



## Board of Governors Meeting

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President

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MSSU/KCU Medical School MOU signing – A large crowd was on hand for the Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> signing of the initial MOU with KCU Medical school that launched the “Yours to Lose” joint acceptance program for entering freshmen at Missouri Southern. This groundbreaking agreement will allow qualified and competitively selected students to be admitted to Missouri Southern and the KCU Medical School simultaneously. Upon completion of the specialized undergraduate pre-med program at Southern the student will begin Medical School without taking the MCAT entry exam. Hence, the “Yours to Lose” title... because the KCU Medical School acceptance will be awarded at first enrollment at MSSU and it is the student’s to “keep or lose” depending on their progress through the pre-med program.

Holiday Brunch and Awards – This annual event for classified and professional staff was held on Dec. 23 to recognize our irreplaceable support staff for their terrific contributions. Charles Reed (custodian) and Edward Kirkendall (Counselor) received the Classified Staff and Profession Staff outstanding employee of the year awards respectively (along with a check for \$750 each from the Missouri Southern Foundation). Several employees were recognized for their many years of faithful service – 5 yr., 10yr., etc. A list is attached to this report for your information.

Martin Luther King Day of Service – The Connor Ballroom was packed to capacity to celebrate MLK Day and hear a terrific message of “service” from Judge Jimmy Edwards, of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit of Missouri, in St. Louis. His eloquent, yet very direct message regarding the successes of the past and challenges of the future, resonated with everyone in attendance. Also, the late Dr. Al Cade was remembered for his life of service and for being responsible for organizing the MLK Day of Service on our campus for the past 25 years. Al's wife Dorothy was on hand to receive a very nice plaque and to hear Dr. Glenn Coltharp deliver a humorous and moving tribute to Dr. Cade. It was truly a wonderful day and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Faustina Abrahams and her committee for organizing such a great event.

Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Accreditation – As I shared with the Faculty at the recent semester opening meeting, starting this spring we will need to re-sharpen our focus on HLC accreditation and specifically the two areas of concern that were expressed in their last visit: Shared Governance and Strategic Planning. Frankly, I believe we have made great strides in shared governance and now we need to turn our attention to the strategic planning element – but in a way that is truly constructive for the University – not just a perfunctory exercise to satisfy HLC.

Actually, the HLC accreditation process can and should be a very healthy and positive experience for the institution and we will approach it in that manner. As a starting point for the Strategic Planning effort we can build on the work that has already been accomplished and I have included a copy of the current strategic plan with this report for your review.

As you can see, the document clearly states the Mission, Vision, and Values of the institution and lays out goals and objectives to be accomplished. The work now will revolve around reviewing this information to make sure it remains current and viable, measuring progress toward goal completion, and providing the necessary “evidentiary” documentation required by HLC. And, this is where our work with the Great Game of Education will come in handy as we will be able to indicate how we tie budgeting back to our goals and objectives, which is an area where many institutions have difficulty during the HLC accreditation process.

NCAA Convention – Of the many valuable topics covered at the recent NCAA Convention, I found the presentation by Dr. Brian Hainline, Chief Medical Officer, to be most interesting... and perhaps disturbing. Dr. Hainline has created the Sports Science Institute under the NCAA umbrella to study the benefits and challenges of sports from youth programs, high school athletics, NCAA participation, professional sports, and even adult health and fitness programs. As you might recall, it was Dr. Hainline that brought the issue of “concussions” to the forefront a few years ago and his research continues in that area.

But, this year he focused a great deal of attention on Cardiac Health and the dangers that undiagnosed conditions pose for athletes of all ages. We are very fortunate that athletes at our level undergo rigorous testing to rule out cardiac problems but many youth sports and older adult programs do not benefit from such rigorous pre-exams. And, his research indicates that 3 out of every 1,000 athletes have a serious underlying cardiac condition. So, his ongoing research should be of interest to all of us from a community health standpoint in addition to protecting our collegiate athletes.

Kiwanis – I had the opportunity to speak to Kiwanis recently and in putting the presentation together came across a couple of quotes that I found very useful and thought provoking. The quotes came from the dedication ceremony for new campus buildings here at what was called Mission Hills back in the early 1960’s. Governor Warren G. Hearnes, said “Missouri Southern is a catalyst for progress.” And, as I think about where this University has been and where it is headed, that is exactly what we have been... and what we should be... a catalyst for progress.

Also, during the dedication Fred G. Hughes, said “I’m sure if we put the clock ahead 10 years, we would be pleasantly surprised at the changes that will have taken place.” I know that certainly turned out to be the case then, and I trust it will be the case ten years from now... and far into the future.