

MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
DECEMBER 13, 2002

The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Friday, December 13, 2002, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 507 of the Education and Research Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

Members Present: Major General Denver Brackeen, Mrs. Sara Fox, Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg (by phone), Mr. Napoleon Moore, Dr. Dorothy Nelson, Ms. Patricia Randall, Mr. George Walker, and Mr. Lawrence Warren.

Members Absent: Mr. Jimmy Murphy and Mrs. Brenda Yonge.

Staff in attendance: Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Ms. Debbie Borgman, Mrs. Tina Bradley, Dr. Larry Day, Mrs. Deborah Gilbert, Mrs. Sandra Lucas, Mr. Ray Smith, Mrs. Denise Walley, Dr. Evelyn Webb, and Ms. Frankie White.

Guests in attendance: Mr. David Case – Technology Management Director for East Central Community College, Mr. Andy Kanengiser – The Clarion Ledger, and Dr. Bill Smith – Institutions of Higher Learning.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman George Walker called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. All guests present introduced themselves.

PRELIMINARIES

Mrs. Sara Fox gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes of November 14-15, 2002, Meetings

Upon a motion by Mrs. Sara Fox and a second by Mr. Lawrence Warren, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 14-15, 2002, meetings.

Review and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Walker asked that the agenda be amended to include an Executive Session. Upon a motion by Mrs. Sara Fox and a second by Mr. Lawrence Warren, the Board voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

Mr. Walker presented a letter of commendation to SBCJC Supervisor of Accounting, Ms. Debbie Borgman. The International Community College Business Officers' Association (CCBO) recently named Ms. Borgman 2002 Outstanding Business Officer for Region IX.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher announced that Mr. Jim Southward had joined the SBCJC staff as Director of Affiliated Activities.

Dr. Stonecypher reported that the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior College (MACJC) presidents would be meeting on December 19, 2002, to discuss the MGT of American study recommendations. Dr. Mary McKeown-Moak will make a report to the Legislature on January 27, 2003. Efforts are ongoing to reach a consensus and develop a unified response to present to the Legislature following the funding study report presentation.

Dr. Stonecypher gave a brief report on the Steering Committee for Leadership Summit. He provided the Board with a handout for their information (Exhibit A).

Dr. Stonecypher announced that Dr. Willis Lott, President of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, had provided a copy of the History of the college from 1911 through 2000, for each Board member. A copy is on file in the SBCJC office. Dr. Stonecypher announced that the MACJC is currently finishing a second volume containing the history of the Mississippi Community College System from 1972 to the present. The volume is being edited and should be printed in the near future.

Dr. Stonecypher reported that Representative Billy McCoy has called a meeting on December 19, 2002, related to economic development. Representative McCoy has invited all the MACJC presidents to attend.

Dr. Stonecypher announced that the Mississippi Authority for Education Television has developed a new program featuring education in Mississippi. The program will air from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. on Monday evenings beginning in January 2003. The first program will feature the Commissioner of Higher Education, SBCJC Executive Director, and the Mississippi State Superintendent of Education.

Dr. Stonecypher reported that SBCJC staff members are researching the option of hiring a public relations individual to help highlight the story of the community college system in Mississippi.

In the near future, Dr. Stonecypher will be forwarding copies of the Strategic Plan being developed by SBCJC staff to each Board member. He stated that he would like the Board to review the plan and offer ideas and input for improvements to the Board office.

Dr. Evelyn Webb gave a brief report on the Teacher Prep Initiative. The Executive Committee met last week at Eagle Ridge Conference Center and added Co-Chairs to the eight task forces. As a side to the Spring Colloquium, the consultant for the project, Dr. Carolyn Craig, and Dr. Webb developed an overview of last year's program in a short document. When the information is complete, Dr. Webb stated she would provide the Board with copies. Last year 65 individuals enrolled in the alternate route program and currently 55 are placed and teaching in Mississippi schools. A meeting of all Initiative liaisons is planned for February 2003.

Dr. Stonecypher distributed copies of an article that appeared in the December 2002 issue of Area Development Partnership (ADP) Advantage. Mr. Lawrence Warren received the "Chair's Award of Excellence" for 2002. He was instrumental in completing the ADP's decade long vision of a regional economic development plan (Exhibit B).

Dr. Stonecypher announced that Dr. James Sones from Pearl River Community College, Dr. Charles Chrestman from Itawamba Community College, and Mr. Adam Jenkins from Hinds Community College, are retiring from their respective community colleges.

Dr. Stonecypher reported that the Horticulture Program at Jones County Junior College had provided beautiful poinsettias for the Board and staff.

Dr. Dorothy Nelson asked if the SBCJC had a policy or acknowledgement for individuals retiring from the Mississippi Community and Junior College System. After a discussion, a motion by Dr. Nelson, and a second by Major General Brackeen, the Board voted unanimously to request that the colleges provide the names of individuals retiring in order to develop a formal certificate to acknowledge their contributions to Mississippi's Community and Junior College system.

Mr. Walker complimented the SBCJC on the development and distribution of the SBCJC Newsletter.

REPORTS/ACTION

MACJC Report

Dr. Tommy Davis updated the Board on the activities of the MACJC. Dr. Davis gave a report on MACJC meetings regarding the MGT Funding Formula Study from the presidents' perspective. He stated that the MACJC understands that the SBCJC will make the final decision with regard to the recommendations with input from the colleges.

He discussed areas including the recommendation to change the base and stated that this area was the primary reason for the big differences due to the losses that some colleges would receive. The MACJC discussed looking at a long phase-in period and a smaller percentage of increase so that the shock to some of the colleges would be lessened. All of the presidents review the funding scenarios as they relate to their individual colleges, inasmuch as their first responsibility is to their college.

Dr. Davis also stated that some colleges were concerned that if an FTE formula is implemented, it might raise the issue that quality of the instruction might be lessened. He also relayed the concern over weighting allied health programs at the same rate as Associate Degree Nursing programs.

Dr. Davis reported that the presidents are reviewing the information and asking Mrs. Deborah Gilbert to prepare figures related to different aspects of the recommendations and that they will convene a special meeting to review the results on December 19, 2002. One of the scenarios that will be discussed would indicate how much additional funding would be necessary to implement the FTE formula without any college receiving a cut.

Dr. Davis gave a report on a group of K-12, community colleges, and IHL leadership working to develop and present an initiative to the Legislature to make education a number one priority in Mississippi and fund it through revenue enhancements.

The MACJC is developing information from the CCBenefits economic impact study into an easy to understand format and plans to present it to the public during a press conference at the Capitol after the session begins.

The Association voted to support the initiative with the Mississippi Technology Alliance.

Mississippi House of Representatives Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. Billy McCoy, has called for a task force for long range planning to grow Mississippi's economy. The Association elected Dr. Clyde Muse to serve as their representative to the task force. Representative McCoy has requested that all the MACJC presidents attend a meeting on December 18, 2002. Dr. Davis announced that after that meeting the presidents will meet to discuss the funding study recommendations.

Dr. Davis expressed the presidents' concern over the possible loss of Federal Carl Perkins funds. The current administration in Washington D. C., is examining the possibility of transferring those funds to the U. S. Department of Labor.

Dr. Davis gave a brief report on the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools meeting he recently attended. He discussed what happens when a college or school loses its accreditation. The Commission on Accreditation has 77 members from southern states that rule on the accreditation of all colleges and universities in their respective region. Currently there are six accreditation regions. Federal law states that federal funds depend on the regional accreditation of institutions. Dr. Davis stated that every ten years every school must go through a self-study and a team from the Commission comes to the school for a visit. During the visit, all aspects of the school are measured against the established criteria for accreditation. The criteria contains over 400 "must" statements that institutions have to comply with or receive a written recommendation. All junior and senior institutions must go through this process, which is vitally important to retaining accreditation.

Upon a motion by Mr. George Walker and a second by Ms. Patricia Randall, the Board voted unanimously to consider going into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Upon a motion by Ms. Patricia Randall and a second by Major General Denver Brackeen, the Board voted unanimously to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

Mr. Walker asked for Ms. Frankie White to remain with the Board. The meeting was closed at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes of Executive Session

Board members present: Mrs. Sara Fox, Ms. Patricia Randall, Major General Denver Brackeen, Mr. George Walker, Mr. Lawrence Warren, Dr. Dorothy Nelson, and Mr. Napoleon Moore. Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg was a part of the discussion by telephone but not voting.

Chairman Walker discussed the evaluation of the SBCJC Executive Director after six months in the position and recommended that a salary increase would be in order.

Upon a motion by Mr. Lawrence Warren and a second by Mrs. Sara Fox, the Board voted unanimously to increase the annual salary of the Executive Director by \$20,000 effective January 1, 2003.

Upon a motion by Major General Denver Brackeen and a second by Ms. Patricia Randall, the Board voted unanimously to return to open session at 10:10 a.m.

EdNet Report

Mr. Jimmy Murphy was ill and unable to attend the meeting. Dr. Evelyn Webb gave the EdNet report in his absence. There was no regular EdNet Board meeting in November; however, there were three special meetings held. On November 19, 2002, Mr. Martin Mangold and Dr. Olon Ray convened a special meeting of licensees to get input on what they would like to see in the way of services from EdNet. On November 25, 2002, the licensees, Mr. Mangold, and Dr. Ray invited forty business and industry leaders from the community to join them to share the plan developed during the November 19th meeting. Thirty-five of the forty persons invited attended the meeting. EdNet plans to make a request to the Legislature for funding to build out the system and to help offset operational costs.

On Friday, December 6, 2002, Mr. Mangold called a meeting of representatives of the licensees to discuss the latest Federal Communication Commission (FCC) requirements. Dr. Webb reminded the Board that last year a massive letter writing campaign was launched to retain the ITFS licenses. The jurisdiction of the licenses was moved to the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB). WTB has requested that all ITFS licenses and applicants review and verify important licensing information to aid in ensuring the integrity of the data being transferred to their licensing database. EdNet's Washington, D.C. attorneys are completing these requests to make sure that EdNet is in compliance. EdNet received notice on December 10, that all of Mississippi's licenses have been verified.

Last week EdNet President, Ms. Mary Ann Franklin, Mr. Martin Mangold, Ms. Eileen Schaefer, and Mr. Frank Spencer met and discussed the WorldCom situation. EdNet has received the appropriate forms to complete to submit a claim to the bankruptcy court. The deadline for filing the form is January 23, 2003.

Technology Management Report

Mr. David Case gave the Board a report on the operations of the computer center at East Central Community College (ECCC). He stated that the major functions of the computer centers at the colleges include data management, information technology (wide area networking, voice, and video data), website management, and educational technology (classroom). The computer centers are an integral part of all the college operations from admissions, instruction, workforce, and accreditation.

ECCC is beginning an initiative to roll out a web portal that can be accessed by faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends. The initiative, called the Internet Campus Solution will allow individuals to access information pertinent to their classifications. Mr. Case stated that ECCC would utilize the State of Mississippi Lease Purchase Plan to upgrade PC's at the campus. ECCC is also working toward going to a gigabit ethernet system to provide digital video service. The college hopes to increase its participation in the

Mississippi Virtual Community College. Mr. Case stated that ECCC tripled its enrollment in the last year.

Mr. Case discussed the move to digital video and bandwidth management at the colleges. The colleges are challenged to pay the increasing costs of licenses and expensive administrative software packages. There is also a need for additional technicians to keep networks up and running. At ECCC network and computer technology program students are utilized to help provide technical support to their system.

Program Report

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher presented a request from Meridian Community College to add an Emergency Management Communications Technology Program option to their Fire Protection Technology Program (Exhibit C). Upon a motion by Mr. Lawrence Warren and a second by Major General Denver Brackeen, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request from Meridian Community College to add an Emergency Management Communications Technology option to the existing Fire Protection Technology Program.

Finance Report

Upon a motion by Mrs. Sara Fox and a second by Mr. Lawrence Warren, the Board voted unanimously to approve the disbursements from General Fund 2298 for January 2003, in the total amount of \$25,989,060 (Exhibit D).

Upon a motion by Mrs. Sara Fox and a second by Mr. Lawrence Warren, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Education Enhancement Fund Disbursement for December 2002, from funds 3295, 4080, and 4110, in the total amount of \$2,812,267.70 (Exhibit E).

Mrs. Fox presented the following items, requiring no action, for the Board's information:

Joint Legislative Budget committee Recommendations for FY 2004 (Exhibit F)
Governor's Budget Recommendations for FY 2004 (Exhibit G)
Financial Statements for Funds 2291 and 3291 as of November 30, 2002
(Exhibit H).

Funding Study Update

Mrs. Deborah Gilbert distributed copies of material related to the MGT of America, Inc., funding formula study (Exhibit I). The packet included an overview and spreadsheets showing scenarios based on the study's recommendations.

Administrative Procedures (GED Policy)

Mrs. Deborah Gilbert presented a change to the SBCJC GED State Policy that would allow the SBCJC to accept business, corporate, and educational institution checks for payment for an additional GED transcript or diploma. The change would also allow for a \$30.00 processing fee for a returned check. The Board voted previously to approve the change and begin the Administrative Procedures Process. Upon staff recommendation,

a motion by Mrs. Sara Fox, and a second by Ms. Patricia Randall, the Board voted unanimously to approve the change to the GED State Policy (Exhibit J).

Location of Classes for Spring Semester 2003

Dr. Evelyn Webb presented a listing of locations of classes for the colleges for the Spring 2003 semester (Exhibit K). The listing includes classes scheduled for 24 campuses, 6 comprehensive centers, 3 extensions centers, and 77 off campus locations. Upon a motion by Mr. Lawrence Warren and a second by Major General Denver Brackeen, the Board vote unanimously to approve the listing of locations of classes for Spring 2003.

CPSCR Report

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher reported that the Workforce Investment Act has prompted many private providers to come into the state. Many of these proprietary schools have utilized this funding. Dr. Stonecypher stated that Dr. Randall Bradberry, SBCJC Associate Executive Director for Programs and Mr. Danny Seal, SBCJC Director of the CPSCR are making sure that these proprietary schools are registered and licensed with the Commission where applicable. They will carefully review the schools to ensure compliance with Commission criteria.

Workforce Report

Mr. Walker reported that Mr. Jim Lott with the Mississippi Development Authority is continuing to work with the State Workforce Development Council (SWDC) to find ways to utilize federal workforce funds to provide training at the community and junior colleges. A meeting is scheduled between the SWDC and the Federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Board to further efforts to have the community and junior colleges named the presumptive delivers of federal WIA workforce training on January 8, 2003.

Travel Authorizations

Mr. Walker asked if there were requests for travel reimbursements for events other than regularly scheduled Board meetings. Upon a motion by Mr. Lawrence Warren and a second by Dr. Dorothy Nelson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following travel authorizations:

George Walker for attending SWDC meetings in Jackson on December 11, 2002, and January 8, 2003, an MACJC meeting on December 19, 2002, in Jackson, a meeting with Representative Billy McCoy on January 9, 2003, and a Federal WIA and SWDC meeting on January 10, 2003.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m. The Board then traveled to the Phi Theta Kappa building for the annual SBCJC Christmas luncheon.


George Walker, Chairman


Wayne Stonecypher, Executive Director