

**EVENING MEETING
BOARD WORK SESSION
December 17, 1998
MINUTES**

The Board met for dinner at 6:00 p.m. at The Edison Walthall Hotel, 225 East Capitol Street, Jackson, Mississippi, on December 17, 1998. The following members were present: Yvonne Brown, Sara Fox, Joanna Heidel, Billy Hewes, Henry "Bubba" Hudspeth, John Junkin, Patricia Puckett, William Seal, Hazel Terry, and George Walker. State Board for Community and Junior Colleges (SBCJC) staff present included Randall Bradberry, Becky Cade, Larry Day, Deborah Gilbert, Olon E. Ray, Wayne Stonecypher, Evelyn Webb and Frankie Walton-White.

Upon completion of the meal the members moved to Ballroom II on the second floor of the hotel. Mr. Walker called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. The first item on the agenda was a Conversation with Dr. Horace Fleming, President of the University of Southern Mississippi (USM). However, Dr. Fleming was unable to attend the meeting, so his presentation was postponed until the January Dinner Board Meeting. Mr. Billy Hewes reiterated his request that members consider support of the USM position to establish a campus on the Gulf Coast.

In related matters, Dr. Ray distributed a position paper that the Board of Trustees at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College recently endorsed. (See Attachment A.) He asked that members review this position as they continued to review the issues related to requests made by various Gulf Coast citizens.

Further, Dr. Ray mentioned a conversation that he recently had with Billy Seal about his concern that the community colleges and the SBCJC were being portrayed as preventing the expansion of higher education offerings on the Coast. It was discussed that the SBCJC as a board is not opposed to higher education on the Coast. It was recommended that the Board consider taking the position that this is not our decision, we are not preventing this, and at this time, it is up to the Institutions of Higher Learning to determine what expansion is offered on the Coast.

Mr. Hewes stated his belief that the perception mentioned is accurate. Mr. Junkin asked Frankie White to explain where the SBCJC stands in deciding this matter. Frankie explained that it is her understanding based on conversations with Larry Clark, the author of the Attorney General's opinion, that the current A.G. opinion leaves the decision up to the IHL and that it only deals with the USM Long Beach campus. At that point, Mr. Junkin moved that the Board move to the next agenda item since no decision could be made tonight. Mr. Junkin's motion was seconded by Billy Hewes and there being no dissention, Mr. Walker called on Mrs. Fox to discuss the finance agenda items.

Sara, with assistance from Deborah Gilbert and Larry Day, proceeded by leading the discussion of the following agenda items:

- 1) General Fund 2298 Disbursements for January, 1999, of \$21,558,982
- 2) Education Enhancement Disbursement for December 31, 1998, of \$2,084,940.16
- 3) Report on the newly calculated Indirect Cost Proposal reflecting a 26.59% rate
- 4) Bimonthly Capital Improvements Report
- 5) Allocation of FY '99 Appropriations Using Fall 1998 Enrollment Figures was deleted from the agenda
- 6) Financial Statements for Funds 2291, 3291, and 4300

Next, Mr. Walker called on Joanna Heidel to discuss program items. There being no program agenda items, Mr. Walker called on Dr. Ray to discuss the agenda items under "Other".

Dr. Ray passed out a position paper adopted by the public community and junior college presidents reflecting their recommendations for the role of the community and junior colleges in Mississippi's response to the newly enacted Federally legislated Workforce Investment Act of 1998. (See Attachment B.) Dr. Ray also mentioned that the Governor recently held a Workforce Summit on December 15, 1998, whereby a multitude of persons presented their recommendations to the Governor on how the State/Governor should respond to the requirements of the Act. Dr. Ray also distributed a copy of information Mr. Walker used in presenting recommendations on behalf of the State Workforce Development Council. (See Attachment C.)

Mr. Walker commented that he was primarily concerned that State and regional Councils established to comply with these regulations be made up of a majority of employers throughout the state. Further, that the State Workforce Development Council is the only statutorily based group in the state designated to handle workforce training issues and thus should be utilized for any Federal workforce issues as well. Mr. Walker shared with members that the Workforce Summit was in response to the request from the Special Taskforce For Economic Development. He stated that Jimmy Heidel has asked for position papers to be submitted to him by January 5, 1999, and that he hopes to make recommendations to the Governor for compliance by February, 1999. Mr. Walker reiterated the need to ensure State Workforce Development Council members are represented on any temporary board developed by the Governor. After some discussion, staff were asked to write a form letter for board members to share with various supporters to send to the Governor.

Dr. Ray mentioned that Mr. Walker would probably discuss in more detail reorganization/consolidation of workforce programs under the SBCJC during tomorrow's meeting. However, he distributed a copy of a letter by Bobby Chain which was recently written and published in several newspapers. (See Attachment D.) He also shared with members the fact that the Presidents,

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during a called MACJC meeting in December, voted to endorse the workforce education and training consolidation recommendations made by the Special Taskforce for Economic Development. Basically these recommendations would place all adult workforce training and education programs under the Board. Additionally, Dr. Ray distributed a copy of a letter signed by Mr. Walker on behalf of the Board which was sent to the Governor and selected legislative leaders reflecting their support of the Special Taskforce recommendations. (See Attachment E.)

Mr. Walker mentioned the need for support of the community and junior colleges concept pertaining to Advanced Technology Training Centers which they are asking for funding during the upcoming legislative session.

There being no further business, John Junkin motioned to adjourn, which was seconded by Sara Fox. Upon unanimous concurrence, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.