

MINUTES  
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES  
DECEMBER 15, 2000

The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Friday, December 15, 2000, at 9:00 a.m., in Natchez Room of the Billy B. Thames Conference Center at Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Wesson, Mississippi.

**Members present:** Yvonne Brown, Brenda Collins, Joanna Heidel, Veldore Heidelberg, Henry Hudspeth, John Junkin, George Walker, and Lawrence Warren.

**Members absent:** Sara Fox and Jimmy Murphy.

**Staff in attendance:** Dr. Olon Ray, Dr. Randall Bradberry, Becky Cade, Dr. Larry L. Day, Deborah Gilbert, Sandra Lucas, Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Dr. Evelyn Webb, and Frankie Walton White.

**Guests in attendance:** Copiah-Lincoln Community College Staff: Dr. Howell Garner, President; Marilyn Brown, Director of the Thames Center; Natalie Davis, Director of Public Information; Paul Johnson, Dean of the college; and Michael Tanner, Business Manager.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman George Walker called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He thanked Dr. Howell Garner and Copiah-Lincoln Staff members for hosting the December meeting and for the hospitality shown to the Board and SBCJC staff during the visit.

**PRELIMINARIES**

Yvonne Brown gave the invocation.

**Approval of Minutes of November 16 and 17, 2000, Board Meetings**

Henry Hudspeth asked that a change be made to the November 17, 2000, minutes reflecting that he attended an MACJC Regional Legislative Meeting in Meridian instead of Columbus. On a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Henry Hudspeth, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 16, and amended minutes of the November 17, 2000, meetings.

**Review and Approval of Agenda**

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

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS/INTRODUCTIONS**

Mr. Walker requested that all present state their names and whom they represent.

Dr. Howell Garner, President of Copiah-Lincoln Community College, officially welcomed the SBCJC to Copiah-Lincoln Community College. He then re-introduced the Co-Lin Staff members present and gave an overview of their responsibilities.

Dr. Garner briefly discussed items included in a packet of information regarding the college. He also gave a summary of the planning and building of the Thames Conference Center named for former Co-Lin President, Billy B. Thames. Dr. Thames was president of the college for 29 years. The Center has hosted 424 events since the official opening in February 3, 1999, including 70 training classes for local business and industry. The building is equipped with 164 fiber optic drops for connection to computers and was paid for with state, local, and private contributions.

Dr. Garner then discussed Co-Lin's instructional program. In 1985 Co-Lin opened their Learning Center and by 1988 they were the first community college to have a comprehensive learning center. The center offers computer assisted instruction and provides a place for students to go for review or enhancement of what they learned in class. The center provides a "user friendly" environment for student learning. Dr. Garner stated that during the fall semester (August through December, 2000) over 25,000 student usages were logged at the Center.

Dr. Garner gave a report on Co-Lin's participation in the Mississippi Virtual Community College (MSVCC). He also discussed financial aid programs and gave breakdown figures for federal, state amounts being utilized by Co-Lin students.

Dr. Garner reported that Co-Lin has signed a contract with Cellular South for cellular telephone service. Cellular South will construct a tower that will enhance the service available for Co-Lin and the surrounding area. There are approximately 2,700 enrolled at Co-Lin district wide.

#### MACJC Report

Dr. Garner reported on the following items discussed at the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges at their November meeting:

Mr. Rod Risley gave a Power Point presentation on preliminary results from the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Alpha Project. Mr. Risley distributed a brochure detailing the benefits available to PTK membership through enrolling in the Phi Theta Kappa Network. Components of the PTK Network include: The Academic Connection, The Scholarship Connection, The Career Connection and The Recognition Connection. The Scholarship Connection provides members access to the Scholarship TRAK search engine that has a database of more than 8,000 funding sources comprised of more than 600,000 individual awards, and selects those matching the student's profile.

Dr. Clyde Muse gave a report on the MACJC Regional Legislative meetings. This year's schedule was hampered by the Governor's Special Session and the November elections. Dr. Muse stated that he was encouraged that so many community and junior college trustees attended the regional meetings.

The Association discussed the upcoming Legislative Budget Office recommendations and anticipated budget reductions.

Mr. Ray Smith discussed with the Association questions brought up during the Foundation meeting regarding the purchase of \$350,000 in equipment to upgrade the Community College Network (CCN ).

Mrs. Nancy Alley gave the Association an update on the Nissan project. She reported on meetings last week with representatives from the Nissan Plant in Smyrna, Tennessee. The Association discussed making a trip to visit the Smyrna, Tennessee Nissan Plant to visit and view that plant's operation.

Dr. Randall Bradberry congratulated Dr. Clyde Muse and the Hinds Community College football, women's soccer, and men's soccer teams for winning the MACJC State Championships.

Dr. Starkey Morgan noted that Meridian Community College won the National Championship in soccer.

Dr. Morgan appointed the following individuals to serve on the MACJC Committee to Monitor Teacher Preparation Programs - Chairman Dr. Clyde Muse, Dr. Charles Chance, Dr. Vivian Presley, and Dr. William Lewis.

Dr. Scott Elliott gave an update on the Mississippi Community College History Project and an update on corporate fundraising for the Phi Theta Kappa Awards Program.

Dr. Howell Garner gave an update on the MSVCC. He announced that the study committee on the MSVCC plans to begin meeting in January. The committee will address issues related to the MSVCC.

The MACJC Athletic Handbook Committee is continuing to meet and hopes to present recommendations to the full Association in April.

Lawrence Warren commended Dr. Garner and Co-Lin for their frugal efforts during this time of tight budgets in light of revenue shortfalls. He also complimented Co-Lin for its efforts in cooperating with Alcorn State University at the Natchez Campus to provide quality education for Mississippi students.

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dr. Olon Ray also thanked Dr. Garner and Co-Lin for the hospitality afforded the SBCJC and staff during the December meeting.

Dr. Ray discussed problems being experienced with the Community College Network (CCN). SBCJC staff members are researching solutions to the problems and an upgrade to system equipment at a cost of \$350,000 is a possible solution for networking problems. The \$350,000 in funding will come from Rural Health Corps Funds. The new equipment would make the CCN more self-sufficient.

Dr. Ray reported that there are 2,674 enrollments pre-registered for the Spring 2001 MSVCC Semester. This represents 1,837 students in 236 sections of 98 courses that will be offered during the spring semester. A student and faculty survey has been

completed to determine opinions on issues related to the MSVCC, and Dr. Ray will report to the Board when the surveys are compiled.

Dr. Ray briefly discussed with the Board his concerns related to the impact of budget cuts on SBCJC staff positions and workforce training funding.

Dr. Ray announced that SBCJC staff and the MACJC presidents will participate in a January 5, 2001, planning meeting via the CCN, to coordinate efforts in communicating the needs of community and junior colleges to the Legislature during the upcoming session. Also, a meeting is planned between the presidents' leadership and members of the State Workforce Development Council to develop a message for presentation to key legislative members.

Dr. Evelyn Webb distributed copies of a resolution prepared as a result of recommendations during the annual Mississippi Association of Colleges and Universities (MAC) Conference in October of 2000 (Exhibit A). The essence of the resolution is that public and private; universities, colleges, and K-12 will work together to build a system of better education for everyone. The resolution also calls for a President' Summit to discuss issues related to preparation of teachers. Dr. Webb also distributed a brochure entitled Mississippi Teacher Preparation and The P-16 Education Partnership (Exhibit B).

Dr. Evelyn Webb also distributed copies of the Mississippi Business Journal containing an article on Coahoma and Mississippi Delta Community Colleges.

## **REPORTS/ACTION**

### **EdNet Report**

Yvonne Brown distributed a summary of actions taken at the November 20, 2000, EdNet Board meeting and briefly discussed the highlights (Exhibit C). Mrs. Brown reported that a new President for EdNet was chosen, Martin Mangold. She also stated that Michael Gallagher had submitted his resignation effective December 31, 2000, and that the Board had accepted his resignation. Mrs. Brown thanked Dr. Evelyn Webb and SBCJC staff for supporting her EdNet activities and for putting the EdNet Board meeting reports together.

### **Finance Report**

Upon staff recommendation, a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Lawrence Warren, the Board voted unanimously to approve the January 2001 General Fund Disbursement from Fund 2298 in the amount of \$28,198,561 (Exhibit D).

Upon staff recommendation, a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Veldore Heidelberg, the Board voted unanimously to approve the December 31, 2000, Education Enhancement Fund Disbursement from Fund 4080 and Fund 4100 in the total amount of \$2,506,722 (Exhibit E).

Mrs. Gilbert presented a report, Joint Legislative Recommendations for FY 2002 (Exhibit F), showing a total funding loss of \$39,877,981.

Mrs. Gilbert also presented Financial Statements for Fund 2291, 3291, and 4300 for review (Exhibit G). No action was required.

#### Workforce Education

George Walker reported on items discussed at the State Workforce Development Council (SWDC) meeting on Wednesday, December 13, 2000. Mr. Walker announced that he had appointed a Legislative Action Committee to examine ways to address the 2000 budget cuts. He stated that the SWDC continues to be concerned that when the Nissan Plant opens funding will not be available to train workers to replace vacancies created in existing industries. The Council plans to take a very active role in presenting the funding needs for workforce training across the state. Mr. Walker announced that a meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 20, at the SBCJC office with members of the MACJC Legislative Committee and invited all the Board to attend. Upon a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Yvonne Brown, the Board voted unanimously to support the efforts of the SWDC to sustain funding for workforce training programs. Mr. Walker asked that SBCJC members consider participating with the SWDC in editorial board meetings that might be scheduled in their districts.

Mr. Walker stated that he felt that local District Workforce Councils should write their Legislators conveying the message that workforce education should be continued in Mississippi.

#### Consideration of Change in Date of Regular Board Meetings

Upon a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Joanna Heidel, the Board voted unanimously to change the date of regularly scheduled SBCJC meetings from the third Friday and preceding Thursday evening of each month to 9:00 a.m. on the fourth Friday and preceding Thursday evening of each month, effective January 1, 2001.

#### Travel Authorizations

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

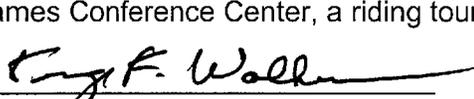
Yvonne Brown for attending an EdNet Board meeting on December 11, 2000, in Jackson.

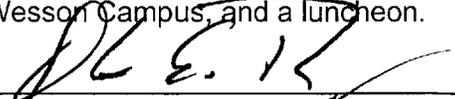
George Walker for attending State Workforce Development Council meetings on December 13, December 20, 2000, and January 10, 2001.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by John Junkin, the meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Immediately following the meeting the Board was treated to a walk-through tour of the Thames Conference Center, a riding tour of the Wesson Campus, and a luncheon.

  
George Walker, Chairman

  
Olon E. Ray  
Executive Director