

MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
OCTOBER 15, 1999

The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Friday, October 15, 1999, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room of the Student Union Building of Northwest Mississippi Community College in Senatobia, Mississippi.

Members present: Yvonne Brown, Joanna Heidel, Henry Hudspeth, John Junkin, Patricia Puckett, William Seal, and George Walker.

Members absent: Sara Fox and Hazel Terry.

Staff in attendance: Dr. Olon Ray, Executive Director, Dr. Randall Bradberry, Becky Cade, Dr. Larry Day, Deborah Gilbert, Sandra Lucas, Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, and Dr. Evelyn Webb.

Guest in attendance: Dr. David Haraway, President; and Steve McClellan, Vice-President for Fiscal Affairs of Northwest Mississippi Community College.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman George Walker at 9:00 a.m.

PRELIMINARIES

Mr. Walker thanked Dr. David Haraway and the staff of Northwest Mississippi Community College for hosting the SBCJC meeting.

The invocation was given by Joanna Heidel.

Approval of Minutes of September 17, 1999, Board Meeting

On a motion by John Junkin and a second by William Seal, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 17, 1999, meeting.

Review of Agenda

On a motion by Henry Hudspeth and a second by William Seal, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

Executive Director's Report

Dr. Olon Ray also expressed appreciation to Dr. David Haraway and the staff of Northwest Mississippi Community College for hosting the October SBCJC meeting.

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Dr. Ray gave an update on the Mississippi Virtual Community College (MSVCC). SBCJC staff members have been working with members of the Department of Information and Technology Services to secure a common software package for the MSVCC. At the conclusion of the bid process a vendor contested the bid award which may cause a postponement of the start-up target date of January 2000. Dr. Ray reported that the response to a Request for Proposals distributed to the fifteen community and junior colleges for faculty to develop and teach on-line course offerings was overwhelming. He also stated that Mr. Ron Marcy will be joining the SBCJC staff as Director of Distance Education for the MSVCC.

Dr. Ray reported to the Board about the ongoing efforts to advertise for and fill two Technical Specialists positions, one for the SBCJC Webmaster and the other for the SBCJC LAN/WAN Administrator.

Dr. Ray stated that the SBCJC may contract with the Mississippi Department of Economic and Community Development using JTPA funds to have the SBCJC Webmaster provide assistance with a website to highlight workforce opportunities and training on an Internet site.

Dr. Ray gave a brief overview of the Joint Legislative Budget Officer hearings held last month and distributed a schedule of the upcoming MACJC's Regional Legislative meetings.

Dr. Ray announced two SBCJC inter-office transfers of staff members: Joseph Larry has moved to assume the responsibilities of Ed Schneider upon the occasion of his retirement, and Tina Bradley has moved and will work with the SBCJC Technology team.

Dr. Ray reported that he would be out of the SBCJC office beginning October 18, through 31, on personal leave.

Dr. Ray also reported on a Phi Theta Kappa Event he attended recently.

Dr. Ray distributed a copy of a letter from Martin Mangold, Director of Telecommunications and Technology for the Mississippi Authority for Education Television, providing information on EdNet cell sites requested by SBCJC member, John Junkin (Exhibit A).

Dr. Ray reported that as a result of SBCJC action a meeting was held which included members of IHL and the State Department of Education to discuss issues of importance for ITFS license holders. At the meeting a strategy was developed to look at the possibility of hiring an ITFS expert consultant to provide advice on issues, and to find a Federal Communications Commission representative that might provide hard information on licensees and the implications involved in renewing those licenses.

REPORTS/ACTION

MACJC Report

Dr. David Haraway, President of Northwest Mississippi Community College, welcomed the SBCJC and presented each Board and staff member with a memento of the visit to Northwest. Dr. Haraway also presented SBCJC member, Patricia Puckett, with a Northwest sweatshirt.

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Dr Haraway reported on the following items discussed at the September 28, 1999, meeting of the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges.

Bob Berman, Joe Dove, and Lewis Watson, with Rotary International presented a proposal for a Mississippi HOPE (Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally) Scholarship program. MACJC Chairman, Dr. Ted Alexander, appointed a committee to meet with representative of Rotary International to further review the HOPE proposal.

Ben Kraft, the State Coordination for the American Council of Education's (ACE) Fellows Program for Mississippi and Louisiana, spoke to the Association regarding the ACE's Fellows Program that aids in strengthening colleges and universities by providing comprehensive leadership development for senior faculty and administrators.

Dr. Olon Ray reported on the SBCJC efforts to hire a Distance Learning Coordinator for the MSVCC, and the responses to a request for proposals to develop and deliver on-line courses offerings.

Dr. Ray discussed the development of a contract between the community and junior colleges and the SBCJC relative to appropriate use of the Internet.

Deborah Gilbert distributed a copy of a spreadsheet of Mississippi Public Community and Junior College County Tax Support for FY 1998-1999. Mrs. Gilbert stated that the SBCJC had expressed concern that the colleges might not be receiving all the funds from the counties levied for support of community and junior colleges. The SBCJC asked that the MACJC presidents review the report and express any concerns back to them for further review and possible action.

Nancy Alley and Dr. Wayne Stonecypher gave reports on meetings they have attended related to the Federal Workforce Investment Act.

Dr. Ray announced that the SBCJC had unanimously endorsed the recommendation of the Funding and Formula Study Committee.

Dr. Larry Day presented a report entitled Mississippi Public Community and Junior Colleges Trends and Projections.

Dr. Howell Garner gave a report on plans for the Phi Theta Kappa All-State Academic Team Recognition Program set for March 22, 2000. The MACJC voted to try and secure \$3,000 in contributions per college for the PTK All-State Academic Team Recognition Program.

Dr. Muse gave a report from the MACJC Legislative Committee and distributed a copy of the upcoming date for the Regional Legislative Committee meetings.

Dr. Muse reminded the MACJC of their position in opposition to H.B. 361 establishing term limits for Mississippi State elected officials. The Association reaffirmed its previous position in opposition of term limits.

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Dr. Starkey Morgan presented a compilation of recommendations from the Mississippi Virtual Community College Committee with regard to financial aid eligibility, athletic eligibility, and disbursement of funds for part-time enrollment for Spring 2000. The Association adopted the recommendations of the committee.

Dr. Haraway thanked the staff of the SBCJC for all they do to support Northwest Mississippi Community College and the mission of community and junior colleges throughout Mississippi.

EdNet Report

Yvonne Brown reported on a meeting held on October 17, 1999, of ITFS license holders. Mrs. Brown discussed with the Board a technical report that is available over the Internet outlining the risk of converting to two-way ITFS transmission in light of new Federal Communication Commission rulings. She urged SBCJC members to review the report. The report also outlines the importance of the ITFS licensee knowing the valuation of the license before entering into contracts with service providers. Mrs. Brown reported that the ETV microwave backbone construction is on target and is scheduled for completion by the first week in December. Cost estimate for the non-correlated sites have been reviewed and appear to be approximately 1.56 million dollars. The cost estimates will be forwarded to Wireless One and unless they agree to fund the construction, arbitration is likely. Mrs. Brown stated that the bids for the electronic classrooms were received and were approximately \$22,000 per classroom. EdNet is negotiating to bring the cost down to meet the contract cap at \$20,000 per site. Mrs. Brown announced a retreat planned for October 27, 1999, to examine the Federal Communication ruling and how it will affect EdNet.

Finance Report

Upon a motion by Joanna Heidel, and a second by William Seal, the Board voted unanimously to approve the October 31, 1999, Education Enhancement Fund Disbursement from Fund 4080, Fund 4110, and Fund 4301 in the total amount of \$13,123,825 (Exhibit B).

Mrs. Fox presented the following reports that did not require action, for the Board's review:

Financial Statements for Funds 2291, 3291, and 4300 (Exhibit C)
Capital Improvement Report (Exhibit D)
Results of Property Audit on September 27, 1999 (Exhibit E).

Mrs. Gilbert also presented a follow-up to the County Tax Report. There was concern last month that colleges may not be receiving the maximum due them from their counties. Since the last meeting SBCJC staff has talked to and invited comments from the presidents and sent a letter to the community and junior college business managers inviting comments or corrections.

Workforce Education

Mr. Walker gave a report on his participation in the Combase Conference held on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Mr. Walker and Dr. Olon Ray were presenters at the conference.

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Mr. Walker updated the Board on the activities of the State Workforce Development Council (SWDC) during their October 13, 1999, meeting. He discussed with the Board the current designations of service delivery areas that are proposed relating to guidelines of the Federal Workforce Investment Act.

Mr. Walker discussed with the Board the ETV project in which a van would be purchased to provide training opportunities in remote areas. The project was developed by the Legislature in response to a request by SWDC member Charles Holder and other Mississippi business leaders. The project was partially funded out of the SBCJC budget; but has encountered problems and is now on hold.

During the SWDC meeting, several reports were given that substantiate the fact that Mississippi has a relatively uncompetitive workforce. If Mississippi cannot alleviate this problem, at the end of the economic boom the State will suffer, due to functional illiteracy and close ties to NAFTA. The SWDC decided to ask the Legislature to research setting up a demo project for mid to high technology training. The project would be funded by a separate line item budget allocation.

Mr. Walker thanked the members of the Board that attended the Joint Legislative Budget Office hearings.

Mr. Walker reported on a meeting he attended at the request of Mississippi State University President, Dr. Mac Portera. During conversations with Dr. Portera, Mr. Walker learned that approximately 51% of the Junior and Senior students of Mississippi State are community and junior college transfer students. Dr. Portera reiterated to Mr. Walker that he wanted to have a very close working relationship with the SBCJC and will contact Dr. Ray to invite the SBCJC to hold a meeting on the MSU campus.

Dr. Olon Ray distributed a copy of a memorandum dated September 23, 1999, from Dr. Jean Denson with the Mississippi Department of Economic and Community Development, Employment Training Division, concerning the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Training Related Policies (Exhibit F). Dr. Ray discussed with the Board his perception of what the SBCJC's role in the WIA should be and distributed a draft copy of a memorandum relating that information to Dr. Denson (Exhibit G) for their review and comment. The memo states that the SBCJC wants to be responsible for coordinating training activities but does not want to be the agency responsible for record keeping and eligibility determination. In considering the accountability and tracking requirements of the WIA, as they relate to training, the SBCJC does not have the electronic system required to track all training related WIA clients. Dr. Ray stated that he believed that the performance information for these clients should be traced on a statewide basis by the Mississippi Employment Security Commission, as they are the only WIA partner in the state currently with the capacity to capture the large amounts of information required by this Act, and he fully supports any effort to designate them as the state entity to provide this service.

Also, the memorandum recommends that it be a requirement that all non-public training institutions attain licenses through the Proprietary School and College Registration Commission and require that voucher reimbursements for training be limited to the average cost for training offered via public education institutions, provided that same or similar training is offered through a public education institution. If the training is not offered through a public system, it is

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recommended that the reimbursement amount is set by using an average of the cost for the same training in other states. Upon a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Henry Hudspeth, the Board voted unanimously to support the concept outlined in the memorandum from Dr. Ray to Dr. Jean Denson, dated October 14, 1999.

Status Report on the Designated Attorney Regarding the Attorney General's Opinion

Dr. Olon Ray reported that he has had conversations with Judge Jimmy Robertson and provided him a copy of the Attorney General's Opinion dated November 12, 1998, and other related information. Judge Robertson has agreed to review the material at no charge to the SBCJC. He will meet with the Board during the November scheduled meeting to discuss the matter further.

Property Transfer

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher reported to the Board regarding the transfer of equipment purchased with Industrial Services Training funds from the State Department of Education to the SBCJC. The total equipment transfer amounts to \$5,837,407.28. SBCJC staff is recommending that 41 mobile units, some with specialized equipment, remain on the SBCJC inventory list, with the balance of the items being transferred to the colleges with certain stipulations. As part of the SBCJC policy the colleges would be required to comply with the following procedures: 1) The colleges place the transferred items on their inventory, 2) If the equipment is no longer needed, the SBCJC will be notified so that the equipment might be moved to another college for use in another program, or 3) If the equipment is obsolete or should be salvaged, the college would notify the SBCJC and obtain authorization for disposal. Upon receipt of the transferred equipment, the colleges would be asked to sign a contract stating that the equipment would be used in areas of workforce training. Upon a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by Patricia Puckett, the Board voted unanimously to approve the SBCJC staff recommendation for the transfer of the Industrial Services inventory and approved the draft of a policy to cover further moves of this type.

Mississippi Future Net Report

Dr. Olon Ray distributed a copy of a draft report entitled For Today and the Next Generation prepared by the Mississippi.Future.Net (MFN) Workgroup for the Board's review (Exhibit H). Dr. Ray asked members to focus on one of the MFN recommendations to establish the Mississippi Education Partnership (MEP). This 501(C)(3) organization will allow the three state educational entities to plan federal, state and local resources available to Mississippi in the areas of education, training, and technology transfer. MEP's goal to identify and focus on opportunities where collaboration and cooperation between the three established educational organization will provide improved efficiencies for all parties involved. The report details actions to accomplish the proposed goals.

Upon a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by Joanna Heidel, the Board voted unanimously to endorse the recommendations for the Mississippi Educational Partnership as outlined in the report prepared by the Mississippi.Future.Net Workgroup. Dr. Ray asked members to review the balance of the report and provide comments to him.

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Approval of Policies and Procedures

Dr. Olon Ray asked that action be deferred on the approval of SBCJC Policies and Procedures until the November meeting.

Travel Authorizations

Chairman Walker asked for requests to authorize travel reimbursements for events other than regularly scheduled Board meetings. On a motion by Joanna Heidel, seconded by John Junkin, the Board voted unanimously to approve requests for reimbursement of travel expenses for the following:

Yvonne Brown for attending an EdNet meeting on October 27, and a meeting at Holmes Community College on October 16, 1999.

George Walker for attending State Workforce Development Council meetings on October 13, and November 10, the MACJC Regional Legislative meetings at Mississippi Delta Community College and Coahoma Community College on November 8, and a meeting at the Public Education Forum on November 16, 1999.

Other Business

Upon a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Yvonne Brown, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 16, 1999, Thursday evening meeting.

John Junkin expressed concern that the MACJC took a position in opposition to Legislation that would restrict term limits for Mississippi state elected officials. The Board entered into a discussion regarding the matter and by consensus asked that Dr. David Haraway express to the Association their concerns. Dr. Haraway responded giving a brief history of the Association's action and agreed to inform them of the SBCJC's concern.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Henry Hudspeth and a second by William Seal, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 11:05 a.m.

The Board was then treated to a brief tour of the Northwest campus and lunch with Dr. David Haraway and members of the Northwest administration and staff.



George Walker, Chairman

Olon E. Ray
Executive Director