

MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY
Board of Governors
Minutes

September 17, 2010 – 1:00 pm
Billingsly Student Center, Room 310

The September 17th meeting of the Missouri Southern State University Board of Governors was called to order by Chair, Rod Anderson. Governors in attendance were Rod Anderson, Dr. Sherry Buchanan, Dwight Douglas, Lynn Ewing, David Jones, Dr. Charles McGinty, Nancy Perry, and Richard Walter. Others in attendance were Dr. Bruce Speck, Dr. AJ Anglin, Dr. Mark Parsons, Rob Yust, Darren Fullerton, Dr. Cheryl Cifelli, Erik Hilgendorf, Ezekiel Tarrant, Linda Eis, Jon Dermott, and Sharon Odem.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rod welcomed the board and noted the school year was off to a good start.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Nancy Perry and seconded by Richard Walter to approve minutes of the August 20, 2010 Board meeting. Motion passed. (Minutes are archived in the permanent record book.)

REPORTS

Financial (Ms. Linda Eis, Treasurer):

- Cash Graph (August 2010)
- Statement of Net Assets
- Comparative Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets
- Cash Flow Statement

Linda noted as of August 31, 2010 the unrestricted cash balance is \$13.1 million which is an increase of \$4.7 million over August 31, 2009.

The annual audit is nearing completion and plans are to present it during the October board meeting. A meeting of the Budget Audit Committee is planned for October 4.

A motion was made by Dr. Charles McGinty and seconded by David Jones to approve the August 31, 2010 financial statements. Motion passed. (A copy of the financial statements for August 31, 2010 is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book.)

Construction (Mr. Rob Yust, Vice President for Business Affairs):

- **Health Sciences Building**
 - Project is almost complete.
 - Installation of digital x-ray equipment and work by the ITS department continues.
 - As of this date, approximately \$16.6 million of the budgeted \$18.9 million has been requested and reimbursed (in a timely manner) from the state Lewis & Clark Discovery Initiative funds. Rob also noted the cost of this building project will be well within the budgeted \$18.9 million.
- **Mansion Renovation**
 - Project is almost complete.
 - Grand opening is scheduled this weekend. Plans are to move the Alumni Association into the newly renovated mansion next week.

Rob noted a recent storm destroyed another 30 year old chiller and the replacement cost will be very costly. Rob noted this is another example to justify establishing a plan for deferred maintenance.

VP for Development/Executive Director of the Foundation (Dr. Mark Parsons):

Dr. Parsons introduced and welcomed Cecilia Hempen as the new Executive Secretary/Office Manager of the Development/Foundation office.

VP for Development/Executive Director of the Foundation (continued):

- **Alumni Relations**
 - Dr. Parsons noted the many upcoming events associated with the grand opening of the newly renovated Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center.
 - Dr. Parsons noted \$1.8 million has been raised since 2004 to complete this project.
- **University Relations & Marketing (URM)**
 - The first meeting of the Integrated Marketing Committee is scheduled for September 29.
 - Dr. Parsons noted Rod Surber has done a great job recruiting broad representation of people from across campus to serve on this committee.
- **Development**
 - The Southern Annual Fund will begin soon and plans are to begin the Phonathon in February.
 - Upcoming events planned in October include the Lantern Society Dinner and the President's Gala Concert which will be included in homecoming activities.
 - Development of plans for MSSU's 75th Anniversary Celebration (Fall 2011 through Spring 2012) continues. Dr. Parsons expressed appreciation to Dr. Sherry Buchanan for her willingness to serve on this planning committee.

VP for Academic Affairs (Dr. AJ Anglin):

Work on Strategic Planning and Shared Governance is in progress to prepare for the Higher Learning Commission Focus Visit scheduled for Spring of 2011. Richard Walter, as a Board representative, is serving on two of the newly formed committees. Dr. Anglin expressed appreciation for Mr. Walter's service.

Work continues on collaborative efforts between MSSU and Crowder with emphasis on Crowder's students completing their 4 year degrees at MSSU and the potential of sharing faculty development efforts between the two campuses.

Interim VP for Student Affairs (Mr. Darren Fullerton):

Darren noted his office has also entered into a collaboration agreement with Crowder for staff development and training.

A Shared Governance Philosophy Statement (a result of the Strategic Planning Retreat) was given to the Board. No formal action was required. *(A copy of the Shared Governance Philosophy Statement is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book.)*

- **Admissions**
 - Official census numbers will be locked in at 5:00 p.m. today.
 - Indicators are the Freshmen and transfer enrollments have increased with possibly over 600 transfer students and the largest Freshmen class in the last 4 years.
- **Project Stay**
 - Evaluator scores from the grant competition (program received word in August of refunding for 5 years) have been received. The three individual evaluators gave scores of 97, 98, and 99 out of a possible 100 to MSSU.
- **Student Senate**
 - Student Senate is restructuring and will hold meetings every other week. During off meeting weeks committees will meet to work on specific projects.
 - Darren noted he is very proud of Student Senate and looks forward to a positive future.

Faculty Liaison (Dr. Cheryl Cifelli - Faculty Senate, President):

- Faculty Senate met August 30th with the next Senate meeting scheduled for October 4.
- Three committees (Survey, Promotion/Tenure, One and Three Year Contract) have been finalized.

Board Chair, Rod Anderson, read a prepared statement on behalf of the Board. The statement challenged the campus to work together, formalize a strategic plan, respond to Governor Nixon's mandate to review all academic programs, and to not perform a "satisfaction survey" as suggested by Faculty Senate. Chair Anderson noted "it is now time to let the new administrative team do its job".

A motion was made by Dwight Douglas and seconded by Dr. Sherry Buchanan to include the entire statement read by Chair Anderson as an addendum to the Board minutes. Motion passed.

Staff Liaison (Mr. Erik Hilgendorf – Staff Senate, President):

- For better representation and to broaden the scope of Staff Senate, nominations are being sought for new senators in the areas of classified (2), professional (2) and at-large (1).
- As a way to build morale, beautify the campus, and bring faculty, staff, students and organizations together, campus projects are being worked on. The Chart staff and Library staff have already joined these efforts.
- A quick reference resource supplement is being developed.
- Various and new ways to recognize outstanding employees are being explored.

Student Representative (Mr. Ezekiel Tarrant):

Student Senate is off to a great start with only a few vacancies remaining. The first meeting of the semester was held last Wednesday and the following committees have been formed: Capital Improvement, Public Relations, and a committee to review the constitution and by-laws. Future plans include a retreat to acclimate new members.

Board Committees:

Academic Affairs (Dr. Charles McGinty & Richard Walter Co-Chairs):

Dr. McGinty reported the Academic Affairs committee met before today's board meeting. Debbie Dutch Kelley made a presentation and gave the committee policy materials to review.

Budget Audit (David Jones, Chair):

No report given. This committee has not met since the last Board meeting. David Jones noted the next meeting is planned for October 4, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

President (Dr. Bruce Speck):

Dr. Speck congratulated Judy Stiles who was recently honored as a Woman of Distinction and reported the following.

- The Fall semester is off to a great start with many Brazil themed semester events and various athletic competitions taking place.
- Governor Nixon is fast tracking educational reform in Missouri with four areas of focus: attainment, academic program review, cooperation and collaboration, and funding.
 During recent COPHE and CBHE meetings, details were shared about these four areas, particularly academic program review and the request for a tuition waiver process. Dr. Speck noted Governor Nixon's deadline for completion of the statewide program review process is the December 2010 COPHE meeting. Dr. Speck also noted Governor Nixon is sending a clear message that after two years of no tuition increases for state institutions, tuition increases are acceptable and the waiver process is a legitimate approach.
- Next year at least a 15% reduction in state appropriations is expected.
- Dr. Speck expressed appreciation for Governor Nixon's leadership in setting an agenda for public higher education and noted Governor Nixon's agenda will require a reformation of higher education as we know it.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Consideration of Academic Policies Proposals (Dr. AJ Anglin, V.P. Academic Affairs):

None to report.

Consideration of Appointments, Retirements, Resignations (Dr. AJ Anglin, V.P. Academic Affairs):

None to report.

OTHER ITEMS:

Chair Anderson noted a committee chaired by Nancy Perry who will be assisted by Lynn Ewing has been formed to review the board by-laws. Also serving on this committee will be Dwight Douglas.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Nancy Perry and seconded by Lynn Ewing. Motion passed. (A closed Executive Session was not needed.)


Secretary


Chair

Board Chair Anderson

9/17/2010

We are at the beginning of a new academic year so we need to work on the University's needs and challenges for the future. I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and the strength of the University. Many of the challenges that we face are not of our making. How we face these challenges will be determined by the leadership of the University. We have a new V.P. for Academic Affairs and a new Interim V.P. for Student Affairs and V.P. for Business Affairs. The administrative team is now complete and dedicated to the success of this University. They and the Board of Governors are committed to a shared governance policy.

We in the University community have been through some rough waters over the last three years. More challenges lie ahead. Within the next few weeks and months we will be finalizing a formal strategic plan to guide the University into the future. It is important that each of the University's components function well in their area of assigned responsibility in order to complete and implement this plan.

The method of delivery of higher education in Missouri is under review by the State of Missouri in a time of declining resources. Missouri no longer has the commitment to fund higher education as it has in the past.

On August 17, 2010 Governor Nixon displayed leadership and clearly set forth the challenges that we face: "Today higher education is at a crossroads – not just in Missouri – but across America. To survive and thrive, higher education must make fundamental changes in its business model, including how instruction is delivered, how degree programs are organized, and how remedial education is achieved." He went on to say that "We must take a hard and unsentimental look at all academic programs, and cut clear those that are of low productivity, low priority, or duplicative." The Governor made it clear that he has instructed the Department of Higher Education to collaborate closely with the state Universities to develop and conduct a state-wide, systematic review of all degree programs at public institutions.

The Board of Governors must ask for the assistance and leadership of the faculty in undertaking this process. It is a time of fundamental change and we must decide if we are to be a part of the process or whether we are content to let it happen without our involvement and input. I suggest that we act now to plan the future. The Governor has directed that he receive regular reports from the Department of Higher Education on the progress being made. This is a matter of utmost urgency.

So with this background I now come to the issue of a "satisfaction survey" suggested to be performed by the Faculty Senate. Such a survey has not been identified as a need by this Board of Governors and such an undertaking is beyond the needs to be focused upon at this challenging time.

It is now time to let the new administrative team do its job. Dr. Anglin is the contact point and is charged to work with our faculty. Undertaking "satisfaction surveys" in the middle of a financial tsunami is counterproductive and poses the risk that all of us will be distracted from the major issues facing us in outlining and shaping our future. We understand funding cuts past, present and most definitely in the future does not foster satisfaction. We the Board are also not satisfied.

We have made great progress in placing this University on sound financial footing for the near term. Larger challenges lie ahead if we are to thrive. We are facing up to a 15% cut in state funding for next year. Let's keep our eye on the ball and decide how we meet the financial and organizational challenges facing us so that the administration and faculty lead and direct our own destiny.

I challenge all the faculty and administration and staff to move forward with the new issues of the day so that we all may face a bright future together.