

MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY
Board of Governors
Minutes

October 16, 2015 – 10:00 am
Billingsly Student Center, Room 310

The October 16, 2015, meeting of the Missouri Southern State University Board of Governors was called to order by Jim Fleischaker, Chair. Governors in attendance were Tracy Flanigan, Jim Fleischaker, Michael Franks, Bill Gipson, Keith Hankins, Alison Hershewe, and Mitch McCumber. Others in attendance were Dr. Alan Marble, Jared Bruggeman, Darren Fullerton, Dr. Brad Hodson, Dr. Paula Carson, Rob Yust, Dr. David Sharlow, Elisa Bryant, Jon Dermott, Linda Eis, and Sharon Odem; Kyle Prisock was in nonattendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Fleischaker called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Mr. Fleischaker noted longtime Board member, Rod Anderson, would be honored for his service to the Board by the awarding of a plaque. Mr. Anderson was recently replaced on the Board by new Board appointee, Mr. Michael Franks. Mr. Anderson noted thanks to the various administrators and presidents of Faculty Senate that he has worked with during his years of service on the Board and also his appreciation for the students at Missouri Southern.

MINUTES

Chair Fleischaker asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the September 18, 2015, Board meeting; none were noted.

A motion was made by Bill Gipson and seconded by Mitch McCumber to approve minutes of the September 18, 2015, Board meeting as submitted. Motion passed. (Minutes are archived in the permanent record book.)

REPORTS

Treasurer (Ms. Linda Eis):

Linda presented Financial Statements for the period ending September 30, 2015, to the Board as follows:

- Cash Graph
- Statement of Net Position
- Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position
- Comparative Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position
- Cash Flow Statement

Cash Graph: The Cash Graph as of September 30, 2015, shows unrestricted cash, Board Designated Cash & Board Designated Investments at \$11.5 million which is a decrease of \$2.7 million which is comparable to this same time last year. Linda noted a lot of activity has taken place in September such as the first financial aid disbursement eRefund of over \$4 million dollars; a paper financial aid disbursement of over \$2 million dollars for a total financial aid disbursement of over \$6 million dollars to 2,633 students during September.

Statement of Net Position: As of September 30, 2015, Total Assets are \$145 million and Total Liabilities are \$76 million making Total Net Position as of September 30, 2015, \$69 million. Linda noted the semi-annual bond payment (reflected in bonds payable) was made during the month of September.

Statement of Revenues Expenses and changes in Net Position: This quarterly statement was included in the financial statements and is only for informational purposes. It provides information on actual versus budget.

Comparative Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position: In looking at the “difference column”, Total Operating Revenues increased by \$1.7 million primarily from increased tuition and an increase in Access Missouri Scholarships which students do not have to pay back; 200 more students are receiving Access Missouri Scholarship funds and the annual per student award increased from \$1,500 to \$1,850. Total Operating Expenses increased by \$585,000. Total Non-operating Revenues decreased by \$460,000.

Treasurer (continued):

Income (Loss) Before Other Revenues: As of September 30, 2015, the current year reflects an increase of \$7.2 million. The prior year shows an increase of \$6.6 million resulting in a comparative increase between the two years of \$635,000.

Other: A large project to update with United Missouri Bank's website (MSSU's financial institution) with a new more user friendly platform was recently completed. Linda gave a special note of thanks to Donna Kemm, a member of her financial team, for her excellent work on this transition project.

Work will begin on Monday, November 9th for the NCAA Agreed Upon Procedures audit which takes place every three years and involves extensive preparation from both the Athletics and Treasurer's offices.

A motion was made by Tracy Flanigan and seconded by Michal Franks to approve the September 30, 2015, financial statements as presented. Motion passed. (A copy of the financial statements for September 30, 2015, is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book.)

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

Note: Highlights of Rob's report are as follows.

- ✓ **Reynolds Hall Lab Remodeling** – Meetings continue between the architects and the science and math departments with the goal to develop a Master Plan for Reynolds Hall that will serve students and faculty now and in the future; great faculty participation is taking place. During the first phase of this remodel project, Chemistry and Physics labs will move to the 3rd floor of Reynolds and Biology and Environmental Health will move to the 1st floor. Plans are for demo in some areas of the building to begin early spring of 2016. Rob noted appreciation for the significant state contributions and the opportunity for matching funds for this project.
- ✓ **Mobile (temporary) Classrooms** – will first be utilized by the Biology department when this area is moved for the Reynolds Hall remodel. Labs, classrooms and Biology faculty offices will be relocated to this annex in January. Work is taking place on the plumbing and electrical and new carpet will be installed soon in classrooms and offices. Rob noted the mobile units 12,766 square feet will consist of the following: 2 Physics labs + large storage/prep room; 1 Biology lab + large storage prep room; 3 Biology classrooms; 1 Biology computer lab classroom; Biology Department Head and Admin Assistant; 1 Private office for FERPA discussions w/ students; 14 Faculty cubicles; Restrooms and a common area.

Director of Athletics (Mr. Jared Bruggeman):

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.

- ✓ The **Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)** recently participated in a fundraiser through Panera Bread to support Breast Cancer Research and sold almost \$600 in bagels. The SAAC is also sponsoring a community canned food drive at the end of October to benefit Soul's Harbor.
- ✓ **Season Ticket** sales have increased almost 18% from last year showing great community support. Jared noted the new ticket office in the north end zone facility is being very well received and utilized.
- ✓ On November 7th MSSU will host the **Regional Championship** for NCAA DII cross country track. Approximately 900 student-athletes and coaches will be on campus for this competition.
- ✓ MSSU will also host the **2015 NCAA Cross Country National Championship** which will bring an estimated 850 student-athletes and coaches to campus for several days.

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.

Fundraising:

- ✓ A **gift agreement** for a significant dollar amount was signed this month. A portion of these funds will be used in the 50/50 match of \$1.5 million for the Reynolds Hall project.

Executive Vice President (continued):

Missouri Southern Foundation:

- ✓ Work continues with the Registrar's office to enter graduates and former students into the **Banner database** system. As of October 15, 100% of the university's four-year graduates (over 20,000 records) have been entered into an application created by IT which will be uploaded into Banner after it has been double checked for accuracy. Work continues on entering two-year graduates and former students with an estimated completion date for this huge task of April 2016.

Governmental and Community Relations:

- ✓ Dr. Hodson shared a **map** illustrating the dollar amount Missouri and the eight states that border Missouri spent on higher education in 2014; Missouri ranked last. The average of the eight Border States in 2014 was \$4.089 billion which was nearly four times Missouri's \$1.1 billion. Dr. Hodson noted this information will be brought to the attention of Missouri Legislators during the 2016 legislative session and also shared during an upcoming meeting with local legislators.

Provost and Vice President for 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.

- ✓ MSSU's **Teacher Education department** has just completed a joint review and evaluation of its professional education unit and certification programs conducted by the Council for the Accreditation for Educator Preparation (CAEP) and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and have been granted approval to continue offering initial professional education programs. In a letter from Dr. Gale Hairston, Director – Educator Preparation, Missouri Southern is commended for being the first Missouri educator preparation program in the state to be reviewed using the new CAEP standards. Due to the vision and leadership of Dr. Al Cade, past Dean, School of Education, who passed away before the accreditation process could be completed, MSSU's Teacher Education department elected to be evaluated using the new CAEP standards. Dr. Hairston also commended MSSU for its dedication and continued commitment to develop the next generation of educators for Missouri and neighboring states using the highest possible standards. MSSU's Teacher Education department is ranked 7th highest (ahead of 31 others) in the state for the Missouri Educator Preparation Program Pass Rate on Missouri Content Assessment and also had the third-largest number of students passing the exam among the top seven programs.
- ✓ The **Show-Me Gold Program** had its first officer commissioned this fall; 2nd Lt. Josh Turner. Josh will speak about his experiences with Show-Me Gold later in today's meeting.
- ✓ Work continues on preparation for the next **HLC** site visit and two Master's programs in Education are under development.
- ✓ **ITS Friday** (Ideas That Stick) will be held once a semester and will highlight faculty research.
- ✓ Over 40 **area superintendents** recently visited campus hosted by the Southwest Center for Teaching Excellence and Dr. Carson gave a presentation highlighting accomplishments, new programs and future plans at Missouri Southern.
- ✓ A **"Gathering"** is being planned with administrators from Crowder College and Northwest Arkansas Community College this month to further develop collaborative programs; two + two and two + three. Dr. Carson noted both of these two year colleges are viewed as partners and not competitors in preparation for students to complete bachelor's degrees and also to prepare high school students for college through dual enrollment programs.

Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management (Mr. Darren Fullerton):

Note: Highlights of Darren'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.

Darren thanked Jeff Gibson for his detailed efforts in making a required **closeout with FEMA** go very smoothly and quickly. It only took a five minute meeting conducted by Jeff to enable the FEMA shelter to become an official part of MSSU's campus property.

Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management (continued):

- ✓ **Advising and Testing Enhancements** are underway to assist students in positive ways to improve success and degree completion. A series of improvements are planned in undergraduate academic advising that includes merging the Distance Learning online advisors with advisors in the Advising, Counseling and Testing Office. This merger will also enhance MSSU's regional and national testing options allowing for national test expansions. Advising responsibilities and personal counseling responsibilities of the ACTS staff will also be split.
- ✓ **Degree Audit** training on CAPP (Curriculum Advising and Program Planning) will be conducted by the Registrar during October.
- ✓ Darren noted appreciation to the **Bursar's office and Financial Aid** for their efforts in streamlining processes to distribute financial aid for the fall semester as follows: Electronically, 781 refunds have been issued for \$4,826,187.26; 1674 paper checks have been issued for \$2,632,189.52.
- ✓ **Handouts** included a postcard for Family Weekend created by URM and newsletters for Campus Safety/Behavioral Intervention and Talent Search.

Faculty Liaison (Dr. David Sharlow - Faculty Senate, President):

Note: Highlights of Dr. Sharlow'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.

- ✓ **Faculty Senate met** on October 5th and the meeting began with Dr. Sharlow sharing his vision of the Faculty Senate in regards to "our **calling**, our **responsibility**, and our **charge** as a leader of this university". Dr. Sharlow noted faculty have responsibilities to lead in a positive manner, to motivate, inspire, communicate, while fostering relationships among themselves and university leaders.
- ✓ During the October 5th Senate meeting, **information was shared by Dr. Marble and Dr. Carson** regarding insurance, summer school, phased-retirement, and faculty development funding. Staff Senate President, Elisa Bryant and Student Senate President, Kyle Prisock, as well as liaisons to each of the Faculty Senate Committees also shared information.
- ✓ **Ten Faculty Senate committees** are in place and two charges were given to two specific committees as follows: The Academic Policies Committee was given the charge to look at textbook adoption in regards to rental/purchasing, access codes, and academic freedom and the Faculty Welfare Committee was given the charge to look at the newly proposed Phased Retirement Incentive Program, in conjunction with Dr. Marble, Human Resources, and university legal counsel.
- ✓ The **Faculty Senate Executive Committee** will meet on a monthly basis with Dr. Marble and Dr. Carson with other VPs being invited as needed to prepare for monthly Senate meetings.
- ✓ The **Academic Policies Committee and Faculty Senate** are in the process of receiving curricular changes/additions/deletions from the four School Curriculum Oversight Committees which represent the four academic schools on campus. This process is important to strengthen, streamline, and diversify MSSU's academic programs. The deadline of submitting information for the publication of the 2016-2017 Course Catalog is fast approaching. Dr. Sharlow noted next year will be the last year a hard copy catalog will be published and the university will then switch to an all-electronic, interactive, catalog.
- ✓ Both faculty and students enjoyed **Fall Break** on October 12 & 13, which marked the middle of the Fall Semester.
- ✓ **Midterms grades** are complete enabling students to check progress in their classes and make adjustments to study habits as needed. Advising for the spring semester will begin soon.

Staff Liaison (Ms. Elisa Bryant – Staff Senate, President):

- ✓ Third Quarter **Service Champ** awards were given in October to Christina Hamilton, Bonnie Branham and Daly Loyd.
- ✓ Applications for the **Angel Tree** project will be taken through the end of October. Fifteen applications have been received so far representing a total of 27 children.

Staff Liaison (continued):

- ✓ The newly formed **Compensation Committee**, chaired by Cheryl Dobson, will soon begin polling other schools in order to compare compensation and benefit packages.
- ✓ A **Staff Senate Retreat** is being planned for November 11th.

Student Representative (Mr. Kyle Prisock, President Student Senate):

Darren Fullerton noted due to an exam in one of Kyle's classes, Kyle was unable to attend today's Board meeting. Kyle as well as another MSSU student has submitted their names to be considered for an open seat on Joplin's City Council.

Board Committees:**Academic Affairs Committee (Tracy Flanigan, Chair):**

Committee has not met; no report was given.

Budget Audit Committee (Mitch McCumber, Chair):

The Budget Audit committee met this morning at 9 o'clock to hear the presentation of the annual audit in detail by Rachel Duggins and Ryan Sivill representing BKD. Mr. McCumber noted the Budget Audit committee voted to accept the Audit Report as presented and additional detail will be provided under New Business.

Executive Committee (Jim Fleischaker, Chair):

Committee has not met; no report was given.

Personnel Committee (Jim Fleischaker, Chair):

Committee has not met; no report was given.

President (Dr. Alan Marble):

Highlights of Dr. Marble's report are as follows:

- ✓ The development of an "**online policy library**" will be the major campus initiative Husch Blackwell will undertake this year as part of their contract. Once the policy library is in place, it will be routinely examined and updated. The first step in this process will be the adoption of a "policy on policies" which will be distributed for Board review and discussion in the near future.
- ✓ **Legislative Priorities** include MSSU supporting the Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE)'s request for additional funding this year (reported on during the September Board meeting) and work is also taking place with Senator Ron Richard and Representative Tom Flanigan on special funding for Reynolds Hall and the proposed development of a UMKC Dental School satellite project at MSSU. A meeting with all local legislators is being planned in the near future.
- ✓ During a lunch on September 21st, hosted by Governor Nixon, the Governor announced his plan for higher education for next year to public college and university presidents. The **Governor's plan** includes a 6% increase in core funding with at least 1% of the increase being directed to STEM areas in exchange for freezing tuition. Dr. Marble noted this is good news and the Governor's recommendation is very close to the 7% increase requested by CBHE. Dr. Marble also noted he does recommend accepting the proposed 6% increase and holding tuition flat, but also suggested the Board carefully word any action to freeze tuition by including a caveat that allows for a mid-year tuition increase in case any withholdings occur during the year.
- ✓ Notification has been received that one of three grants applied for for the **Missouri Center for Advanced Power (MOCAP)**, established on campus five or six years ago as a joint venture with the University of Missouri, Missouri S & T and Missouri State University to create course work and conduct applied research focused on "power and power storage", has been approved. Approval of this grant will enable more MOCAP research activity early next year.

President (continued):

- ✓ While final details of the campus scoreboard for the **Great Game of Education (GGOE)** are being developed, on campus training sessions for Deans, Directors, Department Chairs and members of University Council are being planned. Discussions are also taking place with SRC regarding establishing a “licensing” agreement that would enable MSSU to become the training provider of choice for GGOE. This fee based agreement would connect shared governance to the budgeting process and would also serve as a new revenue source for the university.
- ✓ **University Council (UC)** recently met for the first time during which committee members learned about each other and UC Guidelines and Expectations. The question “What happens to a student from the time he or she is recruited and enrolled at Missouri Southern until the student walks across the stage at commencement?” led to extensive discussion and will continue to be discussed in future meetings in order to identify ways the university can improve. As noted previously, members of UC will serve as the “top huddle” for GGOE and will undergo extensive training that is needed to serve the university in this role.
- ✓ A **Phased Retirement** proposal, now in draft form, will be reviewed by Faculty Welfare Committee and Staff Senate for feedback. Dr. Marble noted other higher education institutions have this type of program and it would be of benefit to both Missouri Southern and employees to develop a phased retirement program here. Once the proposal has been developed through campus input, the advice of legal counsel and MOSERS, it will be brought before the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS**Consideration of Academic Policies Proposals (Dr. Paula Carson):**

None

Presentation of FY15 Audited Financial Statements (Ms. Linda Eis):

Linda introduced Ryan Sivill, a representative from BKD, and noted Rachel Dwiggins, BKD, who presented the annual audit in detail during this morning’s Budget Audit committee, was unable to attend the Board meeting due to a prior commitment. Ryan thanked Rob Yust and Linda Eis as well as MSSU’s financial team for the quality of work they produce and also their timeliness in producing financial information and records as requested which has resulted in the university receiving an “Unmodified” or “Clean” (best) opinion audit. Ryan noted MSSU has a very tight closing process at the end of the fiscal year which allows the annual audit to take place quickly. Ryan also noted due to the building projects during the last 18 months, the residence hall quads, the end zone facility and the FEMA shelter, an additional \$15 million dollars has been processed through the university as a result of these projects.

A new GASB (Governmental Accounting Standards Board) requirement, GASB 68, now requires liability associated with pension plans such as MOSERS to be reported (shown) on the participant’s financial statements which results in a net liability being shown. For MSSU this net liability is \$26 million which are actual contributions to MOSERS. Linda noted most universities that participate in pension plans will show a negative unrestricted net position as a result of this new GASB standard. GASB 68 is only an accounting standard and does not impact MSSU’s required contribution rates that are set by MOSERS. GASB 68 does not impact increases or decreases in cash and is only for reporting purposes; it does not change operations, it only changes the way financial statements look.

Mitch McCumber noted appreciation to the BKD representatives for their thorough presentation to the Budget Audit committee and the Board as well as their ability to answer complex questions and share information clearly. Ryan noted approximately 550 hours of work took place during this year’s annual audit of MSSU.

Presentation of FY15 Audited Financial Statements (continued):

Ryan noted over \$39 million dollars in Federal Financial aid flowed through MSSU during FY2015 and no findings were found. Darren Fullerton and Linda Eis thanked Becca Diskin, Director of Financial Aid, for the great job her area and the Bursar's area does to follow all of the rules and regulations required for Federal Financial Aid and the great job they did to ensure the audit was a great success.

Dr. Marble noted it is not uncommon for an institution to have 10 to 12 adjustment entries, but MSSU had zero. This is the second year in a row with zero findings in both the Finance and the Financial Aid audits. This reflects exceptional work by all involved. Also, due to the expedited time frame for completion of the audit, the Board and the University receive timely information on the prior year's activities.

On behalf of the Board's Budget Audit committee a motion to accept the BKD audit for FY2015 as presented was made by Mitch McCumber and seconded by Bill Gipson. Motion passed. (The complete audit is included with the minutes in the permanent record book.)

Teacher Education Accreditation (Dr. Paula Carson):

Dr. Carson introduced Dr. Deborah Brown, Interim Dean, School of Education, and Dr. Lorinda Hackett, Interim Department Head, Teacher Education, who shared highlights of a recent accreditation process undergone by Teacher Education. This accreditation process took place simultaneously with two different accrediting bodies, the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) due to both of these licensures being required. MSSU's Teacher Education department is the first in the state to undergo an accreditation process under the new more rigorous standards and received an excellent pass rate in all areas.

Also noted in Dr. Brown and Dr. Hackett's report:

- ✓ MSSU ranks 7th on the Missouri Educator Program Pass Rate on the Missouri Content Assessment with thirty-one schools ranking below MSSU. It was noted other schools on this list have higher ACT scores and receive more funding, but despite these advantages that other schools have, MSSU achieved a 7th place ranking with a pass rate of 81.6%; a great accomplishment and tribute to the collaborative effort that enables MSSU's students to excel.
- ✓ Clinical Partnerships between MSSU and surrounding schools provide over 700 hours of real classroom experience for MSSU Teacher Education majors. Real classroom experiences begin during the sophomore year when students begin classroom observations and progress to teaching with teachers during Junior Block. Various practicums are available to students during their course of study at MSSU and student teaching is now a full semester.
- ✓ MSSU is a leader in technology and has been able to develop its own database with MSSU's IT department that assesses and evaluates students. This in-house tool is very useful for both faculty and students. Faculty members model best practices in technology and are continually learning and passing on new information to students.
- ✓ Students also have the opportunity for an international experience and one example given was an upcoming four week trip to Belize.
- ✓ The first cohort for the Elementary Education Completion Program has begun in June, Missouri which will enable students to complete this course of study in two years. Cooperative meetings are taking place with Northwest Arkansas Community College and Crowder which are both in support of this new program.
- ✓ Fifty different undergraduate programs are offered through MSSU's Teacher Education program and a Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) certification can be added to any of these programs.
- ✓ Graduate programs either in place or being developed include Curriculum and Instruction; Education Administration; and TESOL.

Show-Me Gold Program Commissioning (Dr. Paula Carson):

Dr. Carson introduced, Captain Chase Phillips, professor of military science and coordinator of the Show-Me Gold Program, who gave a brief overview of the program. Show-Me Gold is a collaborative officer training program between the Missouri Army National Guard and MSSU that is in its third year at the university. Student participants in this unique program must meet admission requirements for both MSSU and the Missouri Army National Guard and will enroll in regular academic programs as well as credit-bearing Military Science courses; MSSU offers a minor in Military Science.

This unique officer training program (SEMO is the only other university in the state that has a Show-Me Gold program) consists of credit-bearing classroom instruction, leadership laboratories and rigorous physical training which include water combat survival skills and repelling. Each year a very involved competition is held at Mizzou and this year all eight participating MSSU Show-Me Gold candidates qualified with six achieving the Gold Level and two achieving the Silver Level. MSSU also received the top male and female honors in this competition. The program is growing rapidly at MSSU and currently has 41 students contracted and is anticipated to reach full capacity of 50 in the very near future.

Captain Phillips introduced, Second Lieutenant Josh Turner, who is the first commissioned officer in MSSU's Show-Me Gold Program. Josh gave a brief overview of why the Show-Me Gold Program and MSSU was attractive to him and how Show-Me Gold and his time at MSSU has molded his life. Earlier this year Josh graduated from Officer Candidate School (OCS), an intense eight week course that is both mentally and physically demanding. OCS graduation was held at the foot of Mt. Rushmore for candidates from around the country. A commissioning ceremony for the Missouri National Guard was held on September 12th at the State Capitol in Jefferson City. Captain Phillips noted Josh's commissioning is a real milestone for Show-Me Gold and others will soon follow in Josh's footsteps. Josh will graduate in May from MSSU with a degree in Business Finance before continuing his military career in aviation.

Future Meeting Dates:

Dr. Marble noted due to he and Jared Bruggeman needing to attend the annual NCAA convention during the regularly scheduled time of the January Board meeting, a proposed date for the January Board meeting is Thursday, January 21st. Dr. Marble asked Board members to notify Board secretary Sharon Odem whether or not this date will work with their schedules. As soon as schedules are known, the date for the January Board meeting will be confirmed by notification from Sharon.

Adjournment:

Mr. Fleischaker noted a closed executive session was not needed and asked for a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Mitch McCumber and seconded by Michael Franks to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Secretary

Chair