

MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
JANUARY 21, 2000

The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Friday, January 21, 2000, at 9:00 a.m. in the John Grisham Room of the Mitchell Memorial Library on the campus of Mississippi State University in Starkville, Mississippi.

Members present: Yvonne Brown, Sara Fox, Henry Hudspeth, John Junkin, Patricia Puckett, William Seal, Hazel Terry, and George Walker.

Member Absent: Joanna Heidel.

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

Guest in attendance: Dr. Scott Elliott, President of Meridian Community College; Dr. Tommy McDonald, Meridian Community College; Jerry McClendon, State Department of Education; State Treasurer, Marshall Bennett, and Sally Myers.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman George Walker at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Walker thanked Mississippi State University for hosting the SBCJC meeting.

PRELIMINARIES

The invocation was given by Yvonne Brown.

Approval of Minutes of December 17, 1999, Board Meeting

On a motion by John Junkin and a second by Hazel Terry, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 17, 1999, Board meeting.

Review of Agenda

On a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Henry Hudspeth, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

Mississippi Affordable College (MACS) Savings Plan

State Treasurer, Marshall Bennett gave the Board a summary of a proposal to create the Mississippi Affordable College Savings Program (MACS) (Exhibit A). If approved, this program will compliment the Mississippi Pre-paid Affordable Tuition Plan (MPACT) program. The MACS program allows families to save for all qualified higher education expenses, undergraduate and graduate other than tuition which is covered through MPACT. Contributions to the program and their associated investment earnings can be distributed to cover qualified expenses. The

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proposal will create statutory authority for both the MACS and MPACT programs and will rename the MPACT Division of the State Treasury Department the College Savings Plans Division. The College Savings Plans Division will be responsible for administration of both programs.

Dr. Olon Ray made a recommendation that the SBCJC endorse the Mississippi Affordable College Savings Program Proposal. Upon a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by William Seal, the SBCJC voted unanimously to endorse and support the Mississippi Affordable College Savings Program Proposal.

Executive Director's Report

Dr. Ray reported on the success of the Mississippi Virtual Community College (MSVCC). For the Spring 2000 semester, MSVCC has over 1,195 students enrolled in 29 courses with a total of 57 sections. The average class size ranges from 20 to 33 students.

Dr. Ray announced the employment of new SBCJC Technical Specialist (LAN/WAN), Thomas Whitten.

Dr. Ray announced a January 26, 2000, meeting of Local District Workforce Councils, via the Community College Network, to discuss the effect of legislative budget recommendations for the workforce programs. The meeting is scheduled for 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Dr. Ray reported that the House Appropriations Committee has established a new sub-committee on appropriations for community and junior colleges. Dr. Ray stated that options are being examined to try to do the same thing with the Mississippi Senate.

Dr. Ray commended Dr. Evelyn Webb on coordinating and planning the recent Community College Campus Safety Conference held on January 18 and 19, 2000. Dr. Webb gave a brief report on the conference. During the planning stages of the conference, the community and junior colleges were contacted for input on program item areas they felt the most information and help was needed. The conference detailed 10 specific areas of campus safety concerns. Dr. Michael Clay Smith, a nationally known figure in the area of campus safety, was the keynote speaker.

Dr. Ray announced that all of Governor Kirk Fordice's board appointments not confirmed by the Legislature had been recalled. This action affected the appointment of SBCJC member Brenda Collins.

Dr. Ray reported on attending the ground breaking ceremony for the Center for Career and Workforce Development in Indianola, Mississippi. Mississippi Delta Community College will operate the Center.

Dr. Ray reported that Mississippi Delta Community College President, Dr. Bobby Garvin, had been hospitalized for injuries he sustained during a fall.

Dr. Ray also reported that the SBCJC would be migrating to a new telephone system on or about February 21, 2000. The new prefixes for SBCJC numbers will change from 982 to 432,

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with the remaining four digits remaining the same. For a couple of months, SBCJC offices can be contacted by dialing the 982 or 432 prefix.

Dr. Ray asked for the Board's input with regard to whether or not to pursue this year efforts to consolidate all workforce training for the State of Mississippi under the supervision of the SBCJC. After a discussion, a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Yvonne Brown, the Board voted unanimously to support efforts to continue to work for transfer of post-secondary vocational technical programs and services under the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges during this Legislative Session.

REPORTS/ACTION

MACJC Report

Dr. Scott Elliott, President of Meridian Community College, thanked the SBCJC for their work and support on behalf of Mississippi's Community and Junior Colleges. He also thanked SBCJC Chairman, George Walker, for his tireless efforts with regard to workforce training for the State of Mississippi, and Ms. Hazel Terry for her dedication within his college district.

Dr. Elliott reported on the following items discussed at the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges on November 23, 1999:

A report was received regarding the Community and Junior College History project which will cover the years of 1972-2000. Dr. Scott Elliott has agreed to chair the project.

Dr. Olon Ray, Becky Cade, and Ron Marcy updated the Association on the Mississippi Virtual Community College.

The Association agreed to change the name of the One-Stop Career Centers to Workforce Development Centers to avoid confusion with the Workforce Investment Act's One-Stop Career Centers.

In Executive Session, the Association heard a report from outside legal counsel, Attorney Jimmy Robertson, and SBCJC Chairman, George Walker concerning the Attorney General's opinion on the USM Gulf Park issue.

The Association discussed the Veterans Administration position with regard to the hiring of Associate Degree Nursing graduates.

Dr. Clyde Muse, MACJC Legislative Committee Chairman, reported on the MACJC Regional Legislative meetings.

Dr. Muse shared a copy of a proposal from the Godwin Group which will promote public awareness of the community and junior colleges.

EdNet Report

Yvonne Brown and Dr. Evelyn Webb reported on events discussed at the last regular meeting of the EdNet Board held on January 12, 2000. ETV Director, Larry Miller reported that their

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Washington counsel advised that Dawn Alexander was working with Walt Eilers in preparing a revised excess capacity agreement to reflect the name change from TruVision to Wireless Solutions, the local operating entity under the MCI/Worldcom system. There will be other substantive changes in the basic agreement to reflect the revised FCC rules regarding digital two-way services. This may provide an opportunity for EdNet to correct some of the inequities contained in the 1993 contract agreement with the private partner. A copy of the overview of the meeting is attached (Exhibit B).

Mrs. Brown reported that EdNet began broadcasting on its second channel on January 3, 2000. This channel primarily features the PBS Kids lineup but will move into more academic features next semester. She also announced that EdNet will feature three (3) credited courses from Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, six (6) courses from Hinds Community College, as well as, repeats for ETV for six (6) Consortium for Adult Learning Services courses.

On a motion by John Junkin, and a second by William Seal, the Board voted unanimously to request that representative of the SBCJC be present during contract negotiation with Wireless Solutions.

Finance Report

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Patricia Puckett, the Board voted unanimously to approve the February and March, 2000, General Fund Disbursements from Fund 2298 in the amount of \$8,106,598 each (Exhibit C).

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by John Junkin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the January 31, 2000, Education Enhancement Fund Disbursement from Fund 4080, Fund 4110, and Fund 4301, in the total amount of \$13,123,825 (Exhibit D).

Mrs. Fox presented financial statements for Funds 2291, 3291, and 4300 for the Board's information (Exhibit E). No action was required.

In other business, Mrs. Fox presented a copy of a Z-1 form and request for escalation of 100% federal funds (Exhibit F) in the amount of \$50,000. The funds were received from the Department of Economic and Community Development to hire a full-time, time-limited technical specialist webmaster to develop a statewide "Technological Network" to support services to One-Stop sites throughout the State, and to act as a "Mississippi Directory and Guide" to provide comprehensive information on workforce related training services, labor needs and career opportunities. On a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Henry Hudspeth, the Board voted unanimously to approve the escalation of 100% federal funds.

Action on the Finance Agenda items, FY 2000 Appropriations with Fall 1999 Enrollment, and FY 2001 Legislative Budget Recommendations with Fall 1999 Enrollment were deferred to a future meeting.

Program Committee

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher reported to the Board on program applications that will be forthcoming in the near future from the colleges.

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Workforce Education

Mr. Walker updated the Board on the items discussed at the State Workforce Development Council (SWDC) meeting held on January 12, 2000. Mr. Walker reported on the presentation of a letter of commendation from the SBCJC, and a plaque from the SWDC to Jimmy Heidel in recognition of his service to Mississippi in his capacity as the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Economic and Community Development, and Co-Chair of the SWDC.

Mr. Walker announced Governor, Ronnie Musgrove's appointment of J. C. Burns to service as Director of the Mississippi Department of Economic and Community Development. Mr. Burns will also serve as Co-Chairman of the SWDC.

Mr. Walker reported that members of the SWDC are discussing the establishment of committees and sub-committees to work on the issues related to workforce training in Mississippi. The SWDC would meet every other month and allow the committees to meet between the regular scheduled SWDC meetings.

A meeting of all District Workforce Councils is scheduled for January 26, 2000, via the CCN to discuss the recent announcement of the Legislative Budget Office's budget recommendations (Exhibit G). The Board discussed the effects of the proposed budget cuts for the 2001 fiscal year.

Mr. Walker announced that the SWDC is planning to ask each District Workforce Council to develop and submit a strategic plan which will be compiled into a strategic planning document for the overall SWDC.

The Mississippi Department of Economic and Community Development gave a report on their resume' cross match service which will provide assistance in recruiting out-of-state former Mississippi residents to return to Mississippi's workforce.

Pete Walley with IHL presented the workforce recommendations of the Special Taskforce for Economic Development Planning.

The SWDC received a report on the School-to-Careers grant.

Mr. Walker distributed a copy of a memorandum addressed to Workforce Council members and other community/junior college friends recommending that they write members of the legislature concerning the Joint Legislative Budget Committee's proposed budget cuts for fiscal year 2001 (Exhibit H). The Board discussed the budget cuts in workforce funding from House Bill 400.

Fall Enrollment Report

Dr. Larry Day presented the Mississippi Public Community and Junior Colleges' Enrollment Report for Fall 1999 (Exhibit I), and a fact sheet highlighting the enrollment recap (Exhibit J).

Mr. Walker complimented Dr. Day on the Trends and Projections Report distributed at an earlier

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Board meeting and suggested that the Board revisit the report at the May or June meeting.

LBO Recommendations

Dr. Evelyn Webb distributed a copy of proposed legislation for the 2000 regular session (Exhibit K). As the session progresses, Dr. Wayne Stonecypher will track the legislation that may impact the community and junior colleges and forward updates to SBCJC members.

Recommended Changes in Standards

Dr. Evelyn Webb presented a proposed change to the SBCJC Standards for Quality and Accountability for the Board's consideration (Exhibit L). The change is necessary for audit purposes due to the emergence of distance learning technologies and the offering of on-line courses through the Mississippi Virtual Community Colleges. On a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by Hazel Terry, the Board voted unanimously to approve the change in the SBCJC Standards for Quality and Accountability and submit the proper paperwork to the Secretary of State's Office to begin the Administrative Procedures process.

Dr. Donald Zacharias, former president of MSU, entered the room, made a brief welcome, and was introduced to Board members and staff.

Travel Authorizations

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

Hazel Terry for attending a State Workforce Development Council meeting in Jackson on January 12, 2000.

Yvonne Brown for attending an EdNet Board meeting in Jackson on January 12, 2000.

George Walker for attending the State Workforce Development Council Meeting on January 12, a State Workforce Development Council Committee meeting on January 11, and a meeting with Dr. Ray and Dr. Vivian Presley on January 13, 2000.

Upon a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Patricia Puckett, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 16, 1999, meeting.

Dr. Randall Bradberry distributed invitations to the MACJC Legislative Appreciation Luncheon, that will be held on February 3, 2000, in Jackson, Mississippi.

Upon a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by John Junkin, the Board voted unanimously to ask Dr. Ray to draft a letter of appreciation to Mississippi State President, Dr. Portera and his wife Olivia, on behalf of the Board.

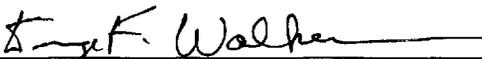
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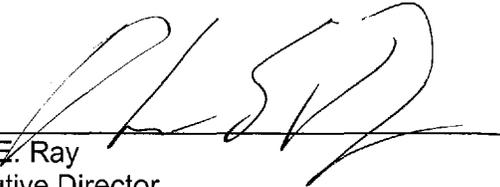
Mr. Walker asked that a copy of the letter of commendation presented to Jimmy Heidel on behalf of the SBCJC be distributed to all members.

Yvonne Brown asked that the Board invite the Tchula Boys Club to attend the next SBCJC meeting and that a tour of the Phi Theta Kappa headquarters be scheduled for them.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Hazel Terry, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m.


George Walker, Chairman


Olon E. Ray
Executive Director