

Board of Governors  
04-17-15

Provost/VPAA

As you know, the Search Committee concluded its work mid-March and Dr. Paula Carson accepted our offer to serve as Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Carson was here last week to house hunt and look into the school system options for her daughter. She stopped by during the visit and her energy and enthusiasm were refreshing and contagious. We are very optimistic about her potential here and delighted with the work of the Search Committee (it was perhaps the best working group I have ever witnessed and Dr. Garoutte did a wonderful job of keeping all faculty up to date and involved with the process).

Dr. Al Cade

Taylor Auditorium served as a perfect place to hold the memorial service for Dr. Cade and the family was very appreciative that the venue was made available to them. Al was a very special person and the service was a beautiful tribute to a life well-lived. Additionally, Dr. Cade was selected to receive the Governor's Excellence in Teaching Award this year and his wife and family were able to attend the awards ceremony and receive the recognition plaque on his behalf. This too was a very fitting tribute because John Jasinski, President of Northwest Missouri State University (NMSU), was the emcee for the awards ceremony and Dr. Cade was a standout athlete and Hall of Fame member at NMSU. Dr. Jasinski's personalized comments meant the world to the family and I was truly honored to be there to experience the moment.

Legislative Activity

This is proving to be another interesting year in Jefferson City, with much of the action revolving around new ethics legislation and funding of Social Services. But, within our sector two bills are worth pointing out.

- 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).
- 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%. The bill has now been sent to a Conference Committee to hammer out an agreement.
- Bonding bill – The bonding bill that would finance the renovation of Reynold's Hall is being held up over disagreements over a transportation tax. We hope these issues are resolved soon and that we eventually see the money needed to fund some vitally needed updates to Reynolds.

Great Game of Education (GGOE)

Plans for broad based GGOE training are in progress. The Critical Number Task Force identified "Operating Cash" as the University's critical number and a scoreboard template has been developed. Work has begun (largely Finance and IT) to identify the data points to be used to populate the scoreboard. The challenge in putting this model together is to ensure that the system creates a fair, accurate, and easily understood set of metrics - and

then has the appropriate reporting and accountability mechanisms in place to facilitate achievement. It's a work in progress but coming along nicely.

#### Medical School

Dr. Strait and I were honored to be invited to participate in the Investiture ceremonies for Dr. Marc Hahn as the 14<sup>th</sup> President of the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences (KCUMB). And, during his speech Dr. Hahn revealed that the school will now be known as Kansas City University (KCU) rather than KCUMB. He also announced new research partnerships with UMKC and the University of Kansas. But, the highlight of his speech was the official announcement that the Joplin Campus of KCU will open to students in the Fall of 2017. They plan to remodel and occupy the former Mercy hospital building that was recently vacated when the new facility on I-44 was opened. The Joplin Campus of KCU will enroll 150 medical students per year and will no doubt have an enormously positive impact on the local economy. However, we need to be prepared for a potential enrollment surge in our STEM programs as students are drawn to the area to position themselves for potential acceptance into the medical school program upon completion of pre-med studies here. So, the funding for Reynold's Hall renovation is desperately needed and we need to start planning for a major expansion project to accommodate the students in the already overcrowded building.

#### Coordinating Board for Higher Education

We have repeatedly expressed our disappointment in the way MSSU was treated with regard to the performance funding measure for Financial Accountability and we have unsuccessfully expressed our point of view several times. We simply believe it is unfair and illogical to use a 3-year old lagging measure as the metric to penalize the institution for exceeding the allowable "annual revenue increase per student" (tuition + state appropriation/ FTE student count). The anchor year for this penalty is 2011-12, and this is the year when a tuition waiver was sought and approved due to the devastating tornado of May 2011. To penalize the University for this period of time seems odd. Also, the performance funding measures we are now being held to did not exist in 2011-12, so no future penalties could be taken into consideration at the time. We will continue to work with the Department of Higher Education to see if we can rectify this calamity, but we may very well need to ask our Legislative contingency to weigh in.

However, on the good news side of the ledger, our proposed Master's Degree in Management was approved at the April 9 CBHE meeting. So, we will move as quickly as possible to move this program ahead because we have a significant number of students waiting to participate.

#### Regional Media Hall of Fame

The MSSU Communication Department hosted the annual Regional Hall of Fame awards ceremony on April 2. Dale Switzer of KOAM and Bob Foos owner of the Webb City Sentinel were inducted into the Hall of Fame this year. It was a terrific evening of celebration and a large note of appreciation should go to Ward Bryant and Judy Stiles for organizing the evening and the Ruth Kolpin Foundation for underwriting the event.