discussed many policy

related recommendations, looked at protecting and supporting faculty, including new certificates, new programs, and a Master's program.

He also noted there are concerns with the faculty with the ongoing pandemic. The vaccines, the new strains, the transmission, and the uncertainty of what is ahead of us. There are concerns with moving into the high flex programs and class organizations. The concerns moving forward with budget and the enrollment going down. Faculty is willing to do whatever is necessary but there is still a lingering fear for positions and programs. There is cautious optimism, but still major concerns going forward.

Staff Senate report by President Debra Schow-Smith

Debra Schow-Smith has two things she will be reporting on. Staff Senate is working on communicating the history and purpose of campus. They have setup an online comment section for people to submit ideas for Staff Senate to consider and discuss at meetings. Communication will go out to campus on how to utilize form. There will be a mid-year recap that will go out, recapping things that have happened since July 2020.

Staff Senate is currently holding virtual meetings, and also meet as a group, recently through teams. The last meeting attendance was around 30 people, increasing from the normal attendance of 2 or 3 people. It is a good indication that some interaction and communication is being improved.

She also indicated Staff Senate is having some of the same concerns regarding COVID, that Faculty Senate shared.

Staff Senate is planning to have another campus beatification day in March, and have discussed doing affirmation messages to post around campus.

Student Senate report by President Hayley Ward:

Ms. Ward did not have a report. The first Student Senate meeting was being held later that afternoon.

Board Committees Reports:

Personnel Compensation Committee report by Bill Gipson:

There was a meeting held with President Van Galen, and I will be giving a report to the full board in the closed executive session.

Budget Audit Committee report by Chair, Carlos Haley:

In addition to the audit, we talked about CARES funding and some of the updates on the projects being done by Johnson Controls. The committee

also discussed the changes coming that may impact our financial accounting.

Action items were previously covered, and the short form audit was approved.

Old Business:

N/A

New Business:

- Consideration of Academic Policies Proposals – Sabbaticals (Dr. Carson)

A motion was made to approve Sabbaticals by Mariann Morgan and the second was given by Carlos Haley. The motion passed unanimously.

- BKD Annual Audit – (Rob Yust/Linda Eis)

Please note this was discussed prior to the Board Reports.

- Other items that may be necessary

No other items of business were brought.

Future Meeting Date:

The next Board meeting will be on March 17th, 2021 @ 1:00p.m.

Closed Executive Session:

Chairwoman, Alison Hershewe announced the Board needed to go into a closed session in regards to the following Missouri Statute:

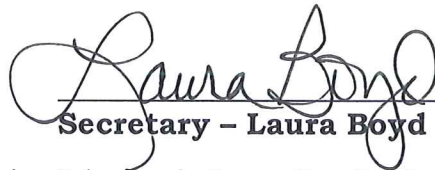
RSMo § 610.021 (3) – In regards to a personnel matter.

A motion to hold a closed Executive Session was made by Governor T. Mark Elliott and was seconded by Governor Mariann Morgan, under RSMO § 610.021 (3). A role call was taken by Elaina Johnson, and each Board member voted 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 - Alison Hershewe



Secretary - Laura Boyd

*Notes taken & submitted by Elaina Johnson, in Laura Boyd's absence