MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY
Board of Governors
Minutes

November 21, 2014 – 1:00 pm
Billingsly Student Center, Room 310

The November 21, 2014 meeting of the Missouri Southern State University Board of Governors was called to order by Jim Fleischaker, Chair. Governors in attendance were Rod Anderson, Dr. Sherry Buchanan, Lynn Ewing, Jim Fleischaker, Bill Gipson, Keith Hankins, and Mitch McCumber; Tracy Flanigan was in non-attendance. Others in attendance were Dr. Alan Marble, Dr. Pat Lipira, JoAnn Graffam, Rob Yost, Darren Fullerton, Jared Bruggeman, Dr. Michael Garoutte, Robert Frossard, Jake Messer, Jon Dermott, Linda Eis, and Sharon Odem.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Chair Fleischaker welcomed everyone and asked if there were any announcements. Darren Fullerton noted Raymond Dunaway, MSSU student who served on the Presidential Search Committee, has been seriously injured in a recent car accident. Raymond is now out of the hospital and home recovering. Darren expressed thanks on behalf of Raymond for the University reaching out to him during this difficult time.

MINUTES
Chair Fleischaker asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the October 17, 2014 Board meeting; none were noted.

A motion was made by Mitch McCumber and seconded by Lynn Ewing to approve minutes of the October 17, 2014 Board meeting as submitted. Motion passed. (Minutes are archived in the permanent record book.)

REPORTS
Treasurer (Ms. Linda Eis):

Financial Statements ending on October 31, 2014 were presented as follows:
- Cash Graph
- Statement of Net Position
- Comparative Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position
- Cash Flow Statement

Cash Graph: The Cash Graph as of October 31, 2014 shows cash at $14.1 million reflecting a decrease of $556,000 compared to the prior year. The cash trend follows the start and end of each semester with the cash balance higher at the beginning of the semester with a downward trend towards the end.

Statement of Net Position: As of October 31, 2014, Total Assets are $137 million and Total Liabilities are $45 million making Total Net Position as of October 31, 2014 at $92 million.

Comparative Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position: In looking at the “difference column”, Total Operating Revenues increased by $467,000. Total Operating Expenses increased by $1.7 million. The increase in Total Operating Expenses includes additional scholarships of $516,000 comprised of an additional $179,000 in institutional aid due to a change in stacking policy and an additional $166,000 in Access Missouri. Total Non-operating Revenues increased $745,000. Linda noted during October, the first drawdown of the additional $103,000 in performance funding dollars recently released by the Governor was completed.
Treasurer (continued):

Income (Loss) Before Other Revenues: As of October 31, 2014, the current year reflects an increase of $4.3 million. The prior year shows an increase of $4.7 million resulting in a comparative decrease between the two years of $400,000.

A motion was made by Lynn Ewing and seconded by Keith Hankins to approve the October 31, 2014 financial statements as presented. Motion passed. (A copy of the financial statements for October 31, 2014 is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book.)

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

✓ Baseball Stadium – The site for the baseball field has been cleared and the curb surrounding the field (where the turf will be fastened) is complete. Installation of the turf is anticipated to begin the first week in December. Construction on this project should be complete in spring of 2015.

✓ Fieldhouse – The steel on the north half of the structure is in place and the floor slab for the second floor (top floor) has been poured providing support for the basement walls and allowing for back filling to begin. The project is anticipated to be complete by next summer.

✓ FEMA Shelter – Due to the weight of the cranes used in setting the precast walls having to sit on the area where the slab will be, the floor slab for this project will be poured last after the pre-cast panels are in place. Work is currently underway on the footings, under slab plumbing and electrical in preparation for the pre-cast panels that are scheduled to be delivered and installed the week after Christmas.

✓ Residence Hall – This project is moving along quickly with four of the six buildings already framed and roofed. Framing on the fifth building will be completed soon. One building has already been insulated, sheet rocked, and is ready for painting while another is in the process of being sheet rocked. The walkways, concrete decking and metal staircases are currently being installed. Transformers for some of the buildings are scheduled to be installed in mid-December which will enable electricity and heat in the buildings.

✓ Trail Project w/City of Joplin – There are no changes or updates to report on this project.

Dr. Marble noted the Fieldhouse and Baseball projects are both being funded by donations and the Residence Hall project is being funded by a recent bond issuance; no state or university funds are being used for any of these projects.

Director of Athletics (Mr. Jared Bruggeman):

Note: Highlights of Jared’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.

✓ Men and women’s Cross Country have both won the MIAA Title! Eric Schott was the individual male winner and has not been defeated so far this year by another Division II runner. The women are ranked No. 10 nationally and third regionally. The men are ranked No. 16 nationally and third regionally. Regional championships are this weekend in Wayne, Nebraska which will determine which top four teams in each gender will go to the National Meet scheduled on December 6th in Louisville, Kentucky.

✓ The third annual MOSO Trivia Challenge is scheduled for Friday, December 12th. Jared noted the coaches have challenged the Board of Governors, Faculty and Staff Senates to sponsor tables for this fun event.

✓ Jared expressed pride in the combined efforts of MSSU’s student-athletes who collected and delivered over 2000 cans of food at Halloween to Souls Harbor. Each team picked a different area of Joplin before Halloween and distributed flyers about the food drive and then picked up the food on Halloween and delivered it. The director of Souls Harbor was very appreciative of these much needed items.
Vice President for Development/Executive Director of the Foundation (Ms. JoAnn Graffam):

Note: Highlights of JoAnn’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.

✓ The Alumni Center is hosting the first annual Boutique Bonanza Holiday Open House on Wednesday, December 3rd. Several area vendors will participate in this one-stop-shop for Christmas.
✓ A donor has been secured to provide new uniforms for the Marching band.
✓ Three more major gifts have been received for the new Baseball stadium.
✓ Overall the phonathon portion of the annual fund is going well except callers have experienced a 49% disconnect rate due to many people dropping land lines and only using cell phones. Other ways such as direct mail are being considered to work around this problem. To-date there have been 136 new donors and one new endowment which JoAnn noted is very positive.
✓ Many wonderful events and concerts are taking place featuring MSSU’s very talented students and faculty. JoAnn encouraged the Board to attend as many as these events as possible.

Vice President for Academic Affairs (Dr. Pat Lipira):

Note: Dr. Lipira noted many things in Academic Affairs are ongoing and reported on the following. Additional information can be found in a handout distributed to the Board that is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book.

✓ Faculty are wrapping up the fall semester by advising, enrolling students and preparing final examinations. Special efforts are being made to enroll current students for the spring before the break.
✓ An induction ceremony for Alpha Chi, a national scholastic honor society, was held October 26th. To qualify, juniors and seniors must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.75 or above.
✓ A Graduate Council at MSSU has been reconstituted. Membership will consist of the Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, two School Deans, and the Graduate Program Coordinators from each graduate program. This group will review and recommend policies, best practices, and marketing strategies for MSSU’s graduate programs.
✓ Through MSSU’s International Institute, Ansbach University and the Robert W. Plaster School of Business are considering a collaborative German-American Business Certificate Program, which if approved, would eventually “fold into” a joint master’s degree program. This type of an agreement is referred to as a “mini MBA” program. Both the President and Vice President for Academic Affairs from Ansbach were on campus earlier this week for negotiations. Ansbach University, located in the Bavaria region of Germany, is MSSU’s oldest bilateral partner, dating back to 1997.
✓ The annual Study Abroad Fair held on Wednesday gave students an opportunity to receive information about ten upcoming faculty-led trips and also about opportunities to spend an entire semester abroad. The faculty-led trips will be to the British Virgin Islands; France (2 trips); Costa Rica; France and Spain; Ireland; the Czech Republic, Poland, and Denmark; Spain; Japan; and Sweden.
✓ The first Southern Safari trip, led by Dr. Nanette Philibert and Dr. Chad Stebbins, will be a 12 day trip to Rome, Florence, and Venice in June, 2015. Alumni and friends of the university are invited and welcome to attend; the reservation deadline is January 15.
✓ Captain Phillips, Show-Me Gold Program, completed a full week of activities designed to celebrate and support veterans. Week long activities included a “Run with the Heroes” 5K, a Veterans Memorial Ceremony, a luncheon honoring veterans and their families, and a CrossFit Competition.
✓ Online course enrollment numbers for Distance Learning have increased in the number of students enrolled and credit hours generated compared to Fall 2013 semester. Scott Snell, Director for Distance Learning, will present a detailed look at MSSU’s on-line/distance education programs during the January Board meeting.
✓ David Humphreys, President and C.E.O. of TAMKO, will speak about leadership on Thursday, February 19th in conjunction with MSSU’s Honors Program. Plans for the future are being developed to bring a series of lecturers and speakers from various disciplines to campus.
Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management (Mr. Darren Fullerton):

Note: Highlights of Darren’s report are as follows. Additional information can be found in handouts distributed to the Board that are attached to the minutes in the permanent record book.

✓ Darren noted enrollment for the spring semester is progressing and thanked faculty and staff for the great job they are doing to assist and encourage students to register for the spring semester before the fall semester ends.

✓ Darren congratulated Sharon Fraser, a default loan prevention officer at MSSU, for being quoted in a MDHE publication, Inside Missouri Higher Education, regarding an activity held during the first week of classes that showcased offices and organizations on campus. The Financial Aid Advisory Team designed a “Wheel of Chance” to test student financial literacy. It also served as a way to welcome students to campus and encourage students to ask questions about financial aid.

✓ An induction ceremony for Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK), MSSU’s national leadership honor society, recently inducted twenty-three students. Membership in this honor society is offered to students who have broad-based leadership and a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA.

Faculty Liaison (Dr. Michael Garoute - Faculty Senate, President):

Highlights of Dr. Garoute’s report are as follows.

✓ The end of the semester is fast approaching and faculty and students are very busy preparing for finals.

✓ A team effort is taking place to preregister students for spring. Department Chairs have received a report listing students who are enrolled in the current semester, but who have not registered for the spring. Faculty members will contact these students and encourage them to enroll before the break.

✓ Diligent work continues by many faculty members and committees on revising the Faculty Handbook. The Faculty Handbook Revision Oversight Committee continues to meet weekly to work on incorporating all handbook sections into a complete draft.

✓ Thirty-five applications have been received for the position of Academic Vice President and Provost. The list of top candidates has been narrowed down to nine with an additional two applications still needing review by the committee. The next step will be to call references in order to narrow the list to a manageable number for telephone interviews. Due to the number of suitable applicants received, the hiring of a search firm to recruit candidates has been tabled at this time.

✓ As noted during a previous Board meeting, the student body voted on a “Resolution to make MSSU Tobacco-Free/Smoke-Free” last spring. Members of the Staff Senate, Faculty Senate, and the President’s Council have discussed this topic to determine the next steps for faculty and staff regarding this proposal. Faculty Senate conducted an electronic vote of all employees (faculty and staff) to gauge support of this resolution. The survey was sent to 764 employee email addresses with 374 responses received; 286 for the resolution, 88 against. The Executive Committees of both Faculty and Staff Senates agree this vote indicates faculty and staff should work together with the administration and students to determine the next steps in this process.

Staff Liaison (Mr. Robert Frossard – Staff Senate, President):

Highlights from Robert’s report are as follows.

✓ Three Service Champ award recipients have been chosen as follows: Reed Kneeland, custodian at the Criminal Justice, Brenda McDaniel, Academic Affairs, and Stephanie Workman, Registrar’s office.

✓ The Staff Senate’s Angel Tree is in place in the second floor lobby of Hearnes Hall and the Angel tags are in the process of being adopted by faculty and staff. Sixty-seven children of MSSU students will have a nicer Christmas because of this project.

✓ Consideration is being given regarding ways staff can participate in volunteer activities following the Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast in January.

✓ The current policy on tuition discounts for employee family members is being reviewed for the purpose of determining if a proposal to expand this policy should be brought forward to President’s Council.
Student Representative (Mr. Jake Messer, Student Senate President):

*Highlights from Jake’s report are as follows.*

✓ All vacancies on Student Senate are filled.
✓ A recent t-shirt swap was very successful with 200 students trading in one of their t-shirts in exchange for a long sleeve custom designed shirt. The shirts traded in were then donated to Crosslines.
✓ Capital improvements will continue next year with plans to expand the placement of new benches in various parts of campus; not just around the Oval.
✓ Work and preparation for St. Baldrick’s will begin early next semester.

Board Committees:

Academic Affairs Committee (Lynn Ewing, Chair):

No report.

Budget Audit Committee (Mitch McCumber, Chair):

The Budget Audit Committee met this morning at 11 o’clock for the primary purpose of discussing tuition. Mr. McCumber noted all Governors in attendance at today’s Board meeting were also in attendance for this committee meeting and thanked them for their time. After careful consideration by the Governors and on behalf of the Budget Audit committee, Mr. McCumber brought forward a proposal authorizing the administration to increase tuition on the books that will be deferred and not actually charged to students until the fall 2015 semester.

*Motion was made by Mitch McCumber and seconded by Rod Anderson to authorize the administration to increase in-state tuition on the books to $175.24 per-credit-hour. This increase is deferred for students until the fall 2015 semester. There is no impact to students at this time. Motion passed.*

Executive Committee (Jim Fleischaker, Chair):

No report.

Personnel Committee (Jim Fleischaker, Chair):

No report.

President (Dr. Alan D. Marble):

*Highlights of Dr. Marble’s report are as follows:*

✓ Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Search – Thirty-five applications have been received to-date which brings the applicant pool close to the goal of forty. Work is currently taking place reviewing the applications and narrowing down the interview questions. A scoring rubric has been created and good progress is being made on this search. Dr. Marble noted the committee is doing a great job and working very well together. They will take a break over the holiday, but are still on target for a hire date of early to mid-spring of 2015.

✓ The Freshman Legislator’s Tour will make a brief lunch stop at MSSU on December 9th. Preparation is underway to present a concise program to this group who will only be on campus for 90 minutes or less. Due to the tour not being able to stop at Crowder, Dr. Marble has invited colleagues from Crowder to join this group for lunch.

✓ The Non-Smoking campus resolution all employees were recently given an opportunity to vote on, clearly indicates people want a smoke-free campus at MSSU. The next step will be to appoint a task force composed of Faculty, Staff, and Students who will research policies at other institutions and create a draft policy for MSSU. This draft will be reviewed by President’s Council before it is presented to the Board for input, modification, and/or action.
President (continued):

- On October 30th Great Game of Business all campus meetings were held and had a great response with over 350 people in attendance. As a result of these meetings, over 50 people have volunteered to serve on the Design Team. Dr. Marble has asked Scott Cragin and Jeff Gibson to take the lead in developing this open-book management style at MSSU. Positive feedback has already been received from employees about the “openness and transparency” of this style of business.

- During the New Employee Reception held on November 4th, over 30 new employees were welcomed to campus. Dr. Marble noted excitement about the talent and enthusiasm of these new additions to faculty and staff.

- MSSU hosted the annual Celebration of Schools banquet presented by the Southwest Center for Educational Excellence on November 10th. Over 300 area educators attended this event as well as several area legislators including Congressman Billy Long. The keynote speaker was State Senator David Pearce.

- A series of meetings have taken place with Randy Haas and Dr. Kip Heth regarding developing a Prairie Management Plan. The purpose of this plan will be to identify, isolate, and protect a portion of the remnant prairie that exists on the northeast corner of campus large enough to protect the “flora and fauna” but small enough to be effectively managed by student volunteers. The group working on this project hopes to have a suggested management plan ready to bring before the Board for consideration early in the spring semester.

- An application to add the Ralph Gray Alumni House to the Register of Historic Places is underway by Brad Belk and Allen Shirley. If accepted to the Register, the Alumni House would be recognized for its historical importance and its inclusion on the Register might enable the acquisition of future grant funding to be more accessible. Mr. Belk and Mr. Shirley will be invited to address the Board in February or March about this exciting effort.

- Representatives from Husch Blackwell (MSSU’s new legal counsel) have been on campus recently to learn about the university’s overall operation and begin the task of reviewing current documents and procedures in order to develop policy manuals, handbooks, and catalogs that are consistent and uniform.

- December will be filled with many events and opportunities showcasing MSSU’s talented students who will be taking part in concerts, recitals, athletic events, and a variety of other campus activities. Dr. Marble encouraged the Board to attend as many events as possible.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Noel-Levititz Update (Mr. Darren Fullerton):

Darren introduced Dr. Lew Sanborne, Associate Vice President of Noel-Levititz, who updated the Board and summarized the work that has taken place between Noel-Levititz and the campus during the past few years. Darren noted several dozen campus committees involving, at one time, over 70 faculty and staff members worked diligently on this project.

Dr. Sandborne expressed appreciation for the opportunity to work with MSSU and Darren who was the lead campus person on this involved project. Key components of the Noel-Levititz study included recruitment, the admissions process & systems, retention, student satisfaction, strategic enrollment planning, financial aid consulting and automation, and market research. Information regarding five years of enrollment trends and seven years of retention trends was shared as well as high school graduation projections for Missouri. Select initiatives accomplished during the Noel-Levititz study include: implementing Lion Pride Tuition, establishing an Advising Council, revamping scholarship strategies, implementing an in-house payment plan, enhancing and increasing Dual Credit, creating a SharePoint Data website, improving communication and marketing materials, improving campus housing facilities, and enhancing admissions and financial aid processes.
Consideration of Academic Policies Proposals (Dr. Pat Lipira):

Dr. Lipira noted the thirteen page summary of Reports and Curricular Proposals being brought before the Board for approval are largely due to clean-up taking place in the catalog, changes by DESE and dropping courses that are no longer in demand.

A motion was made by Mitch McCumber and seconded by Bill Gipson to approve the November 21, 2014 Reports and Curricular Proposals as presented. Motion passed.

Study Abroad – Belize Trip (Dr. Alan Marble):

Dr. Marble introduced Dr. Chad Stebbins, Director of the Institute of International Studies, and Professors of Biology and Environmental Health, Dr. Scott Wells and Dr. Gerald Schlink.

Dr. Stebbins spoke about the international component of MSSU’s Mission and shared information about criteria for faculty led study abroad trips that vary from 10 days to a month and have a strong academic component. Dr. Stebbins noted study abroad for an entire semester is also an option and enables students a great opportunity to receive a much broader experience and opportunities to be immersed in the culture of the country they visit. Dr. Stebbins also noted students who have studied abroad have an 87% graduation rate.

Drs. Wells and Schlink shared a video taken of a recent trip to Belize which contained testimonials from students regarding the knowledge they gained and the cultural life changing experiences they had. Ten similar study abroad trips are planned this spring that will enable approximately 150 students the opportunity to study abroad.

The Chart Hall of Fame (Dr. Alan Marble):

Dr. Chad Stebbins, who is also a professor of journalism and served as adviser for The Chart for 15 years, shared information about the establishment of The Chart Hall of Fame, the purpose of which, is to honor people who have made a significant contribution to this student run paper. This summer the 3rd floor atrium area in Webster Hall was transformed into a Hall of Fame for The Chart in celebration of its 75th anniversary. The first edition of the paper was published in November of 1939 and was established by the late Kenneth McCaleb, then a student at Joplin Junior College. Following the Board meeting a ribbon cutting was held in Webster Hall.

OTHER

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Fleischaker noted an Executive Session of the Board was not needed and asked for a motion to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bill Gipson and seconded by Keith Hankins. Motion passed.

Secretary

Chair