

MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY
Board of Governors Minutes
January 9, 2026
BSC Boardroom

The January 9, 2026, meeting of the Missouri Southern State University Board of Governors was called to order by Chairman Carlos Haley. Governors in attendance were Carlos Haley, Anita Oplotnik, Dr. Benjamin Rosenberg, Rodney Hendricks, Mariann Morgan, T. Mark Elliott, and Michael Seibert.

Others in attendance included Dr. Dean Van Galen, Dr. Lisa Toms, Dr. Shellie Hewitt, Linda Eis, Michelle Wood, Rob Mallory, Dr. Nicole Shoaf, Dr. Stephanie Goad, Morgan Robinson, and Diana Follmer.

MINUTES

Chairman Haley asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the November 14, 2025, Board meeting, none were noted.

A motion was made by Governor Benjamin Rosenberg and seconded by Governor Michael Seibert to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2025, Board meeting as submitted. Motion passed unanimously (minutes are archived in the permanent record book).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Haley asked if there were any announcements. None were noted.

REPORTS

President – Dr. Dean Van Galen:

Note: Highlights of Dr. Van Galen's report are as follows. Additional information can be found in a handout distributed to the Board that is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book.

President Dean Van Galen reported that the spring semester would soon be underway, with the first day of classes scheduled for Monday. He noted that the Spring Semester Kickoff meeting for all employees was held the previous day in the Taylor Performing Arts Center, and that this year the program included a new element. Three Missouri Southern students were invited to speak about their academic journeys and campus experiences, and President Van Galen shared several of their sentiments with the Board.

Kseniia Ponomarova, an international business major from the Ukraine and a graduate of Lamar High School, shared that the support she has received from her advisor and faculty members has made "MSSU feel like home." Matthew Bragg, a junior theater major from Centerton, Arkansas, spoke about how his advisor, Natasha O'Brien, has consistently encouraged him to explore new opportunities and try new things. By the way, if you go to our basketball games, Matthew Bragg looks a lot like Roary at those games. He does a great job. Yulissa Gomez-Delgado, a business administration major from Noel, Missouri,

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described how she toured several universities before selecting MSSU and stated that the university's smaller campus size created a strong sense of community for her, adding that she could not imagine attending anywhere else. President Van Galen said these students reflections served as a meaningful reminder of the impact the university has on its students and the larger community.

President Van Galen also reported that, prior to the holiday break, the university sponsored many engaging activities, several of which were detailed in his written report to the Board.

Green and Gold Tours

President Van Galen highlighted the Green and Gold Tours, noting that the most recent tour was held in Sarcoxie. He explained that this initiative connects Missouri Southern with key area high schools by bringing admissions staff together with students, parents, and teachers. The events culminate in a scholarship giveaway held in conjunction with a high school basketball or football game. President Van Galen stated that the Green and Gold Tours serve as excellent student recruitment opportunities and demonstrates the university's commitment to the region it serves. Over the past four years, MSSU has conducted 15 Green and Gold Tours at 15 high schools across Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas.

He reported that the next Green and Gold Tour would take place in Webb City on January 27 and extended special thanks to the admissions team, frequently joined by colleagues from University Relations and Marketing, as well as Roary, for their leadership in these efforts.

Milestones for 2026

President Van Galen noted that the coming year would include several important milestones for the university. Over the next 12 months, the university anticipates the opening of the Roy Blunt Health Science Innovation Center, which he described as a transformational facility that will provide new immersive learning opportunities for students and serve as a new front door to Missouri Southern for prospective students and the community. Plans are underway for a grand opening event in August, just prior to the start of fall classes.

Additional milestones include the reopening of two newly renovated facilities: the Leggett & Platt Athletic Center and the Mayes Student Life Center. President Van Galen also reported that the university would commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Alumni Mansion, built by Buck and Ethel Buchanan in 1926, with a series of events, including during this fall's Homecoming. He further stated that the university looks forward to surpassing the Lions Forward campaign goal of \$42.7 million and to seeing the lasting impact of this philanthropic support on the university's future.

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State Budget Challenges

President Van Galen advised the Board that, while there is much to anticipate in 2026, the year will likely present a challenging environment for Missouri's public colleges and universities. He reported that Governor Mike Kehoe is scheduled to deliver the State of the State address the following Tuesday, after which greater clarity will be available regarding the Governor's proposed higher education budget. President Van Galen noted that statewide leaders, including the State Auditor and the House Budget Chair, have already indicated that the state is entering a difficult budgetary period.

He explained that contributing factors include the depletion of Missouri's COVID-related reserve funds and revenue reductions resulting from recent legislative decisions, including the elimination of the capital gains tax. President Van Galen stated that it is unlikely the next fiscal year, and potentially beyond, will include significant new investment in higher education, and expressed hope that funding levels would at least be maintained. He affirmed that the university will continue to advocate for MSSU with elected officials and will work closely with the Board to ensure the institution remains fiscally sound while prioritizing its core educational mission.

Statewide Mission

To conclude his report, President Van Galen shared a positive update regarding the campaign to increase awareness and leverage the university's expanded statewide mission, noting that the effort is fully underway. Board members were provided with a brochure related to the campaign. He drew attention to the campaign tagline, "Explore Boldly. Care Deeply. Impact Globally.," which represents the three pillars of the statewide mission: immersive learning, health and life sciences, and global education. President Van Galen concluded by sharing a brief video created as one of several tools to communicate the new statewide mission and the opportunities it provides to students, the community, and the state of Missouri.

Questions:

There were no questions from the board.

Provost & VP for Academic Affairs – Dr. Lisa Toms:

Note: Highlights of Dr. Tom's report are as follows. Additional information can be found in a handout distributed to the Board that is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book.

Immersive Learning

Dr. Toms began by noting that the Department of Art and Design, in collaboration with the Missouri Small Business Development Center at Missouri State University, hosted the 12th annual Nanette Filbert Business of Art Symposium on November 12 at the Ralph L.

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Gray Alumni Center. She explained that this professional development event for studio art and design majors focused on resources, issues, and considerations that creatives must navigate as they pursue or continue professional practice. Guest speakers included master mold maker and figurative sculptor Kent Kidwell; art director June Pham from the Northwest Arkansas office of Saatchi & Saatchi; and recent MSSU alumna Jaclyn Kidd, a graphic designer with Leggett and Platt Creative Services.

Theatre and Community Engagement

Dr. Toms also reported that the Theatre Division presented *River Stories*, written by Assistant Professor NaTasha O'Brien-Davies. The production was performed for 1,056 area middle school students, members of the campus community, and the general public. She described the performance as well received and noted that those who attended found it to be delightful.

Model United Nations Experiential Learning

Dr. Toms shared that students from the Social Science and International and Political Affairs programs traveled to Chicago from November 22–25 to participate in the American Model United Nations simulation. The students represented the country of Sierra Leone and had prepared for the competition as part of Dr. Bill Fischer's Model United Nations course during the fall 2025 semester, which is directly connected to the event.

Internship and Career Preparation Opportunities

Dr. Toms further reported that on December 4, the Department of Language and Literature hosted Cheltha Wray, internship specialist for Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and the Momentary, along with Debra Parker, people services coordinator at Crystal Bridges. The presenters led a session on internship opportunities, which was attended by more than two dozen students and faculty members from a variety of academic departments. Attendees learned about the wide range of internships available at the museum.

Undergraduate Research

Dr. Toms highlighted undergraduate research conducted with Dr. Alasmar from the Department of Kinesiology involving the use of a PENDL device. She explained that the research examined the positive effects of weightlessness and unrestricted movement on individuals with shoulder injuries. Students participating in the project received an undergraduate research grant from the American College of Sports Medicine Central States and will present their findings at the organization's annual meeting in March. Dr. Toms noted that students involved in the research expressed enthusiasm for the project and believed the experience, including support from medical professionals, strengthened their medical school applications.

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Student Teacher Support and State Scholarships

Lastly, Dr. Toms reported that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education received approval to distribute \$1,000 grants to student teachers for the spring 2026 semester through the Missouri Teaching Recruitment and Retention State Scholarship Program. Of the 74 student teachers participating this spring, 41 met the eligibility requirements, which included Missouri residency under institutional policy and not being employed by a school district. She noted that the recipients would be notified during their student teaching seminar on January 21st.

Questions:

There were no questions from the board.

Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer – Ms. Linda Eis

Note: Highlights of Ms. Eis's report are as follows. Additional information can be found in a handout distributed to the Board that is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book.

Fiscal Year 2025 Audit

Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer Linda Eis reported that the federal compliance supplement for the FY25 audit has been issued and included no significant changes. She noted that the long-form audit would be formally approved later in the meeting, which would complete the audit review process for fiscal year 2025.

Budget Planning and Financial Monitoring

Ms. Eis reported that the FY27 budget process is ongoing throughout the year. She stated that the university continues to closely monitor enrollment and retention trends, track developments related to state support during the legislative session and evaluate additional expenses and savings as they arise in order to incorporate them into future budget planning.

Mayes Student Life Center Renovation

Ms. Eis provided an update on the Mayes Student Life Center renovation, noting that bids have been issued and are due back by the end of January. She expressed enthusiasm about the project and reported that construction is expected to occur primarily from February through August, with the goal of reopening the facility in time for the arrival of students this fall.

Roy Blunt Health Science Innovation Center

Ms. Eis reported that progress continues on the Roy Blunt Health Science Innovation Center, with new milestones being reached regularly. She noted that much of the current work is occurring inside the building and that, while additional work remains, the project

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is approximately five to six months from occupancy. She stated that the facility is on track to open and be ready for students for the fall semester.

Willcoxon Health Center Improvements

Ms. Eis reported that the Willcoxon Health Center recently underwent replacement of flooring throughout the entire facility. She noted that this improvement was made possible through the generous contribution of a Missouri Southern donor and expressed appreciation for the donor's support.

Taylor Education Building Update

Ms. Eis provided an additional update regarding the Taylor Education Building, noting that damage sustained in November was repaired on a short timeline. She expressed gratitude to the building occupants and the Facilities team for their collaboration and responsiveness. She reported that staff moved back into the building over winter break with assistance from movers and that the building was fully operational in advance of students returning for the spring semester.

Employee Appreciation and Years of Service Recognition

Ms. Eis reported on the recent employee appreciation brunch, during which 24 employees were recognized for a combined total of more than 305 years of service. She stated that the event is an annual highlight and thanked the Human Resources team for organizing the event, with support from Facility Services, Information Technology, and Fresh Ideas. She also expressed appreciation to the Missouri Southern Foundation for sponsoring the years-of-service awards and supporting the Superior Service award recipients.

Financial Statements – Period Ending December 31, 2025

Ms. Eis reviewed the financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2025. She reported that the cash graph reflected a cash balance of \$18.2 million. The statement of net position showed total assets of \$217 million, liabilities of \$129 million, and net position of \$88 million.

Ms. Eis then reviewed the comparative statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position, noting that operating revenue reflected a decrease of approximately \$500,000, while operating expenses decreased by \$32,000. She highlighted several contributing factors within operating expenses, including an increase in health insurance costs of more than \$600,000 due to increased claim activity, and an increase in other benefits totaling \$186,000, largely attributable to a Missouri State Employee Retirement System (MOSERS) rate increase of approximately \$150,000.

Ms. Eis also reported that scholarship expenses decreased by approximately \$500,000.

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Ms. Eis explained that, after reviewing the data with Interim Financial Aid Director Alicia Hughes, it was determined that 139 fewer students received Pell Grants this year, representing a reduction of approximately \$331,000, and 204 fewer students received Access Missouri funding, representing a reduction of approximately \$241,000. She noted that spring disbursement figures are being monitored and that updated information will be provided following completion of the spring disbursement cycle.

Ms. Eis reported that non-operating revenues decreased by \$275,000 and noted the offsetting reduction in Pell Grant revenue. Before other revenues, the current year reflected a decrease of \$2.5 million, compared to a decrease of \$1.7 million in the prior year, resulting in an additional year-over-year decrease of \$800,000. She reported that other revenues increased by \$4.2 million, primarily reflecting state capital appropriations for the Roy Blunt Health Science Innovation Center.

Ms. Eis concluded by reporting that the university has submitted and received the final reimbursement from the State of Missouri for the Roy Blunt Health Science Innovation Center project, totaling \$30 million.

Questions:

Governor Oplotnik asked whether the university's cash balances were earning a fixed interest rate. Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer Linda Eis responded that the rate is not fixed but currently falls within a contractual range and is approximately 3.7% to 3.9%.

Governor Elliott asked whether the decrease in Pell Grant recipients reflected a broader trend at other Missouri institutions. Ms. Eis responded that she would consult with Financial Aid leadership and review data from peer institutions, as well as monitor spring and fall enrollment trends.

Chair Haley asked about the longest years of service recognized at the employee retention celebration. Ms. Eis responded that employees with up to 25 years of service were recognized. There are many employees who spend their entire career at Missouri Southern.

There were no further questions.

A motion was made by Governor Anita Oplotnik and seconded by Governor Michael Seibert to approve the December, 2025 financial statements as presented. Motion passed unanimously. (A copy of the financial statements for December, 2025 is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book).

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Interim VP for University Advancement – Mrs. Michelle Wood

Note: Highlights of Mrs. Wood's report are as follows. Additional information can be found in a handout distributed to the Board that is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book.

Lions Forward Campaign Progress

Vice President for University Advancement Michelle Wood reported on the status of the Lions Forward campaign, noting that as of late November the campaign had raised \$40.5 million toward its \$42.7 million goal, representing 95% completion with approximately 18 months remaining. She reported that the campaign is positioned strongly as it enters its final phase.

Mrs. Wood noted that funding aligns closely with institutional priorities. Enhancing the student experience has exceeded its goal at 134%, reflecting strong donor support for scholarships, student success initiatives, and co-curricular opportunities. Funding for fostering academic excellence and building the campus of the future is also nearing established goals.

Endowment Stewardship and Reporting

Mrs. Wood reported that endowment reports were distributed to donors in December. These reports provide detailed information regarding fund performance and management and serve as a stewardship tool supporting transparency, fiscal oversight, donor confidence, and continued engagement.

Statewide Mission Expansion

Mrs. Wood provided an update on efforts to expand awareness of Missouri Southern's statewide mission. She reported that Missouri Southern holds a unique position in Missouri's higher education landscape as the only institution with a statewide mission integrating health and life sciences, immersive learning experiences, and global education as core pillars across all disciplines.

Mrs. Wood reported that a cross-campus committee, led by Lisa O'Hanahan, Senior Director of University Development, and Abby Morris, Director of University Relations and Marketing, is working to broaden awareness of the mission, strengthen engagement with external partners, and support recruitment and enrollment efforts. One outcome of this work is the development of a comprehensive media toolkit to ensure consistent messaging across the institution and with external audiences. The video that was shown to the Board is part of this toolkit.

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Willcoxon Innovation in Health Sciences Summit

Mrs. Wood reported that planning is underway for the Willcoxon Innovation in Health Sciences Summit scheduled for March 27. The event will convene national and regional leaders to explore health care innovation, emerging technologies, and rural health challenges, while also showcasing Missouri Southern's facilities, faculty expertise, and our expanding role in health and life sciences.

Alumni and Donor Engagement

Mrs. Wood reported that signature alumni and donor engagement events, including Choral Flourish and Holiday Happenings at the Alumni Center, continue to strengthen relationships with alumni, donors, and friends of the university and support continued engagement and philanthropy.

Mrs. Wood also provided an update on the Loinbacker Campaign, noting that new engagement initiatives continue to strengthen relationships among supporters, coaches, and student-athletes while reinforcing sustained involvement in Missouri Southern athletics.

Mrs. Wood announced upcoming events, including the Scholarship Dinner on March 10 and the Lantern Society Dinner on April 17.

Mrs. Wood concluded her report by stating that advancement momentum remains strong financially, strategically, and relationally.

Questions:

There were no questions from the board.

Associate VP of Admissions & Enrollment – Dr. Shellie Hewitt

Note: Highlights of Dr. Hewitt's report are as follows. Additional information can be found in a handout distributed to the Board that is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book.

Recruitment and Enrollment Strategy

Dr. Shellie Hewitt reported that Admissions and Enrollment Services continues to implement a coordinated recruitment and retention strategy that combines targeted marketing, high-impact student programs, and campus visit conversion efforts. She noted that early indicators show sustained strength in health and STEM programs, as well as continued regional demand extending beyond Missouri.

Marketing and Recruitment Initiatives

Dr. Hewitt reported that current spring marketing campaigns are active across a diversified media mix, including streaming television, Meta platforms, Snapchat, Google

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display and search, streaming radio, network television, and updated billboard creative. She stated that marketing efforts are increasingly program-specific, coordinated, and data-informed.

Additional strategic marketing initiatives include use of the statewide mission toolkit, student media preference research, new program marketing onboarding, transfer and international student recruitment, community college outreach, communications strategies, scholarship promotion, and integration of the RAVE system with social media platforms. Dr. Hewitt noted that these efforts reflect closer alignment between marketing strategies, enrollment priorities, and academic program growth.

Global Leaders Program

Dr. Hewitt reported that the Global Leaders Program enrolled 23 new students for the fall 2025 semester. She noted strong representation in biomedical sciences, business, education, psychology, health sciences, social sciences, and arts-related fields. She reported that the program provides leadership and professional development activities and is producing measurable gains in communication skills, professional readiness, and leadership development, supporting institutional goals related to student success and workforce preparation.

Fall 2025 Campus Tours

Dr. Hewitt provided an update on individual campus tours conducted for fall 2025 recruitment. She reported that 150 prospective students participated in campus tours, accompanied by 235 guests, indicating significant family involvement in enrollment decisions. Top academic interests among visiting students included health sciences, biology and sciences, education, business and technology, and exploratory studies. She reported that prospective students visited from six states and noted that the data reflects continued strength in health and STEM interest along with broader academic demand across other disciplines.

Enrollment Outlook

Dr. Hewitt summarized that recruitment operations remain active, diversified, and increasingly strategic. She stated that campus visits and the Global Leaders Program are serving as effective engagement and yield drivers, and that enrollment demand remains strong for health and STEM programs with sustained regional interest. She noted that these efforts support both near-term enrollment stability and long-term strategic positioning.

Questions:

There were no questions from the board.

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Director of Athletics – Mr. Rob Mallory

Note: Highlights of Mr. Mallory's report are as follows. Additional information can be found in a handout distributed to the Board that is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book.

Academic Performance of Student-Athletes

Director of Athletics Rob Mallory reported that student-athletes achieved a collective GPA of 3.25 for the fall 2025 semester. He noted that 10 athletic programs recorded a team GPA of 3.2 or higher, led by women's golf and softball. Individually, 187 studentathletes earned a GPA of 3.5 or higher, including 78 with a 4.0 GPA. Mr. Mallory reported that the department's cumulative GPA currently stands at 3.32, marking the 15th consecutive semester above a 3.0 and the highest cumulative GPA on record, dating back to the 2007–2008 academic year.

Coaching Appointments

Mr. Mallory reported that two new head coaches have been announced since the previous meeting. In November, Josh Moore was promoted to head volleyball coach after serving as interim head coach during the fall 2025 season following the sudden resignation of the previously hired coach. Mr. Mallory reported that student-athletes have responded positively to Coach Moore's leadership.

Mr. Mallory also reported that Elliot Chadderton was named head coach of the women's soccer program. Coach Chatterton joins Missouri Southern from Neosho County Community College, where he coached both men's and women's teams over a five-year period. Mr. Mallory noted that Coach Chatterton led a significant turnaround of the women's program and later guided the men's team to a national runner-up finish in 2024.

NCAA Division II Legislative Updates

Mr. Mallory reported that the NCAA Convention will take place the following week in Washington, D.C., and that Division II membership will consider 16 legislative proposals and one resolution.

Mr. Mallory highlighted three proposals of particular significance. The first would establish women's flag football as an NCAA emerging sport, creating governance related to playing and practice seasons and scholarship limits.

The second would adopt the NCAA Power Index (NPI) as the sole metric for postseason championship selections, replacing committee-based evaluation. Mr. Mallory explained that the NPI is a weighted formula incorporating winning percentage, strength of schedule, home and away results, and quality wins.

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The third proposal would move Division II athletics from a four-season to a five-season eligibility model over 10 semesters. Mr. Mallory reported that, if adopted, the change would take effect August 1, 2026, and would apply to student-athletes on rosters during the 2025–2026 academic year. He noted that this proposal is expected to be among the most debated items at the convention.

Board Questions

Governor Seibert asked for Mr. Mallory’s opinion on the proposed five-season eligibility legislation. Mr. Mallory responded that while he is not opposed to the concept of five seasons of competition, he believes the current proposal is poorly crafted. He cited concerns related to the proposed implementation timeline, inclusion of current studentathletes, administrative complexity, and potential financial impact. He stated that he would have preferred a delayed implementation or application to future incoming students.

Chair Haley asked when the NCAA Power Index would be implemented if approved. Mr. Mallory responded that implementation would begin in the next academic year and stated that he anticipates the proposal will pass.

No further questions were asked.

Faculty Senate President – Dr. Nicole Shoaf

Note: Highlights of Dr. Shoaf’s report are as follows. Additional information can be found in a handout distributed to the Board that is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book.

Faculty Engagement and Professional Development

Dr. Nicole Shoaf reported that faculty engagement efforts have continued since the previous Board meeting. She noted that Scott Snell joined the December faculty meeting to discuss the Center for Integrated Educational Excellence and the upcoming implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, which take effect in April.

Dr. Shoaf reported that the guidelines will require all online course materials to meet specific accessibility standards, including alternative text for images and descriptive labels for hyperlinks. She stated that while individual requirements are manageable, the volume of required updates across course sites necessitates broad faculty awareness and consistent review during course development.

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Reduction of Bureaucratic Barriers

Dr. Shoaf reported continued efforts to reduce administrative and procedural barriers for faculty. She described a proposed initiative to centralize university policy statements typically included in course syllabi. Under this model, policy content would be housed centrally and linked automatically within Blackboard course sites. She reported that this approach would reduce repetitive work for faculty while ensuring that students have access to current and consistent policy information. Updates to policies would be applied automatically across all courses. Dr. Shoaf noted that similar approaches have been implemented at other institutions and that work is underway to assess feasibility, with a goal of potential implementation for fall.

Faculty Communication and Adjunct Engagement

Dr. Shoaf reported ongoing efforts to improve communication between faculty leadership and the broader faculty body. She also reported initiatives aimed at increasing engagement with adjunct faculty, who do not routinely attend faculty meetings but teach a significant number of courses. She noted that efforts are focused on improving communication channels to better understand adjunct faculty perspectives and how institutional policies affect their work.

Questions:

There were no questions from the board.

Staff Senate President – Dr. Stephanie Goad

Note: Highlights of Dr. Goad's report are as follows. Additional information can be found in a handout distributed to the Board that is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book.

Staff Senate Membership and Leadership

Dr. Stephanie Goad reported that the Staff Senate had not yet met for the current month, with the next meeting scheduled for the following week. She reported that there are currently two vacancies on the Staff Senate due to member departures, including the position of president-elect. She stated that the Staff Senate anticipates electing a new president-elect at the upcoming meeting.

Dr. Goad also reported that a new at-large executive member was elected to fill one of the vacancies. Jedidiah Buck from the Admissions Office was elected and is now serving in that role.

Staff Dress Code Policy Development

Dr. Goad provided an update on the draft staff dress code policy previously reported. She stated that an ad hoc committee, working in collaboration with the Human Resources

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Department, has reviewed the draft policy prepared by Human Resources. Once finalized, the policy will be forwarded to the President's Cabinet for review and approval.

Staff Community Service Initiatives

Dr. Goad reported that Roary's Gift Express was successful during the most recent holiday season. She stated that the Staff Community Service Committee collected, wrapped, and distributed gifts for 66 children of Missouri Southern students, representing an increase of 10 children compared to the previous year.

Staff Engagement and Wellness Activities

Dr. Goad reported that the Staff Senate Welfare Committee has been working on social initiatives aimed at strengthening community across campus. She noted that initiatives include a craft tea event hosted in the library and a plant swap encouraging staff to share plant cuttings with colleagues.

Cost-Saving and Operational Review Initiatives

Dr. Goad reported that an ad hoc committee is reviewing potential cost-saving initiatives, including development of a consolidated inventory of software licenses. She stated that the goal of this initiative is to identify duplication and evaluate opportunities for strategic investment in software resources. The committee is working collaboratively with the Information Technology Department on this effort.

Questions:

There were no questions from the board.

Student Senate President – Miss Morgan Robinson

Student Senate Membership

Student Senate President Morgan Robinson reported that Student Senate added three new members prior to the close of the fall semester, filling existing vacancies on the roster.

Fall Semester Activities

Ms. Robinson reported that the fall semester concluded with campus-wide events, including Holiday Happenings and the commencement ceremony.

Student Representative Selection Process

Ms. Robinson provided an update on the process to identify a new student representative to the Board of Governors. She reported that two eligible applicants were received, noting that the goal had been to submit three candidates to the Governor with a recommendation. She stated that although there was broader interest, several applicants did not meet eligibility requirements, including Missouri residency.

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Ms. Robinson reported that the application process was closed at the end of the fall semester and will resume once the spring semester is underway. She stated that interviews will be conducted at that time, with the goal of submitting a recommendation for a new student representative for approval by the Governor.

BOARD COMMITTEES

Personnel/Compensation (T. Mark Elliott, Chair):

The committee did not meet.

Academic Affairs (Mariann Morgan, Chair):

A motion was made by Governor Anita Oplotnik and seconded by Governor Michael Seibert to approve Sabbaticals, as presented and approved by the Academic Affairs Committee, for Dr. Michael Howarth and Dr. Rabindra Bajracharya. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Governor Mariann Morgan and seconded by Governor Benjamin Rosenberg to approve the Undergraduate Certificate in Agriculture Business program as presented and approved by the Academic Affairs Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Governor Mariann Morgan and seconded by Governor Anita Oplotnik the Master of Social Work program as presented and approved by the Academic Affairs Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Governor Mariann Morgan and seconded by Governor Anita Oplotnik to approve the removal of the following academic programs from Missouri Southern State University Plaster School of Business: BS/BA Entrepreneurship, BS.BA Supply Chain Management, Minor in Entrepreneurship, and Minor in Supply Chain Management. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget & Audit (Mike Seibert, Chair):

A motion was made by Governor Rodney Hendricks and seconded by Governor Mariann Morgan to approve the FY25 Audit (long form) which incorporates the compliance audit that includes SFA (Student Financial Aid) and Federal grants, as recommended by the Budget Audit Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Governor T. Mark Elliott and seconded by Governor Rodney Hendricks to approve the one-year extension of the original audit contract, as recommended by the Budget Audit Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

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A motion was made by Governor Michael Seibert and seconded by Governor Anita Oplotnik to approve the authorization for the University President to engage in a contract/agreement with a contractor for the Mayes Student Life Center lower-level renovation, as presented by Budget Audit Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Governor Haley entertained a motion to convene a Campus and Student Engagement ad hoc Committee of the Board of Governors. The motion was made by Governor Benjamin Rosenberg, seconded by Governor Anita Oplotnik. Motion passed unanimously.

Closed Executive Session:

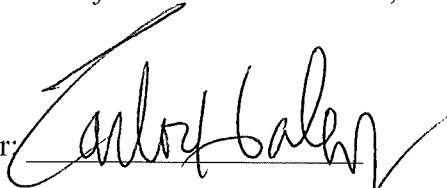
Chairman Haley noted that the Board needed to go into closed Executive Session pertaining to the following state statute:

RSMo 610.021 (3) Hiring, firing, disciplining, or promoting of particular employees by a public governmental body when personal information about the employee is discussed or recorded.

A motion was made by Governor Rodney Hendricks and seconded by Governor Michael Seibert to move to closed session. Each attending Board Member voted in favor of the Executive Closed Session. A roll call was made with the following Board Members in attendance: Carlos Haley, Anita Oplotnik, Dr. Benjamin Rosenberg, Mariann Morgan, T. Mark Elliott, and Michael Seibert.

At the conclusion of the Executive Session, a motion was made and passed to adjourn.

Board Chair:



Board Secretary:

