

MINUTES  
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES  
JANUARY 25, 2002

The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Friday, January 25, 2002, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 507 of the Education and Research Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

**Members present:** Sara Fox, Donald Green, Joanna Heidel, Veldore Heidelberg, Henry Hudspeth, David Marsh, George Walker, and Lawrence Warren.

**Members absent:** Brenda Collins and Jimmy Murphy.

**Staff in attendance:** Dr. Olon Ray, Dr. Randall Bradberry, Becky Cade, Deborah Gilbert, Sandra Lucas, Jason Pugh, Danny Seal, Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Dr. Evelyn Webb, and Frankie Walton-White.

**Guests in attendance:** Dr. Bill Smith – IHL, and Dr. Starkey Morgan – Holmes Community College.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman George Walker called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m., and all guests present introduced themselves.

**PRELIMINARIES**

Veldore Heidelberg gave the invocation.

**Approval of Minutes of the December 13-14, 2001, Board Meetings**

Upon a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by Donald Green, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 13-14, 2001, meetings.

**Review and Approval of Agenda**

Dr. Evelyn Webb asked that a request from Hinds Community College for the approval of a site location for Spring classes be added to the agenda. Upon a motion by Lawrence Warren, and a second by David Marsh, the Board voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dr. Olon Ray gave the Board an update on the Mississippi Virtual Community College (MSVCC). Unofficial figures as of January 22, 2002, reflect that there are 6,376 persons enrolled for the Spring 2002 semester. He stated that 70% of people responding to a survey stated that they would not have taken a course had it not been for the MSVCC.

Dr. Ray reminded the Board of the upcoming Creating Futures Through Technology Conference scheduled for February 4-5, 2002, at the Advanced Education Center in Tupelo, Mississippi.

Dr. Evelyn Webb presented each Board member a copy of the SBCJC Annual Report for 2000-2001 (Exhibit A). In light of tight budget times, SBCJC staff developed and prepared the Annual Report in-house.

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Dr. Webb also distributed copies of A Family Guide for Student Success for the Board's information. The pamphlet includes the admissions requirements for all fifteen community and junior colleges.

Dr. Ray acknowledged a thank you card from Veldore Heidelberg for the flowers and gift in honor of her newborn son, Dennis Ray Heidelberg, Jr.

Dr. Ray thanked the Board for their thoughts, prayers, calls, and cards during his recent recuperation.

## REPORTS/ACTION

### Workforce Report

George Walker gave a report on a meeting in December, he and Dr. Ray had with a newspaper on the Mississippi Gulf Coast regarding an amicable and fair settlement to the IHL-USM Gulf Park lawsuit. He also reported on a meeting encouraged by the news editor of the Sun Herald last Thursday that included representatives of IHL and Coast 21 in hopes of creating dialog to discuss the avenues toward a settlement of the lawsuit that would be fair to all parties involved. During that meeting Mr. Walker suggested that a small committee comprised of members from the SBCJC, IHL, USM, and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College be established to work on the issue. He stated that it was clearly articulated to him that the Coast 21 members present had no interest in opening a dialog.

Dr. Ray stated that the IHL-USM Gulf Park Lawsuit Appeal is still before the Mississippi Supreme Court and a disposition is still pending.

Mr. Walker reported that he and fellow State Workforce Development Council member Joe Jones have scheduled meetings with editorial boards across the state during the month of February 2002 to present budgetary needs for workforce training. Mr. Walker thanked Becky Cade for her work in setting the schedule for the editorial board meetings.

Mr. Walker and Dr. Ray recently met with Bob Rohrlack, the new Executive Director of the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), and Jim Lott, Director of the Employment Training Division of the MDA. The discussion included the study on how to coordinate Federal Workforce Investment Act efforts with the Workforce Development Act of 1994 to fully utilize training funds. Regional Technologies Strategies, Inc. (RTS) was chosen to do the study and a strategic plan for the SWDC. Two representatives of RTS, Inc. attended the January SWDC meeting.

Lawrence Warren asked for clarification on an issue related to the hiring practices for the new Nissan plant. Mr. Warren stated that he understood that only individuals that were currently employed would be eligible to be hired by Nissan. Dr. Olon Ray asked that Nancy Alley join the meeting to address Mr. Warren's question. Mrs. Alley stated that Nissan's hiring practices would include a minimum of five years experience for industrial maintenance employees and a minimum of 18 months work experience for production personnel. The application deadline was December 31, 2001, and Nissan is currently screening those applications. It is possible that if sufficient qualified applicants are not found in the current pool, the application process might be opened again in the Spring. Mrs. Alley stated that approximately 1,500 to 2,000 plus

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employment opportunities will be available through the supplier companies for the Nissan plant and will require less work experience.

### MACJC Report

Dr. Starkey Morgan reported on the following items presented at the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) meetings on December 20, 2001, and January 22, 2002:

The Association held a special meeting in December to review the Legislative Budget Office Recommendations. Representatives of the MACJC Faculty Association, Inter-Alumni Association, the SBCJC, and MACJC Lobbyist, Dennis Miller, attended the meeting. Dr. Clyde Muse, MACJC Legislative Committee Chairman, led the discussion related to the MACJC Legislative program and projected budget cuts.

Dr. Morgan appointed a committee to examine the issue of transferring vocational and technical post-secondary education from the State Department of Education to the SBCJC. Dr. David Cole was asked to chair the committee. After a meeting with representatives from the colleges and the State Department of Education, it was decided that this year would not be the optimal time to pursue the transfer. The committee recommended that Dr. Pete Walley, with IHL be asked to research the transfer as a neutral third party and prepare a white paper making a recommendation related to the transfer.

On January 22, 2002, the MACJC held their regular monthly meeting. Dr. Howell Garner gave a report on the MSVCC.

Dr. Scott Elliott gave an update on the MACJC History Project. A draft of the book should be available in the Spring.

The Association held a discussion on non-credit workforce training available through MindLeaders.

The Association discussed the upcoming Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) All-State Recognition Luncheon program. Each college secures funding of \$2,000 to help provide scholarships and defray the expenses of the luncheon. The top student from each college received a \$1,000 PTK scholarship for use at the senior college of their choice.

Dr. Clyde Muse gave the MACJC Legislative Committee report which involved reviewing all proposed legislation that would affect community and junior colleges. The MACJC discussed the legislation and took a position on each individual bill.

Dr. Morgan discussed a recent sub-committee hearing related to legislation that would result in a change to the current SBCJC Funding Formula to a Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Funding Formula. The MACJC had voted to support the legislation to move to the FTE formula; however, during the sub-committee meeting remarks made by a community college president that was not in favor of the change seemed to cause doubt in the minds of legislators. Mrs. Heidel stated that she had been contacted by a legislator for clarification, and she suggested that the whole picture showing all the research and work done in formulating the legislation to move to FTE be placed into a brochure outlining the main reasons that highlight why the FTE would be the most fair and

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beneficial way to reward colleges for meeting the needs of students. Dr. Evelyn Webb and Deborah Gilbert stated that a handout is in the process of being prepared. Mr. Walker also stated that the handout would be very beneficial when he and Mr. Jones are meeting with editorial boards.

The MACJC recessed for lunch and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. to hold their annual meeting to discuss athletic matters.

The MACJC reviewed rule changes recommended by the MACJC Athletic Directors' Association taking action on items individually. Dr. Morgan commended Dr. Randall Bradberry for the wonderful job he does as Director of Affiliated Activities.

The MACJC reviewed a ruling related to the number of out-of-state athletes that Southwest Mississippi Community College could have from Tangipahoe Parish in Louisiana.

The MACJC voted to allow Coahoma Community College to replace Phillips County, Arkansas with the Memphis Tennessee City Schools as part of their recruiting district.

A straw poll was taken to determine how many presidents would be in favor of eliminating all out-of-state athletes. The results were 8 to 7 votes in favor of eliminating out-of-state scholarships.

Henry Hudspeth commended Dr. Morgan and the MACJC for their efforts in examining the effect of out-of-state athletic scholarships and voiced support for their efforts to eliminate them. He stated that he felt the colleges' responsibility was to help provide quality education for Mississippi students.

\*The meeting recessed at 10:35 a.m. and reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

#### SBCJC, IHL and Public Education Cooperative Initiative

Mr. Walker updated SBCJC members on meetings with IHL Commissioner - Dr. Tom Layzell, State Superintendent of Education – Dr. Richard Thompson, and Chairmen of the IHL Board and State Board of Education to promote working together to provide a seamless education system for our state. Recently scheduled meetings have fallen through but Mr. Walker is continuing to work toward scheduling future meetings. He will keep the Board informed on the results.

#### Status of Goals for FY 2002

Dr. Olon Ray reported on the five priority goals set for the SBCJC for fiscal year 2002.

Revision of the goal related to the calculation of funding for the Mississippi Virtual Community College (MSVCC) students has been completed. A revision to language in the SBCJC appropriations bill will be necessary and will be proposed during the upcoming session.

The goal of developing and implementing electronic enrollment procedures has been accomplished and is working well. The process will save SBCJC and college personnel a great deal of time during the enrollment audit process.

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The goal related to the revision of guidelines and funding structure for off-campus locations has been completed as well.

The essential pieces of a process are in place to provide reliable grading and GED score transcript results for Mississippi citizens. SBCJC staff is working to tie loose ends together. Oklahoma Testing Service will be scoring the GED examination with a five-day turnaround.

The goal related to the development and implementation of on-line workforce and community based training classes is well under way. Currently there are 53 sections of 34 vocational and technical courses being offered on line in addition to the "MindLeaders" program. Dr. Ray commended Jason Pugh for his work in this area.

#### Legislative Report

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher distributed a listing of House and Senate bills that have been introduced for the current legislative session that directly or indirectly affect community and junior colleges (Exhibit B). He reminded the Board that the status of these bills is updated by SBCJC staff daily and may be viewed on the SBCJC website. He thanked SBCJC staff members Ive Burnett and Denise Walley for their work in placing the legislative information on the SBCJC website. Dr. Stonecypher briefly discussed some of the bills with the Board.

#### EDNET Report

Dr. Evelyn Webb reported on two EDNET meetings held on December 17, 2001, and January 14, 2002. In addition to these two regular meetings, EDNET also held an Educational Partner's Meeting on December 20, 2001. The main agenda items for all three meetings included the following:

EDNET (Martin Mangold, Mary Anne Franklin, Sam Keyes and Frank Spencer) is working with WorldCom to reach a settlement regarding outstanding contractual issues. It is difficult to predict how soon a settlement might be reached, but negotiations are friendly and progressing. A proposal was presented to WorldCom last Friday and a follow-up meeting is scheduled for next week for further discussion. A target date of January 31, 2002, has been set for the settlement.

The Board voted unanimously to issue a new RFP by January 15, 2002, to obtain a new private partner. WorldCom has requested that EDNET hold the RFP's release pending the prior contract settlement. WorldCom has now expressed an interest in a new contract with EDNET. The EDNET board agreed to wait until its regular meeting in February to decide when the RFP will be issued.

#### Finance Report

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Joanna Heidel, the Board voted unanimously to approve General Fund 2298 Disbursements for February and March 2002 in the amount of \$6,970,439.00 each (Exhibit C).

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Henry Hudspeth, the Board voted unanimously to

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approve the Education Enhancement Fund Disbursements for January 2002, from funds 3295, 4080, and 4110, in the total amount of \$2,898,841.00 (Exhibit D).

Mrs. Fox presented the Quarterly Capital Improvements Report for the Board's information (Exhibit E). No action was required.

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Veldore Heidelberg, the Board voted unanimously to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Copiah-Lincoln Community College to support the Mississippi Electronic Library On-Line (MELO) system for the purpose of supporting courses offered through the MSVCC in the amount of \$16,595.00.

Mrs. Fox presented financial statements for funds 2291 and 3291 for the period ending December 31, 2001 (Exhibit F). No action was required.

### GED Report

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher gave an update on the activities of the GED Division. Currently there are 35 Adult Basic Education programs serving 37,947 adults in Mississippi. From July 1, through December 31, 2001, the GED office has tested 16,430 individuals and issued 7,619 diplomas. The new GED examination became effective January 1, 2002, however, due to problems with the scoring system the new test will not be used until some time in February.

### Policy and Procedures

Dr. Olon Ray presented the MSVCC Exceptions and Issues Committee Bylaws for the Board's review and action (Exhibit G). Upon Dr. Ray's recommendation, a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by Donald Green, the Board voted unanimously to approve the MSVCC Exceptions and Issues Committee By-Laws.

Dr. Olon Ray presented the policy and procedures for workforce expenditures for MindLeaders training programs (Exhibit H). For a fee of \$175.00 an individual can enroll and take up to 600 on-line training courses for a period of one year. The fees would be broken down as follows: \$120.00 to MindLeaders, \$50.00 for the college enrolling the student, and \$5.00 to the SBCJC for processing. Upon Dr. Ray's recommendation, a motion by Lawrence Warren, and a second by Henry Hudspeth, the Board voted unanimously to submit the Policies and Procedures for Workforce Expenditures for the MindLeaders programs to the Secretary of State's office to begin the Administrative Procedures process.

Dr. Ray presented a revision to the SBCJC Policies and Procedures Manual Section 9.11 related to the GED State Policy (Exhibit I). Upon Dr. Ray's recommendation, a motion by Joanna Heidel, and a second by Sara Fox, the Board voted unanimously to approve increasing the local fee charged for taking the GED from \$30.00 to \$40.00 and the retest fee from \$6.00 to \$12.00.

### Nissan Scholarship Selection Committee Appointment

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Joanna Heidel, the Board voted unanimously to recommend Dr. Glenn Boyce of Holmes Community College, and Dr. John Wood of Hinds Community College to serve on the Nissan Scholarship Selection Committee.

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Approval of Location for Classes for Spring 2002 Semester

Dr. Evelyn Webb presented a request from Hinds Community College to include the Jackson Police Academy on the approved list of locations for classes for the Spring 2002 semester. Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Donald Green, the Board voted unanimously to approve Hind's request to include the Jackson Police Academy on the list of locations for classes for the Spring 2002 semester.

Travel Authorizations

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

George Walker for attending a SWDC meeting on February 13, the MACJC Legislative Appreciation Luncheon on February 7, and the Headwae Luncheon on February 19, 2002, all in Jackson, Mississippi.

Travel for any Board member who attends the MACJC Legislative Luncheon in Jackson on February 7, 2002.

Henry Hudspeth for attending the MACJC special meeting on December 20, 2001, and a governor's meeting on January 17, 2002.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Walker asked the Board to consider moving the date for the regular SBCJC meeting from the fourth Friday of each month to the third Friday of each month. After a discussion it was decided to add the item to the February SBCJC agenda in order for the members to examine their schedules before taking action on the matter.

Dr. Olon Ray gave the Board a brief report on his trip to Bosnia as part of a delegation of Mississippi officials to visit with Mississippi National Guardsmen serving as peacekeeping forces in that area.

Dr. Ray relayed an invitation from Mississippi Delta Community College President, Dr. Larry Bailey, to hold the SBCJC meeting on that campus in March or April. It was the consensus of the Board to have SBCJC staff contact Dr. Bailey to work out details to hold the March meeting at Mississippi Delta Community College.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

  
George Walker, Chairman

  
Olon E. Ray, Executive Director