

**EVENING MEETING  
BOARD WORK SESSION  
January 14, 1999  
MINUTES**

The State Board for Community and Junior Colleges met at 6:00 p.m. at The Edison Walthall Hotel, 225 East Capitol Street, Jackson, Mississippi, on January 14, 1999. The following members were present: Sara Fox, Billy Hewes, Henry "Bubba" Hudspeth, John Junkin, Patricia Puckett, William Seal, Hazel Terry, and George Walker. Members absent included Yvonne Brown and Joanna Heidel. 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. Guests included Horace Fleming, Tom Layzell and Willis Lott.

Mr. Walker called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Mr. Walker introduced Dr. Tom Layzell, Commissioner of the Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL), and Dr. Horace Fleming, President of the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) and welcomed them to the SBCJC meeting.

Mr. Walker explained that a conversation with Dr. Layzell, Dr. Fleming and Dr. Lott was the first item on the agenda. Dr. Ray mentioned that Dr. Willis Lott, who was scheduled to participate in this conversation, was unavoidably detained, but would be join the meeting around 7:00 p.m. Mr. Walker then asked the gentlemen to begin.

Dr. Tom Layzell began the conversation by providing an overview of what the Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) Board plans to do in their January meeting as it relates to University of Southern Mississippi's (USM) proposal to expand offerings at their Gulf Coast site and background on coordination efforts among Board staff and college and university. Dr. Layzell suggested there are two separate issues to be discussed: 1) the expansion of freshmen and sophomores at Gulf Park and 2) the creation of a multi-center on the Coast. The proposed multi-center would involve several universities and would provide upper level division and graduate level programming.

Dr. Layzell wanted to reassure the Board that as Commissioner of the IHL he wants to continue to work with the community and junior colleges and the SBCJC on collaborative and future partnerships, regardless of the outcome of the this issue and controversy.

Dr. Fleming began his conversation by thanking the Board for asking him to visit and by praising the community college system within the state. He stated that USM felt that it was essential to respond to the Gulf Coast study, which was produced by The College Board of New York. USM's response was a plan with a four-part strategy:

- 1) Strengthen the present program offerings on the Coast - This was their highest priority and USM has already received \$750,000 from the IHL to strengthen those programs.

- 2) Continue and further enhance cooperation with Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) - Examples of this are as follows:
  - a) Offer a new four year degree partnering with MGCCC
  - b) Proposal for an integrated financial aid system
  - c) Joint catalogues are possible, registration, counseling, etc.
  - d) Holding classes on each others campuses
- 3) Develop the Gulf Coast Educational Partnership (the "Center"). The leadership/facilitator of this Center would be USM. Other universities and colleges would offer courses. Dr. Fleming mentioned that MGCCC would be a full partner in the "Center".
- 4) Enrollment - Enroll up to 750 freshmen/sophomore level students over a graduated time period. USM has submitted to the IHL a plan for how this would be handled.

Dr. Fleming went on to explain that the dual campus concept was his attempt to try to define the roles of the USM Hattiesburg (residential) versus Gulf Park (place bound) campuses. He also stated that USM was merely trying to formulate a plan that will respond to the needs of the Coast and not to set a precedence that will be detrimental to the rest of the state.

At the conclusion of their presentation, Mr. Billy Hewes thanked Dr. Fleming and Dr. Layzell for coming to meet with the Board and stated his strong support of the "Center" concept. Additionally he asked why some Coast folks appeared to not be supportive of the "Center". Dr. Layzell and Dr. Fleming both indicated that the issue has to do with the ability to offer a four year experience at USM Gulf Park. However, both reiterated their support of the "Center" concept.

Mr. Bubba Hudspeth stated that it was the consensus of this Board that it has no authority or need to take official action or respond to their proposal. Dr. Layzell agreed. He did share with members that there is a concern that has been raised about the SBCJC's authority to approve freshmen/sophomore level courses.

Mr. John Junkin asked for an overlay of USM's four point plan to the recommendations made in The College Board's study. Dr. Layzell stated that he thinks that USM's proposal coincides with the study, and further he thinks there is no inconsistency with freshmen and sophomores taking the same course at USM Gulf Coast and at MGCCC.

Dr. Ray asked if their board would be presented with the choice of freshmen/sophomore level courses being offered only by community and junior colleges. Dr. Layzell said no, but that it is presumed that failure to adopt USM's proposal for limited enrollment of freshmen and sophomore level student would provide that option.

Dr. Ray also asked if the IHL Board would be provided with any cost proposals. Dr. Layzell said that no projections would be provided and added that it is generally accepted that community and junior college prices are lower than at the universities.

Dr. Ray asked if the University Presidents' Association had taken a formal position on this issue and Dr. Layzell said no.

Mr. Walker asked Dr. Layzell if the IHL staff planned to present a set of recommendations to their Board on this issue and Dr. Layzell responded that they would present specific recommendations based on the USM proposal at the January Board meeting.

Dr. Willis Lott, President of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College came into the room at 6:50 p.m.

Dr. Ray expressed his mutual respect and spirit of friendship with the IHL staff which, he stated, will continue regardless of the decision made by the IHL Board on this issue.

Mr. Walker asked if the practice of enrolling freshmen and sophomores could be transferred to other universities. Dr. Layzell responded by stating that the Attorney General's opinion was not limited only to the Coast.

Dr. Ray asked if Dr. Layzell, as Commissioner of the IHL, and the IHL Board felt comfortable in the decision to open up four year institutions. Dr. Layzell said yes, that even with their approval it would be a legislative issue to approve funding.

Mr. Walker then called on Dr. Willis Lott to express the position of his Board on the expansion of higher education on the Gulf Coast. First, Dr. Lott assured the SBCJC that neither he, nor his Board, are against the expansion of higher education on the Gulf Coast. Further, he does not think that a dual campus on the Coast will hurt enrollment at MGCCC. Instead, the MGCCC Board believes that in standing against duplication of freshmen/sophomore level courses, they are standing for what is best for the Gulf Coast. He pointed out that this position is not necessarily the easiest position, but they believe it is the most fair position.

Dr. Lott also brought up the fact that they strongly believe that the delivery of higher education is changing. While community colleges will continue to function, he believes that more and more instruction will be delivered via distance learning methods.

Dr. Lott stated MGCCC's commitment to continued collaborative efforts and referred members to page two (2) of the MGCCC concept paper, which outlines current collaborative efforts with USM. (Refer to Attachment A.) He reiterated the college's support of a "Center" concept and stated that the key to any center is to not duplicate degrees.

Mr. Billy Hewes thanked Dr. Lott for coming and for his spirit of cooperation. He further expressed his opinion that what ever is best for the Coast needs to be done.

Mr. John Junkin expressed his concern with duplication which is inherent in item four (4) of the USM proposal, which includes a plan to offer freshman and sophomore level courses at the "Center". He stated that he felt this was inconsistent with The College Board's recommendations for a "Center" concept.

Mr. Hewes asked Dr. Layzell to respond to Mr. Junkin's statement. Dr. Layzell said that he does not agree with Mr. Junkin's concern and feel that the USM proposal is consistent with the study, in that limited freshmen and sophomore courses will be offered at USM Gulf Coast with the majority of freshmen and sophomore courses still offered through MGCCC.

Dr. Fleming suggested that the enrollment phase should be evaluated each year.

There being no further discussion on this subject, Dr. Layzell, Dr. Lott and Dr. Fleming left the meeting and Mr. Walker then called on Ms. Sara Fox to go over the finance agenda items with the committee as a whole.

Ms. Fox with assistance from Ms. Deborah Gilbert, led discussion of the following items:

- 1) General Fund 2298 Disbursement for February/March 1999
- 2) Educational Enhancement Fund Distribution as of January 31, 1999 for Funds 4080, 4110, 4301
- 3) FY '99 Appropriations with Fall 1998 Enrollment Data
- 4) Financial Statements for Funds 2291, 3291 and 4300
- 5) Summary Spreadsheets of Board Member Per Diem and Travel for Calendar Year 1998 for 1099 Purposes (Each board member was provided a spreadsheet reflecting their own travel and per diem for 1998.)

Ms. Fox reported that there was no other business.

Dr. Ray called members attention to Attachment 3.A. and stated that this document was an excellent tool to provide members with allocation patterns. He stated that he planned on asking Dr. Tommy Davis to present the enrollment picture of off campus center attendance at East Mississippi Community College in the very near future. EMCC has shown a tremendous growth within the last couple of years. However, since the growth has been at an off campus center and the current method of allocating funds does not encourage part-time, non-traditional student population, a funding problem is created. Dr. Ray expressed his belief that encouraging this type of life-long learning provided by additional centers is extremely important to the future of the community and junior colleges and thus, the need to continue our efforts to look at funding options.

Dr. Ray also briefly mentioned that a workforce education and training consolidation bill would be filed in both the Senate and House. If passed, more strategic planning will be necessary. Dr. Ray and Mr. Walker assured members that the bill and its implication would be discussed further in tomorrow's meeting.

There being no further official business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45. Several of the members moved to the dining room for dinner. As members disbursed, Mr. Hewes expressed his appreciation to the Board for their cooperation.