

MINUTES  
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES  
APRIL 17, 1998

The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Friday April, 17, at 9:00 a.m. in room 507 of the Education and Research Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

**Members present:** Yvonne Brown, Henry Hudspeth, William Seal, Hazel Terry, and George Walker.

**Members absent:** Joanna Heidel; John Junkin, II; Billy Hewes; Sara Fox; and Patricia Puckett.

**Staff in attendance:** Dr. Olon Ray, Executive Director, Dr. Randall Bradberry, Becky Cade, Deborah Gilbert, Sandra Lucas, Tracy Heggins, Patrick McKinnis, Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Dr. Evelyn Webb, and Ed Schneider.

**Guests in attendance:** Dr. Phil Pepper, State Economist, and Dr. Ted Alexander, via the Community College Network.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman George Walker at 9:15 a.m. It was the consensus of the members present to proceed with an informational and working session since a quorum was not present.

**PRELIMINARIES**

The invocation was given by Yvonne Brown.

**Review of Agenda**

The agenda was reviewed and amended to include a report from Dr. Wayne Stonecypher on program terminations, and to add an item for discussion concerning the hiring of a consultant to work with SBCJC staff in developing a marketing plan for Mississippi's community and junior colleges.

**Initiatives for Economic Improvement**

Dr. Phil Pepper, State Economist, spoke to the Board about the need to raise the per capita income for Mississippi. In order to raise the per capita income Mississippi must raise the standards of the workforce to bring in higher paying and higher quality jobs. Dr. Pepper stated that education is an important factor in this process and Mississippi's community and junior college system will play an important role in educating the workforce.

With technology on the rise, the mind set of Mississippi's workforce must be changed to embrace

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technology. Dr. Pepper suggested that a marketing plan be developed to share the importance of education from kindergarten through adulthood to constantly provide lifelong learning skills needed to compete in today's world. Mississippi also needs to actively seek higher skilled and higher paying jobs.

Mr. Walker reported that the State Workforce Council has organized a committee that is working closely with Dr. Pepper to develop ideas to keep Mississippi's workforce competitive. A meeting of the committee is scheduled on April 23, 1998, at 9:00 a.m..

### MACJC Report

Dr. Ted Alexander reported, via the CCN, on the following items discussed at the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior College's meeting on March 24, 1998:

Dr. Clyde Muse introduced Mrs. Fiona McMillan, President of Bridgewater College in England. Mrs. McMillan thanked the Association for the opportunity to attend the meeting and gave a brief overview of Bridgewater College. Bridgewater College and Hinds Community College are involved in a student exchange program.

The Association held a discussion on a request from Chairman McCoy to create a model for technology maintenance and support utilizing a community or junior college to work with the State Department of Education and school districts throughout the state. The presidents agreed that funding should not be taken from the CJC technology funding to support the model.

The Association voted to take a position in support of funding the health insurance deficit from regular sources set aside for funding of deficit appropriations by the State of Mississippi and not from funding appropriated for the community and junior colleges for FY 1999.

Dr. Ray presented information on a statewide information initiative effort to promote and advertise the duties and opportunities of Mississippi's community and junior colleges. The Association voted unanimously to support Dr. Ray's idea of joining in a statewide information initiative and to hold a meeting on May 5, and 6, 1998, at Eagle Ridge Conference Center, to examine issues of mutual interest that will allow for areas of input.

The Association voted unanimously to authorize the SBCJC Executive Director, to express their deep concern to IHL with regard to the change in the filing deadline date for MTAG applications and the fact that the community and junior colleges were not informed of the date change.

Dr. Eddie Smith gave a report on the Phi Theta Kappa All-State Academic Team Recognition luncheon. The Association voted unanimously to commend Dr. Eddie Smith and the Phi Theta Kappa All-State Academic Team Recognition Luncheon Committee on a successful program.

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Dr. Howell Garner distributed a revised copy of a concept paper on the Virtual Community College Project. After a discussion of issues outlined in the concept paper the Association authorized a suggested plan of action including the authorization of the employment of a statewide Webmaster, working through a sub-committee of the Electronic Advisory Council to provide guidance on policy issues, conducting statewide staff development for all interested community and junior colleges, encouraging individual college districts to develop "on-line" courses for implementation as early as Fall 1998, and recommending to the SBCJC Funding and Formula Study Committee that "on-line" course work be acceptable for consideration in funding for full-time status.

The Association voted unanimously to commend the MACJC State Basketball Championship winners, Northeast Mississippi Community College's women's team and Pearl River Community College's men's team; the Region XXIII Basketball Tournament winners, Northwest Mississippi Community College's men's team and Pearl River Community College's women's team; and Northwest Mississippi Community College's men's and women's teams for their participation and showing in the NCJAA National Basketball Tournament.

Dr. Randall Bradberry distributed a copy of the first quarter audit report for the president's review and the Association voted unanimously to approve the special assessment of \$3,200 per college to cover the cost for the Legislative Luncheon, Choral Festival, legal fees, 1998 lobbyist, and trustees plaques.

### Workforce Education Report

Mr. Walker reported on the State Workforce Council's Committee for Support of Public Education efforts to explore ways in which business and community leaders might work with the State Department of Education and local school districts to better prepare students with skills that are needed in Mississippi's workforce. A suggested plan of action will be examined on May 13, 1998.

Mr. Walker distributed a copy of a response to an editorial that appeared in the Greenwood Commonwealth suggesting that the SBCJC be abolished (Exhibit A). Mr. Walker asked that copies of the letter be forwarded to the absent SBCJC members.

Mr. Walker also announced that the State Workforce Council is planning to sponsor regional legislative meetings in all five congressional districts. A planning meeting of the State Workforce Council's Legislative Committee will be held on April 29, 1998, at 1:30 p.m.

Ed Schneider reported on a federal grant plan for implementing a comprehensive School-to-Careers system (Exhibit B). The 19.2 million dollar grant would fund the development of systemic change to promote the concept of lifelong learning for students over a four year period. Business and industry will have a predominant presence with community and junior colleges playing an integral part of this program that will stress internships. All sectors of education, private and public schools, will be involved.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dr. Ray reminded Board members of the Council for Education Technology's mississippi.future.net, Statewide Technology Partnership, that will be held on April 29-30, 1998 at the Holiday Inn Southwest in Jackson, Mississippi.

After a discussion, the Board decided to call a special meeting on April 29, 1998, at 3:00 p.m., at the Education and Research Center. This step was necessary due to the fact that a quorum was not present today.

Dr. Ray led the Board in a discussion on the proposed statewide information initiative. The SBCJC will be asked to approve the expenditure of funds for a consultant to work with community and junior college personnel and SBCJC staff members in the development of the information initiative.

Dr. Ray also reported that the SBCJC is working closely with Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College to prepare a proposal to respond to the IHL study done by The College Board with regard to the educational needs on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The proposal will offer a plan for Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College's process to develop and meet the needs outlined in the study.

Dr. Ray stated that SBCJC staff members are developing a job description for use in hiring a statewide Webmaster, as requested by the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges.

Dr. Ray reported that Dr. Starkey Morgan, President of Holmes Community College had issued an invitation to the Board to hold the May, 1998, meeting at the Grenada Center. Holmes has filed an application to have the Grenada Center approved for academic status. Mr. Walker asked that the invitation from Dr. Morgan be placed on the agenda for the April 29, 1998, special meeting.

Dr. Ray stated that his out-of-town schedule would include a trip to Birmingham, Alabama on April 22, for a meeting with Alabama Technical Community College personnel and a trip to attend a ceremony honoring Coahoma Community College President, Vivian Presley, at Mississippi State University on April 24, 1998.

**Finance Committee**

Since a quorum was not present, the finance committee agenda items were deferred until the April 29, 1998, meeting.

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Program Committee

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher distributed a list of programs recommended for termination for the Board's review. This item, along with the University of Mississippi's request to offer a math course at their DeSoto County Center, will be placed on the April 29, 1998, agenda for action.

Legislative Report

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher reported that staff is in the process of preparing a booklet of action taken during the legislative session that affects the community and junior colleges. The booklets will be presented to the Board in May.

Proprietary Schools Report

Dr. Evelyn Webb reported on the actions taken at the meeting of the Commission on Proprietary School and College Registration which was held on February 19, 1998. Dr. Webb also reported that the Commission met on April 16, 1998, and updated their Regulations in conjunction with new legislative changes. A copy of the revised regulations will be submitted for SBCJC approval at the May meeting.

Special Meeting

Dr. Randall Bradberry distributed information on the ACCT Tri-Regional Conference scheduled for June 10-13, and the MACJCT Conference scheduled for July 16-18, 1998, both in Biloxi, Mississippi. Henry Hudspeth suggested that the Board appoint two members to attend the Tri-Regional Conference on behalf of the Board. Mr. Walker asked that these conference dates be added to the agenda for the April 29, 1998, meeting.

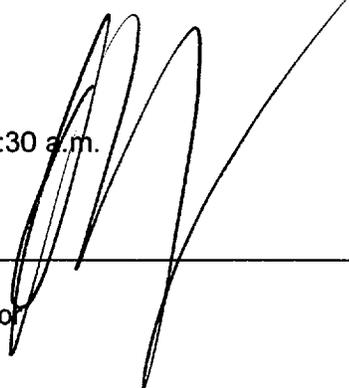
**OTHER BUSINESS**

In other business, Yvonne Brown updated the Board on actions taken at an EdNet meeting held on April 13, 1998 (Exhibit D).

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

  
George Walker, Chairman

  
Olon E. Ray  
Executive Director