

MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
JANUARY 26, 2001

The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Friday, January 26, 2001, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 507 of the Paul B. Johnson Tower of the Education and Research Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

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

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

Guests in attendance: Bill Smith, Institution of Higher Learning; Terry Thomas, Mississippi State Department of Education; and Dr. Starkey Morgan, Holmes Community College.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman George Walker called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

PRELIMINARIES

Joanna Heidel gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes of December 15, 2000, Board Meeting

On a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Henry Hudspeth, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2000, meeting.

Review and Approval of Agenda

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Olon Ray distributed a copy of an agreement with the Technology Management Group (TMG) (Exhibit A). TMG offers equipment maintenance management programs that lower the cost of equipment maintenance while improving quality by tracking response time, labor, parts and travel costs, and holding the service vendors accountable. The current SBCJC agreement with ATS provided maintenance at a yearly cost of about \$133,000. The new contract with TMG will cost \$99,750.

In light of the current budget crunch state agencies are facing, Dr. Ray reported on efforts to automate certain SBCJC procedures through electronic and on-line services. As a result of utilizing electronic services the SBCJC would enable work efforts to be

combined and cost savings to the colleges and the SBCJC realized. A main objective is to save as much staff time and funding as possible.

Dr. Ray gave a brief update on the Mississippi Community College Public Foundation, Inc.

Dr. Ray distributed a copy of a "push card" prepared by the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges' presidents (Exhibit B). The card highlights the need to restore community and junior college funding to the FY 2000 level. Extra copies are available to any SBCJC member upon request.

Dr. Evelyn Webb presented copies of the SBCJC 1999-2000 Annual Report highlighting the work of the agency for the previous year (Exhibit C).

Dr. Ray reported on the Community College Network (CCN) and continued operational problems in the operation of that network and efforts to correct this situation. Part of the problem is that a centralized operations center and a majority of the equipment required to operate the network is housed in a separate facility that is managed by personnel with the Mississippi Authority for Educational Television (ETV). The three educational interactive video networks decided to utilize a central network to reduce costs. However, continued operational and delivery problems with ETV have caused SBCJC and college personnel to seek possible solutions elsewhere.

Dr. Ray added that these concerns are exacerbated by concerns he has in the overall operation and administration by ETV. Dr. Ray is on the ETV board and continues to raise issues and concerns over ETV's standard operating condition and procedures. Continuing problems which have been experienced by the CCN Network scheduling system and efforts to correct the situation have created the need to find a permanent solution. ETV manages the scheduling system here in Jackson.

REPORTS/ACTION

MACJC Report

Dr. Starkey Morgan reported on the following items discussed at the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges on January 23, 2001:

On Monday January 22, 2001, the Association held their annual meeting to address recommended changes to the MACJC Handbook regarding athletics. Dr. Morgan stated that the presidents are committed to reducing the number of out-of-state scholarships offered by MACJC colleges. He reported that a special meeting regarding the out-of-state scholarship issue will be scheduled for some time in April 2001.

Dr. Morgan appointed a committee of presidents to meet with PERS Executive Director, Frank Ready, to discuss criteria that determines full-time employee status.

Dr. Scott Elliott gave an update on the History of Mississippi's Community and Junior Colleges' project. An estimated cost of 100 volumes per college was discussed.

Dr. Howell Garner gave a Mississippi Virtual Community College (MSVCC) report and SBCJC staff member, Jason Pugh, gave a report on the Fall 2000 semester.

Dr. Clyde Muse gave the MACJC Legislative Committee Report. He and Dr. Morgan have met with Senator Jack Gordon to discuss the critical financial situation facing our State and the impact it will have on Mississippi's Community and Junior Colleges. Dr. Muse briefly discussed proposed Legislation that would affect the SBCJC and community colleges. The Association voted to take positive, negative, or neutral positions on the Legislative bills directly or indirectly affecting the community and junior college system.

Joanna Heidel asked that she be provided with information reflecting the percentage of full-time instructional staff as compared to part-time instructional staff at each of the colleges. Deborah Gilbert will forward the information to SBCJC members.

Mr. Walker asked Dr. Morgan to discuss with the Board his perception of services that the new Nissan plant would require from the colleges. Dr. Morgan briefly discussed the training of Industrial Maintenance staff by Nissan, utilizing community college facilities and instructors. Past that point, Nissan will train individuals in their own temporary training facility. Community and junior colleges will also play a key role in training workers to replace vacancies created in existing industries due to Nissan's hiring their employees.

Enrollment Audit Report

Dr. Larry Day distributed copies of the Public Community and Junior College Fall 2000 Preliminary Enrollment Report (Exhibit D). He briefly covered the highlights of the report with the Board.

Status Report on Lawsuit

Mr. Walker asked that the Board consider the re-appointment of members serving on the SBCJC committee with regard to the IHL-USM Gulf Park Campus issue. Upon a motion by Joanna Heidel, and a second by Jimmy Murphy, the SBCJC voted unanimously to re-appoint Sara Fox, John Junkin, and George Walker to serve as the SBCJC Lawsuit Issues Committee for 2001.

Dr. Ray then gave a brief update on the timeline for the lawsuit that is currently before the Mississippi Supreme Court.

EdNet Report

Yvonne Brown distributed a summary of actions taken during a special December 13, 2000, meeting and regular EdNet Board meetings on December 18, 2000, and January 2, 2001 (Exhibit E). Mrs. Brown reported that a new President for EdNet was chosen, Martin Mangold. Mr. Mangold will begin his employment effective February 1, 2001.

Mrs. Brown reported on a proposed settlement offer from WorldCom. The EdNet Board was not happy with the settlement offer and is continuing to seek other proposals from other vendors with regard to the EdNet Spectrums.

Mrs. Brown stated that SBCJC members would be receiving a package of information regarding issues involving the ITFS spectrums being held by educational entities. The FCC is currently examining the utilization of these ITFS spectrums around the country, and is looking at the possibility of taking parts of the spectrum away from the licensees for other uses by private companies. The National ITFS Association (NIA) has established a lobbying group "Wireless Education Broadband NOW" to coordinate the efforts of all ITFS licensees to retain their spectrum. NIA has asked that Board members from each of the licensees and agency heads be involved by signing a letter of support. Dr. Evelyn Webb reported that a packet would be prepared and mailed to each Board member and Mr. Walker has been asked to sign letters and agency registration applications to indicate to the FCC that the SBCJC opposes any changes to the spectrum. She also encouraged each member to consider signing a letter of support.

Upon a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Sara Fox, the Board voted unanimously to authorize Chairman Walker to sign the letter of support on behalf of the SBCJC.

Finance Report

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by John Junkin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the February 2001 General Fund Disbursement from Fund 2298 in the amount of \$8,364,598 (Exhibit F).

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by John Junkin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the January 31, 2001, Education Enhancement Fund Disbursement from Fund 4080 and Fund 4100 in the total amount of \$2,276,847 (Exhibit G).

Mrs. Fox presented the Quarterly Capital Improvements Report (Exhibit H) as prepared by Dr. Larry Day. No action was required.

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by John Junkin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of twenty Compaq Deskpro computers, and an HP color LaserJet 4500DN printer. The total amount of the purchase of the printer and computers is \$33,229 (Exhibit I).

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Joanna Heidel, the Board voted unanimously to approve a maintenance contract with Healthcare Technology Association, Technology Management Group in the amount of \$99,750 (Exhibit J).

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

Program Report

Upon a motion by Joanna Heidel, and a second by Henry Hudspeth, the Board voted unanimously to approve Meridian Community College's request to add an Associate's Degree level to their existing Respiratory Care program (Exhibit L).

Upon a motion by Joanna Heidel, and a second by Henry Hudspeth, the Board voted unanimously to approve a request from Hinds Community College to add two new

options, Construction Engineering Technology and Land Surveying, to their Drafting and Design Technology Program for the Spring 2001 term (Exhibit M).

Workforce Education

George Walker reported on items discussed at the State Workforce Development Council (SWDC) meeting on Wednesday, January 10, 2001. Mr. Walker announced that Governor Ronnie Musgrove and SWDC Co-Chair, J. C. Burns, attended the meeting. Mr. Walker also reported that employers are engaging in a media campaign to bring to light the need for funding workforce training efforts across the State.

Mr. Walker stated that members of the SWDC are discussing the impact on economic development initiatives in communities that do not receive the needed funding to carry forward workforce training.

The SWDC is continuing its efforts to work toward a "Lean Manufacturing" training center for Mississippi. Currently employers must send their employees out-of-state to receive this training.

Mr. Walker voiced the concern of the SWDC by saying that it would be devastating to the economic development of the state if we cannot train workers in critically needed areas due to lack of funding.

Mr. Walker distributed copies of letters to The Clarion Ledger, and The Sun Herald requesting a meeting with members of their editorial staff to discuss legislative budget office recommendations for drastic cuts to the state's workforce education programs.

Legislative Report

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher distributed a list of proposed legislation that would affect the SBCJC and community and junior colleges. Dr. Stonecypher briefly discussed each bill with the Board. He stated that the Board could review the status of the legislation by viewing the SBCJC web page.

Approval of Upper-Level Course/Program Non-Duplication Procedures

Upon a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by John Junkin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the SBCJC Standard for Non-duplication of Upper-Level Program Procedures (Exhibit N).

P-16 Educational Initiative

Dr. Evelyn Webb updated the Board on the recent P-16 collaborative effort among all Mississippi's education institutions within the state. Background information on the initiative was distributed to Board members during the December meeting. Dr. Webb asked that the SBCJC consider joining the other Boards in support of this initiative. She distributed copies of pamphlets developed by the State Department of Education (SDE) highlighting skills required to be successful in Kindergarten through junior high school. The State Department of Education is currently developing brochures for 9th through 12th grade and has asked for participation from the community colleges. Three pages of the

brochure will be designated for information submitted from the SBCJC related to community college admission procedures.

Veldore Heidelberg stated that at Dr. Webb's request she has read the information contained in the packet of information distributed at the last SBCJC meeting. She further stated that the pamphlets provided an excellent source of the skills students should have mastered but were also helpful tools to parents in providing them with ways they could help their children to succeed. Upon a motion by Veldore Heidelberg, and a second by Jimmy Murphy, the Board voted unanimously to support the P-16 Initiative. Yvonne Brown asked Dr. Webb to see if the Board could receive copies of all the SDE pamphlets.

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 Sara Fox, the Board voted unanimously to approve requests for reimbursement of travel expenses for the following:

Yvonne Brown for attending EdNet Board meetings on January 18, and 22, and February 13, 2001, in Jackson.

George Walker for attending editorial board meetings on January 23, in Greenville and on January 30, in Tupelo, and State Workforce Development Council meetings on January 10, and February 14, 2001.

Henry Hudspeth for attending a ground breaking ceremony at East Central Community College on February 13, 2001.

The Board also approved reimbursement of expenses for any member attending the MACJC Legislative Luncheon on February 8, 2001.

OTHER BUSINESS

In other business, Joanna Heidel requested copies of the budget requests from each community college in her congressional district. Mrs. Heidel suggested that other Board members might want to get copies of their colleges' budget request for review also.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Lawrence Warren, and a second by Sara Fox, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.


George Walker, Chairman


Olor E. Ray
Executive Director