



Board Report
08-23-16

Alan Marble

Faculty & Staff “Welcome Back” – For the first time our “welcome back” session last Friday morning included all faculty and staff (except those needed to keep certain offices open – we will rotate personnel over the semesters to make sure everyone can attend at some point). However, I do believe everyone was pleased to have everyone in the same place at the same time. It not only allowed for a unified message to be delivered but it also provided a time for faculty and staff to mingle in a friendly and festive environment.

Each member of the President’s Cabinet addressed the group to bring them up to date on the latest developments in their areas of responsibility (Rachel Burleson, Associate Athletic Director, filled in for Jared because he needed to attend a funeral in North Dakota). In addition to the other very important issues we did devote a sizable amount of time to the CBHE Blueprint for Higher Education and Senate Bill 997, because they will both be critical to our future planning, program development, and program delivery.

The capstone to the morning session was the official launch of the Great Game of Education... and you will hear more about that production in a few moments when Scott Cragin and crew present the kickoff video and bring you up to date on our progress.

Following the Welcome Back session, faculty members met with their respective Departments and Schools. The day was capped off with an all-campus party at the Elks Lodge in the evening... where we learned that our new food service provider is outstanding (Fresh Ideas).

As an interesting side note to the Great Game kickoff, last week I was invited to join Jack Stack and representatives of the University of Missouri to talk to them about incorporating the Great Game into their operation. It was a very informative and productive discussion, but very flattering to have Mr. Stack refer our Flagship University to us for assistance.

Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE) – The Coordinating Board recently hired Zora Mulligan, J.D. as the new Commissioner, replacing Dr. Russell who retired this spring. Zora has a deep understanding of Missouri higher education due to her experience working in the system for many years. I first met Zora some 15 years ago when she was employed by the Missouri Department of Higher Education. She then spent about 5 years as the Executive Director of the Missouri Community College Association and for the past 3 or so years has been employed as the Chief of Staff for the President of the University of Missouri System. So, as you can see she really has seen the operation from almost every angle. We believe she will be a very active advocate for higher education and will serve all of the State to the best of her ability.

Missouri Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) Commissioner – As you may know, the current MIAA Commissioner, Bob Boerighter, is retiring and the search for his replacement is entering the final stages. I will be in Kansas City next Monday to participate in interviews for the three finalists. The names are being kept confidential to protect their current employment, but we have three outstanding candidates.

Governing Board Forum – The annual CBHE Governing Board Forum was held on Aug. 4th in Columbia, MO, and we were well represented with Governors McCumber, Oplotnik, Hershewe, and Hankins joining me in attendance. As you might expect, we spent a good deal of time discussing the Blueprint and the college completion agenda. But, I thought we also had a couple of timely and insightful sessions on campus climate, diversity and inclusion, and the general issue of free speech on our campuses. I thought sessions were very well thought out and delivered, but I also invite any of the Governors to share their thoughts about the day.