

Board of Governors
06-04-15

Provost/VPAA

Dr. Carson recently purchased a home in Joplin and plans to be on campus intermittently during June and then full time starting July 1. While we look forward to welcoming Dr. Carson to the MSSU family, we should also take time to express our appreciation for the job Dr. Lipira has done over the past few years. Pat brought stability, trust, and a dynamic sense of humor to a post that sorely needed her touch.

Legislative Activity

The spring legislative session ended with the passage of a number of bills that directly impact operations at Missouri Southern:

- 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). See attached spreadsheet for more information on campus by campus appropriations.
- 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.

COPHE (Council on Public Higher Education)

The COPHE group is currently working to convince state lawmakers that our appropriation level is far too low... especially when compared to neighboring states. For example, in the most recent year where spending totals are available (2012), higher education spending in Arkansas = \$3.3 billion, Oklahoma = \$4.8 billion, Kansas = \$2.4 billion, and Missouri = \$1.09 billion (National Association of State Budget Officers Report). Even though the population of Missouri dwarfs these smaller states they are clearly making a greater contribution to public higher education. Also, COPHE is very concerned about how the new job placement performance measure will be tracked and reported since the statutory wording is so vague... is your job "commensurate with the degree earned." The problems are numerous and obvious... survey data are difficult to acquire, graduates do not understand the question, etc.

Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE)

As you know, the Coordinating Board is in the process of conducting statewide hearings to get input for the next version of their strategic plan. The hearings are basically identifying things we already know... state funding is flat or falling and tuition rates are statutorily regulated not to exceed CPI. This funding squeeze is obvious and onerous, but few solutions have been suggested.

Great Game of Education (GGOE)

Plans for broad based GGOE training are in progress this summer with several faculty and staff members participating and some are in the process of becoming "in house" trainers here at Missouri Southern. The other task being undertaken this summer is to create the University Council (top level huddle) where all scoreboard items can be tracked and reported for accountability purposes. The scope and duties of the University Council will be the topic of deep discussion among the President's Council this summer and we intend to have a group identified and a charge established by early fall.

CQI/Program Prioritization

You will find a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) report in your packet. Originally, we planned to have the CQI report as a major topic of discussion at this month's meeting but the agenda became too packed with other critical items. So, we present the document to you for review and comment. We will plan to discuss it at the August meeting. NOTE: We have included the original list of "suggested improvements" from 2012 as an attachment at the end of the document so you can see how it ties to the current work. And, you will notice that each item in the CQI document is now linked to a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) to help us integrate the report with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) requirements.

Partnerships

As you know, we recently signed an articulation agreement with the Northwest Arkansas Community College (NWACC) Honors Program that is similar to those that exist with Crowder and Ozark Technical College (OTC). As a result of that meeting further discussions are underway to see if deeper relationships can be formed with students graduating from NWACC for their transfer into our Baccalaureate degree programs... especially if we are able to offer some of the classes in the Crowder facility at Jane, MO and some online. The Lion Pride Scholarship (giving NWACC students in-state tuition) coupled with the ease of accessibility combine to make us a very attractive option.