



Board Report
11-17-17

Alan Marble

Strategic Plan – The expected update on the Stakeholder Engagement Results is again late because I was only able to present the material to the Foundation Board yesterday and have yet to meet with the Student Senate. However, we are sifting through the responses and have a very good idea of the direction, but we do not want to influence student responses by sharing details prior to their participation. And, we needed to push back the report this morning for the critical update on Performance Funding at the work session as well. We will have Stakeholder input available at the January meeting.

University Council – The University Council met for the second time this semester on October 30th, to fulfill their dual purpose of functioning as the Central Huddle for the GGOE and as the campus wide policy approval and modification council. Items considered by the group include: Retro an Credit by Exam fees, Wellness Initiative, Southern Summit, tuition and fees in general, a Higher Learning Commission (HLC) update, and GGOE update regarding the development of our “noble cause” and referrals received after Rob Yust and Jeff Gibson made their presentation to a statewide gather of college and university CFO’s (at the invitation of Commissioner Mulligan). But, the major portion of the meeting focused on the new Performance Funding Model that is being put in place for next year. That discussion was led by Dr. Hodson and was very similar to the one you heard in the work session this morning.

Red, White, and Blue – I was very privileged to serve on the selection for the Red, White, and Blue awards program sponsored by TAMKO. This is an event that honors all area Law Enforcement, Fire Fighters, and EMS personnel. The awards are competitive with winners being selected in each category... along with a competition for the overall highest rated Law Enforcement Department, Fire Department, and EMS Department. While it was an honor to serve on the selection panel, this was one of the most difficult assignments you can imagine because the applications were filled with perfectly qualified individuals performing incredible acts of heroism. Therefore, picking the winners became a very tough task. I would like to personally thank David and Debra Humphries, along with Ron Cook who organized the event, for allowing me to be part of such a special recognition event.

October 27 – It’s not a day that will live in infamy, but it was plenty busy... and cold. The day started with our New Employee Welcome, where faculty and staff are invited to enjoy a light breakfast and get to know the new people who have joined our team this semester. It is a particularly joyful time that I always look forward to with anticipation and excitement because there is nothing like the energy of people starting a new journey at Missouri Southern. It was a great morning!

Then we followed that up with the Campus Rededication activities to celebrate 50 years at Mission Hills. Even though it was windy and cold, the program in front of Hearnese Hall was a delightful celebration and recounting of stories of the early years. All of the speakers gave

impressive, insightful, and emotionally charged messages that we should all take to heart as we embark on the next 50 years. After the public ceremony outside Hearnese, where the original dedication took place, we moved inside to an invitation only luncheon that was emceed by Brad Belk, and featured very moving speeches by Dr. Larry Martin, who retired as Vice President for Academic Affairs in 2004, and Dr. Conrad Gubera who is still teaching Sociology and is in his 51st year at MSSU. Both made captivating remarks, and since he is still an active faculty member... after 50 years on the job... we ended the ceremony by handing Dr. Gubera a reserved parking sign for the lot near his building.

The fun filled day of October 27th concluded with the fall semester ITS Friday (Ideas That Stick) presentation by Dr. David Penning, our resident snake expert or as he puts it "legless reptiles." He made a terrific presentation regarding many faulty assumptions we hold regarding snakes and then led us through the fascinating research that he, and some of his undergraduate students, are conducting... including strike speed of various types of snakes, defense mechanisms developed by prey, and how the King Snake is able to subdue and consume even venomous snakes. His work has been featured on PBS and the Discovery Channel, with the latest interviews with Discovery occurring while construction was underway in Reynolds Hall. If you ever have a chance to hear Dr. Penning be sure not to miss it.

Association of Governing Boards (AGB) – We have included a recent report from AGB in your packets that you can take home and read at your leisure, the opening line from the piece sums up the work... "an effort to engage and mobilize higher education board members in the national conversation around the value and mission of higher education." And, in my view, this is needed now more than ever. The report is built around a nationwide survey of board members and you will probably find yourself agreeing with some and disagreeing with some. It is a thought provoking piece that presents itself at the very time we are considering our Mission and determining our "noble cause."

Great Game of Education (GGOE) – The work of the Great Game continues to gain momentum and the fulfillment of the Board of Governors promise to share the results with the campus has been met with overwhelming joy and support. After the checks were mailed, we have been inundated with notes, cards, and expressions of gratitude that need to be passed on to you... the Board of Governors. Moreover, this gesture of good faith has further rekindled the fire of those already on board with GGOE and has spurred many to become more involved. Thank you again, from all of us.

Additionally, earlier this month Mr. Jack Stack was on campus to speak to the Joplin Tri-State IMA Chapter (Institute of Management Accountants), at the invitation of our own Dr. William Huffman, Professor of Accounting in the Plaster School of Business. We were able to have our GGOE Culture Committee attend the dinner, where we not only heard the great story of how the Great Game of Business developed... we were also identified by Mr. Stack as the only university in the country to actually put the Great Game concepts into practice on our campus.