

MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY
Board of Governors Minutes
November 10, 2023
Billingsly Student Center
Room 310

The November 10, 2023, meeting of the Missouri Southern State University Board of Governors was called to order by Chairwoman Anita Oplotnik. Governors in attendance were Bill Gipson, Carlos Haley, Anita Oplotnik, Dr. Benjamin Rosenberg, Mariann Morgan, Alison Hershewe and Michael Seibert. T. Mark Elliott attended via conference call.

Others in attendance were Dr. Jean Coltharp, Peter Edwards, Alicia Hughes, Rob Mallory, Dr. Brad Hodson, Dr. Lisa Toms, Dr. Dean Van Galen, Dr. Shellie Hewitt, Linda Eis, Marcel John, Mark Scott and Jeanie Nice.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairwoman Oplotnik called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Governor Oplotnik introduced the Board's new Governor, Mike Seibert, who will complete the term of Governor Ron Richard. Governor Oplotnik also recognized the day as being the day we celebrate Veteran's Day and recognized those in the audience who served in the military.

MINUTES

Chairwoman Oplotnik asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the September 8, 2023 Board meeting; none were noted.

A motion was made by Bill Gipson and seconded by Mariann Morgan to approve minutes of the September 8, 2023 Board meeting as submitted. Motion passed unanimously. (Minutes are archived in the permanent record book).

Naming of the University Facility

The Board of Governors received a request from President Van Galen, on behalf of the Campus Naming Committee, to name a very prominent facility on our campus. Dr. Van Galen provided the Board with background on this request and introduced Dan Stanley who spoke on behalf of the request.

Mr. Stanley read a letter he had presented to President Van Galen requesting an athletic facility, for example, the North End Zone, be named the Ron Richard Athletic Center.

(Background: Dan Stanley's letter was presented to Dr. Van Galen who took the letter before the University Naming Committee, chaired by the Executive Vice President and made up of the President's cabinet. Naming policies were reviewed to ensure compliance with the naming decision. The recommendation was then taken to the Board.)

Motion by Dr. Benjamin Rosenberg: In honor of the dedicated and extraordinary service of Senator Ron Richard to the university, region, and State of Missouri, I make a motion to name what is now referred to as the North End Zone Facility—the Ron Richard Athletic Center. Motion was seconded by Michael Seibert. Motion passed unanimously.

Annual Audit

Governor Oplotnik turned the meeting over to Linda Eis who introduced two representatives from FORVIS, Ryan Sivill and Allison Gardner.

Ryan Sivill stated that the details of the financial audit were covered in the Budget / Audit committee meeting and that he would provide a summary of the audit results to the Board. Missouri Southern received an unmodified, or the highest level of attainment, for their financial statements. Not only did they issue a clean opinion on the financial statements, but it was also done without imposing any adjustments, either proposed or passed, to the financial statements. In addition to the financial statements audit, FORVIS also did an audit of control and compliance with federal requirements. The university has two major programs that were required to be audited: the student financial assistance program and the HEERF program. The university also received an unmodified opinion with no internal control deficiencies related to either program.

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.

Increased New Student Enrollment and Greater Student Success

Data from our fall census—our count of students—was finalized shortly after the September meeting of the Board. By now, you have heard the positive news that we experienced growth for the second consecutive year in the total number of freshmen, transfer, and graduate students new to campus. MSSU is increasingly a first-choice university for the Four States region and beyond. Also, the retention rate of first-time, full-time freshman—those who entered in fall 2022 and were enrolled in fall 2023—was the highest in the last 17 years at Missouri Southern. As a campus community, we celebrate this progress—knowing that these numbers mean more students are benefiting from great opportunities, with increasing success, at Missouri Southern. As always, this progress reflects the commitment of our faculty, staff and students.

Expanding Statewide Mission

In mid-September, the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education voted unanimously to support the university's proposal to update and expand its statewide mission. The university's current statewide mission of international/global education would continue with the addition of two new elements: health and life sciences, and immersive learning experiences.

Next week we will meet with our local legislative delegation and will ask for their support in the final step of the process: action by the Missouri General Assembly. Related to next year's state budget, we will also ask our delegation to support the Coordinating Board's recommendation of a 5% core increase for public higher education—if approved, this would result in a potential \$1.5 million increase for Missouri Southern in Fiscal Year 2025.

Science to Jobs

On page 3 of the Board of Governors Report, I have highlighted the \$2.3 million grant from the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development to collaboratively build a statewide "Science to Jobs" program for K-12 students. There are many exciting aspects of this grant, and the Missouri Biotechnology Association, or MOBIO, is a major partner with us in these efforts. The most visible grant-supported activities on our campus that you will see in the coming year include:

President (continued):

- Summer camps for junior and senior high school students and teachers, focused on biosciences including health science and agriculture.
- The arrival of three Anatomage tables, which are essentially a technologically advanced, 3D digital cadaver. These will enhance the learning of visiting K-12 students and teachers, our MOSO CAPS students, as well as our students and faculty in anatomy course work and research.

Veteran Celebration

We had a great week celebrating Veterans and the tremendous service they have provided for our nation. One of the celebrations I want to highlight occurred last night in the newly renovated Taylor Performing Arts Center as we hosted the 135th Army Band. It was a wonderful evening with great music.

Executive Vice President (Dr. Brad Hodson):

Note: Highlights of Dr. Hodson'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 three topics provided in the Board reports, Lion Village, Health Science Innovation Center and Campaign updates were already reviewed extensively in the Budget and Audit committee. No additional information was reported.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (Dr. Lisa Toms):

Note: Highlights of Dr. Toms' 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.

Artful Medicine Symposium Conference

On October 19-21, the 2nd Annual Artful Medicine Symposium Conference occurred on our campus. This symposium bridges Medicine and the Humanities with oral and poster presentations and expressive works of art. Art workshops were also held. Researchers from all over the country, including Harvard University, Ohio State University, West Virginia University, Alice L. Walton School of Medicine, and Kansas City University. Dr. Angela Pierce, one of the keynote speakers and Assistant Dean of Whole Health Integration for the Alice L. Walton School of Medicine in Bentonville, AR, is a Spanish and Biochemistry graduate of Missouri Southern. This symposium is gaining worldwide recognition as a method of teaching physicians and future physicians the art of observation so they can become better physicians.

International Credibility Grant

MSSU has had a partnership with the University of Hradec Kralove in the Czech Republic for a number of years. If you remember, we and UHK jointly offered three courses last fall, and a group of their students and faculty traveled here for ten days. A group of our students and faculty also traveled there in December of last year. Now, UHK has secured a grant from the International Credibility Erasmus+ project that will fund continued exchanges over the next two and a half years. The grant will pay for five MSSU faculty to travel to the Czech Republic for ten days each, providing €1500 for travel and a stipend of €140 per day. It also provides the same amount for three UHK faculty to travel to MSSU. On the student side, five students from each school will be given €1500 for travel and a stipend of €800 per month to study at the receiving institution for a semester. This is a great

Provost and VP for Academic Affairs (continued):

opportunity to continue to strengthen a great partnership. I would like to recognize Dr. Chad Stebbins for working with UHK to help write this grant.

Performing Arts

On October 19-21, the Performing Arts Department performed “Guys and Dolls” in Taylor Performing Arts Center. This was the first theatrical performance in TPAC since 2018. I was able to attend one of the shows, and we have great talent at Missouri Southern.

Foundation Scholarship Application

Our new 2024-25 Foundation Scholarship Application is now available for students to begin applying. Using the Blackbaud Award Management System, it’s a great enhancement to our scholarship selection process and will strengthen our donor-to-student relationship once we get everything fully implemented. I would like to thank the Foundation for helping us to fund that. It is a great partnership between Financial Aid and our Foundation. It makes it easier for students to apply and easier for those making decisions about the scholarships. We hope to see more and better applicants. Also, the federal student financial aid application, the FAFSA, is being redesigned by the Federal government. It would normally open in October, but it is now projected to be open in either December or January. This will mean a very tight turnaround for our Financial Aid personnel to get all those applications processed.

Gateway Business Competition

Plaster School of Business had their Gateway Business Competition yesterday with over 600 students and faculty from 30 high schools participating in the competition. This covered written tests, oral competitions, and presentations. We got a lot of positive feedback. Their awards ceremony was in TPAC, and it was nice to have such a nice facility for this ceremony.

Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer (Ms. Linda Eis):

Audit FY2023

The audit was presented earlier by FORVIS, but I always want to take time in my report to say thank you to the campus for their diligence throughout the year. It truly makes it a success and reflects the very best of our Missouri Southern team and the effort put forth every year. I want to take time to say, “Thank You”.

Insurance

Open enrollment from October 18th to November 31st for annual insurance selections went very well. This is year two with our carrier Anthem. Over 400 employees made their selections for the 2024 calendar year.

Food Service Request for Proposal

We are working on a Request for Proposal for our food service. The RFP will take a look at everything from pricing on Residence Hall meals, Lion Cub Academy meals, retail options in the Lion’s Den and catering to both internal and external constituents. This process will take several months to complete with an anticipated contract on July 1, 2024. We have a committee which will develop the request, review the proposals, and make recommendations on a vendor.

CFO/Treasurer (continued):

Health Science Innovation Center

I would like to formally announce that we have signed a contract and have a CMAR (Construction Manager At Risk) selected. The committee selected Crossland Construction. We are very excited to have them on board as part of this exciting project.

Supporting and Celebrating our Employees

Six weeks from now we will be having our annual Employee Appreciation Brunch. It's a time for all of us to get together and celebrate our employees and their length of service. We will be celebrating 5 years to 40 years of service. We also recognize an outstanding classified and a professional employee for their dedication and service to students. This celebration is a good way to kick off the winter break.

Presentation of the financial statements for the period ending October 31, 2023

Cash Graph:

Ms. Eis noted the balance at the end of October 31, 2023, is \$21.9M. This is \$4.8M over the prior year. We did have a prepayment of MOSERS last year creating part of that variance. The true variance from the prior year is closer to \$1.7M.

Statement of Net Position:

Total Assets: \$189M

Total Liabilities : \$135M

Net Position : \$54M There are new GASB96 line items on our financial statements for SBITA – (Subscription-based information technology arrangement).

Comparative Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position (difference column):

- **Total Operating Revenues:** Reflects an increase of \$1.6M. (made up from an increase in tuition \$661k and an increase in auxiliary \$307k)
- **Total Operating Expenses:** Reflects an increase of \$488k
- **Non-Operating Revenues:** Reflects an increase of \$863k (State appropriations of \$642k are a big piece of this, as is investment income \$284k)
- **Other Revenues:** Reflects an increase of \$245k
- **Income Before Other Revenues:**
Current Year: \$4.2M
Prior Year: \$2.3M
This results in an increase from Prior Year: \$1.9M

A motion was made by Carlos Haley and seconded by Benjamin Rosenberg to approve the October 2023 financial statements as presented. Motion passed unanimously. (A copy of the financial statements for October 2023 is attached to the minutes in the permanent record book).

Dean of Admissions (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.

On Campus Recruitment Events

Campus visits, including group tours, continue to grow as they have been over the past several semesters. In the past two weeks alone, we've had over 400 students on campus. Prospective students and parents

Dean of Admissions (continued):

are from Kentucky, Texas, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Tennessee, California, Ohio, Indiana, and the four-state region. We are looking to add other campus events in the spring such as a dual credit discovery day.

Fall Marketing Initiatives

Television - We've increased our television commercial ad buys during prime viewing times such as Sunday night football and certain college football packages on key stations. This is in the local Joplin market.

Digital - Digital marketing campaigns for the fall include a general campaign for scholarships and immersive learning opportunities. We are also utilizing digital marketing for specific programs such as MKEAP and graduate programs like Data Analytics and Healthcare Administration.

Social Media - We are targeting specific areas such as Springfield, Grove and Tulsa OK, Rogers and Bentonville AR. We are seeing a large return on interactions with those initiatives.

International Student Recruitment

To date we have admitted 418 international students for the spring semester. 382 of those students are first-time, degree-seeking students and 9 are new transfer students. These students are from 25 countries including the top countries of Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Nigeria, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Japan, Brazil, and Mexico. The top four programs these students are most interested in include:

- CIS
- Business Undeclared
- Biology
- Accounting

With all these efforts combined we are looking forward to an exciting spring semester and an even better fall 2024 semester!

Director of Athletics (Mr. Rob Mallory):

Note: Highlights of Rob'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.

Hall of Fame Weekend

The Missouri Southern Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2023 was officially inducted and celebrated on October 27- 28. This year's Hall of Fame Class included Danee Jones (Track & Field), Bill Martz (Meritorious Service), Harold Noirfalise (Football), Nikki (Llewellyn) Nill (Women's Soccer), Kaney Tyler (Women's Soccer) and Brandon Williams (Football).

Community Engagement

Engagement with, and service to, the local community continues to be a significant priority for the Missouri Southern athletic department. One of the highlights every year in this area is the annual Trick-or-Treat So Others Can Eat program. This year, student-athletes collected 6,136 items in total, the third most collected items through this initiative and 1,800 more than was collected in 2022.

Director of Athletics (continued):

Once again, Missouri Southern finds itself amongst the national leaders in Division II for community service. As of October 27, Lion student-athletes have completed 3,809 hours of service. This is an increase of more than 1,400 hours from this time last year and ranks Missouri Southern #4 in the ongoing NCAA Service Challenge.

Host National Championship Cross Country Meet

Missouri Southern hosts the NCAA Division II National Championship meet on Saturday, November 18. In total, a minimum of 524 student-athletes will participate. The meet is one of only four Division II national championship events that will be held on-campus at a member institution this academic year. The event is expected to draw approximately 1,500 visitors to the Joplin area.

Faculty Senate President (Dr. Jean Coltharp):

Note: Highlights of Dr. Coltharp's report are as follows.

As compared to my last report of no air conditioning, we had a few days of no heat and 20-degree temperatures.

Our Promotion and Tenure ad hoc committee is reassessing the standards for service and scholarship. Each department is almost complete. Each department is creating their own standards using a three-tier system. The committee met this week and is finalizing their work which will be handed off to the Handbook committee.

The draft of the Intellectual Property Policy has been returned by Husch-Blackwell. I think this is the most progress that's been made on this front in the 4 years I've been involved with it. I'm optimistic!

Faculty Senate has recently conducted a survey regarding employee thoughts on current insurance benefits. The survey will hopefully provide important insight for the Insurance Committee.

Staff Senate President (Ms. Alicia Hughes):

Note: Highlights of Ms. Hughes report are as follows:

Staff Senate has been working on the "Swap Shop". It is a partnership with the Lion Co-Op where we will be donating Southern wear that doesn't fit or no longer worn that other Southern employees can take as their own. This is an opportunity to give our swag a second life. We anticipate the shop will be opening after the first of the year. Donations can be made at any time after the opening. We do have a couple areas on campus taking up collections before the opening. If you'd like to know where those are, please let me know. The Swap Shop will be located behind the Library Reference Desk and will be open when the Co-Op is open. You will need your key card to be able to enter the room.

The Angel Tree is up and full of Angels ready for "adoption." The Angel Tree is Staff Senate's annual initiative to provide gifts for children of Pell-eligible students who apply for the program. Staff/faculty/ anyone from the community can donate gifts for those students. We had 46 student applicants with a total of 114 children (50 are put on the tree at a time). Gifts will be handed out the day before Holiday Happenings, December 7.

Student Senate President (Mr. Marcel John):

Note: Highlights of Mr. John's report are as follows:

Student Senate has been focusing on a couple of projects. First, we are doing a food drive competing against other Division II schools for bragging rights and to earn points. Right now, we are in second place with Missouri Western being in first place. Student Senate is also doing several service projects. We are doing a meal train where we will be working with non-profit organizations to cook for the homeless and others in the Joplin community. It will be a 'while supplies last' type of event. I encourage others to get involved in the community.

Thanks to all as this is my last Board of Governors meeting. You've been able to build my confidence and ability to speak in public settings. Governor Parsons has been given names of potential replacements.

Board Committees:

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

The committee did not meet.

Academic Affairs (Dr. Benjamin Rosenberg, Chair):

We had several updates from Dr. Toms. We discussed dual credit courses throughout the various high schools in the state of Missouri. We reviewed two potential academic programs: MS in Sports and Recreational Management and a graduate certificate in Artificial Intelligence. These programs were unanimously approved by the committee.

A motion was made by Dr. Benjamin Rosenberg and seconded by Alison Hershewe to approve the proposed academic programs. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget Audit Committee (Carlos Haley, Chair):

The bulk of our agenda was spent covering the FY23 audit presentation done by FORVIS. We received an update on the capital campaign for the Health Science Innovation Center and the Lion Village water remediation incident.

We do have one item that needs approval of the Board, which is the FY23 audit presented by FORVIS.

A motion was made by Carlos Haley and seconded by Bill Gipson to approve the results of the FY23 audit. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS – N/A

NEW BUSINESS – N/A

Dr. Van Galen referred to an Upcoming Opportunities summary created by Mark Scott and pointed out a few opportunities for the Board to engage with campus at upcoming events.

- International Student Thanksgiving dinner on November 19th where we provide a traditional thanksgiving meal to our international students.
- Seasonal Choral Flourish on December 1st.
- December 8th is Holiday Happenings.
- Commencement is on December 16th at 10:00 am.

Future Meeting Date:

The next meetings of the Board are as scheduled:

January 19, 2024

March 15, 2024

June 13, 2024

A motion was made by Mariann Morgan and seconded by Dr. Benjamin Rosenberg to move to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Chair

Board Secretary