



Board Report  
11-18-16

Alan Marble

Strategic Plan – The University Strategic Planning Committee (that I Chair) met on November 11 to finalize assignments for the concluding write up of the expiring plan (a copy of the current Strategic Plan is included in your packet). As you scan through the document you can see that we have made great strides in some areas and we have made smaller gains in other areas, but overall we have really made remarkable progress toward the attainment of the goals and objectives. The task now is to gather the documentary evidence of this progress and that's the work the Committee is currently engaged in.

The next version of our Strategic Plan needs to start here, with the Board of Governors, and a thorough review of the Mission, Vision, and Values statements to see if they remain relevant, are clearly articulated, and provide the “true north” for the University. We can take up this work in earnest next spring, but in the meantime I will be sending you selected pieces of literature to hopefully get us all thinking about the “big picture” and how Missouri Southern fits into the educational mosaic of Missouri.

Mission Review – As I'm sure you recall, Speaker of the House, Todd Richardson, charged the Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE) to conduct a “mission review” study of all public colleges and universities in the State. He also set a deadline of December 31 for the report to be delivered to his office. The staff at MDHE felt that a consulting group should be utilized and NCHEMS (National Center for Higher Education Management Systems) was selected to do the research, formulate recommendations, and write the report. Operating under such a tight timeline NCHEMS conducted a series of telephone interviews with college and university presidents to gather information for their report. A working group made up of representatives of the community college sector, public universities, and independent universities now have the unenviable task of filtering through the NCHEMS recommendations to hopefully find common ground for the report that is due next month. We should know more about their work soon.

Legislative – Later this month we will host a brunch for area legislators to share our list of request items for the session that starts in January. We are hopeful that the revenue picture in Missouri holds strong and perhaps even grows to accommodate the requests we know will be coming from colleges and universities all across the state.

We will also serve as a stop on the Freshman Legislative Tour slated for December 6<sup>th</sup>. Currently we don't know when the group intends to arrive or how much time we will have to acquaint them with the university. But, we are delighted to be able to showcase our campus to this new group of lawmakers.

Great Game – The Great Game of Education continues to gain momentum as the first two Basic Financial training modules have been completed by nearly 80% of all faculty and staff (we are less than 20 people shy of reaching our goal of 80%). Now, people are participating in the third module that digs deeper into the budgeting process and illustrates the various dimensions of our new scoreboard. The scoreboard is a very thoughtfully designed instrument that gives an overall picture of university finances, but also with the click of a mouse lets you view “unit level” figures. It’s a tool that we need to have Jeff and Scott demonstrate for you at some point because it puts all our financial data at the fingertips of every employee.

And, we are already starting to see results. For instance, at the most recent University Council meeting we heard a very informative report from James Capece, regarding the Library and its utilization. Under the leadership of James, the Library staff conducted a student foot traffic study to see if their operating hours and staffing obligations matched student demand. As it turns out, the Library staff recommend a slight shift in operating hours to better meet student demand... and to save money on staffing costs. This is just one of many opportunities the campus community is seizing to either cut costs or enhance revenue... while also maintaining or improving service.

Webster Medallion – Several of you were able to attend the recent inaugural presentation of the Webster Medallion and we were delighted that so many community members could come out and share this terrific day with Senator Richard and the Webster family. However, I would be remiss if I didn’t point out what a terrific job Dr. Hodson and his team did putting the event together. It was a wonderful day.

Diversity Forum – Faustina Abrahams and the Diversity and Inclusion Committee she chairs recently sponsored a Diversity Forum for students, faculty, and staff. The forum was brilliantly arranged as a panel discussion between representatives of our local law enforcement offices... City, County, and Campus law enforcement officials were all participants. Clive Veri, of Commerce Bank, volunteered to serve as moderator of the event and did a great job of involving everyone in the discussion. It was a great first step in uniting our campus and community through open dialog and honest conversation. I found it to be a very reassuring and positive experience.

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon Hall – To accommodate Governor Nixon’s busy schedule, his office settled on November 29<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 am, for the groundbreaking ceremony for the new addition behind Reynolds Hall that will be in honor of the Governor. The event will be held on the oval in front of Reynolds because the actual site of Nixon Hall involves a steep hillside that will not facilitate a tent or chairs. We hope many of you will be able to attend the groundbreaking to help celebrate the launch of this new facility.