

Board of Governors
08-21-15

Provost/VPAA

We would like to officially welcome Dr. Carson to the Missouri Southern Family and remind her of how pleased we are that she joined our team. Paula has hit the ground running and is already making a positive impact on campus and we know she will be a great asset for MSSU going forward.

Faculty/Staff Welcome

Over the past couple of weeks we conducted three separate sessions to welcome back faculty and staff (the staff sessions were broken into morning and afternoon so people could keep offices open for enrollment). The good news is that excitement fills the air in every corner, the bad news is that we did not all meet at one time to have this discussion. So, in the future we are planning to combine the meetings into something of a "State of the University" presentation and have all groups attend the same session. We believe it will help build unity and camaraderie, while ensuring that everyone receives the same information.

1. We are expanding the current President's Council from 6 members to 21 and retitling it the University Council to provide a much broader campus perspective (we will plan to meet monthly). Current members of the Presidents Council will continue to serve as my "direct reports" and will meet as needed.
2. To help recruit and enhance adjunct faculty retention we are planning to include them in our tuition discount program for children of employees (but at a slightly lower level - probably 50% discount) - this will help build a stable of adjuncts to call on when we need to add classes rapidly.
3. We are looking at increasing the full-time employee (and/or child) discount to 100% (up from the 75% now in effect). This is particularly popular with employees who are hoping to provide greater opportunities for their children by having them attend MSSU (and increasing to 100% will match our neighbors at PSU & Crowder).
4. Phased Retirement
The program could be offered to both faculty and staff who are eligible for retirement. Employees admitted into the program could retire, collect backdrop, start receiving monthly retirement benefits, and be hired back on a part-time basis for a limited term and with limited duties (must stay under 1,040 hours per year).

Allowed to stay on MSSU's health insurance

NOT A LUMP-SUM RETIREMENT INCENTIVE (BUYOUT)

Legislative Activity

The spring legislative session ended with the passage of a number of bills that directly impact operations at Missouri Southern. The following list is identical to the last time we met but all bills have now been signed by the Governor and will become law on August 28 (as is the case each year).

- HB16 was truly passed and signed by the Governor recently and it contains the money needed to reimburse us for the State's share of the cost of constructing the FEMA shelter in the Residence Hall area (the money will flow through SEMA – about \$800,000 total).
- HB3 is the bill that provides annual appropriations for public colleges and universities. As you recall, the House version of the funding bill included a 1.9% increase and the Senate version bumped the suggested increase to 3%. Sadly, the final version reverted to the 1.3% increase recommended by the Governor's budget. However, the clearly questionable decision to penalize MSSU for not attaining one of the five performance measures based on raising tuition beyond the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in 2012 reduced our funding increase to only .95% (after the "equity funding" adjustments).
- HB19 – The bonding bill to support the renovation of Reynold's Hall passed and includes \$5,228,422 for Missouri Southern.
- HB 17 – The so called "50/50 money" bill also passed and includes \$1.5 million for the renovation of Reynolds Hall, but requires a \$1.5 million local match from private donations.

We will be meeting with Senator Richard and Representative Flanigan soon after the veto session ends to discuss various items to contemplate for next session. And, we will plan a meeting of all area legislators for later in the fall to have a full discussion of the legislative priorities as they relate to MSSU.

COPHE (Council on Public Higher Education)

For the first time in memory, COPHE and MCCA (Missouri Community College Association) have presented a joint funding request to the Governor. The request is for a 5% increase in core funding plus a 2% increase for STEM related programs. I have no information on the Governor's reaction to the request at this point, but it is encouraging to see the sectors working together for the benefit of students.

Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE)

"Preparing Missourians to Succeed: A Blueprint for Higher Education"

Work should be completed and the final plan completed in time for the December meeting of the Coordinating Board. Major sections of the report will be devoted to: Access, Affordability, Quality, and Completion.

This working group has spent a great deal of time focusing on completion, because the State of Missouri adopted the Lumina Foundation goal of "increasing the proportion of Americans with high-quality degrees, certificates and other credentials to 60 percent by 2025." The latest complete figures from Lumina are from 2013 and indicate the nation is at about 40% and Missouri lags behind at 37.6%. So, increasing the proportion of Missourians with high quality degrees can easily be seen as a dire need when it is anticipated that 2/3 of the jobs created over the next decade will require education beyond high school.

However, we need to be very watchful that "Graduation Rates" do not become the carrot and stick to move the needle because it will inevitably lead to an erosion of rigor as campus after campus succumbs to the pressure to increase graduation rates. And, if state appropriations are eventually linked to graduation rates a very dangerous perverse incentive is created. We should avoid this at all costs.

CQI/Program Prioritization

Originally, we planned to have the CQI report as a topic of discussion this month, but determined that putting it off until later in the fall would best afford Dr. Carson the time needed to familiarize herself with the work. And frankly, we have all been so busy with back to school preparations that it has been impossible to give the subject adequate attention for presentation at this meeting. However, we would encourage you to send any questions or comments you have about the effort to us via email and we will address them in short order.

Partnerships

As mentioned earlier, we have had very encouraging discussions with both KCU and UMKC regarding partnerships with the Medical School and Dental School respectively. We anticipate these discussions to intensify and solidify into firm agreements in the near future.

Great Game of Education (GGOE)

Scott Cragin and Jeff Gibson are making great progress with the training content and schedule for the GGOE initiative and the first effort at developing a campus scoreboard is included below. Please note this is just our first effort and the final version may not look exactly like this one, but this is the direction we are heading... something that is simple and straight forward.

MSSU Scoreboard						
Period: April	Fiscal Year 2015		Fiscal Year 2014		Year to Date	
	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	FY15	FY14
Credit Hour Enrollment	66,163	60,651	65,962	59,998	135,971	134,688
Revenue	\$40,820,970	\$35,888,816	\$40,045,263	\$33,190,040	\$76,709,786	\$73,235,303
Expense	\$42,426,243	\$31,086,347	\$40,438,235	\$29,806,120	\$73,512,590	\$70,244,355
Unrestricted Cash	\$10,233,309	\$13,869,904	\$11,627,941	\$15,945,384		

Critical Number

\$11,450,029