

MINUTES  
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
JANUARY 9, 2003

A special called meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Thursday, January 9, 2003, at 11:00 a.m., in Room 507 of the Education and Research Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

**Members Present:** Major General Denver Brackeen, Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg, Dr. Dorothy Nelson, Ms. Patricia Randall, and Mr. George Walker.

**Members Absent:** Mrs. Sara Fox, Mr. Napoleon Moore, Mr. Jimmy Murphy, Mr. Lawrence Warren, and Mrs. Brenda Yonge.

**Staff in attendance:** Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Dr. Randall Bradberry, Dr. Larry Day, Mrs. Deborah Gilbert, Mrs. Sandra Lucas, Mr. Jason Pugh, Mrs. Denise Walley, and Dr. Evelyn Webb.

**Guests in attendance:** Dr. Howell Garner – Copiah Lincoln Community College; Dr. Tommy Davis – East Mississippi Community College; Dr. Clyde Muse – Hinds Community College; Dr. Starkey Morgan, Mr. Dale Lewis, and Mr. Robert Poole – Holmes Community College; Dr. David Cole and Mr. Jerry Senter – Itawamba Community College (via the CCN); Dr. Ronald Whitehead – Jones County Junior College; Dr. Scott Elliott – Meridian Community College; Mr. Robert Warnock – Mississippi Delta Community College; Dr. Willis Lott and Mrs. Colleen Hartfield – Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College; Dr. Charles Chance – Northeast Mississippi Community College; Dr. William Lewis – Pearl River Community College; and Mr. Grady Smith – Southwest Mississippi Community College.

**Call to Order/Opening Remarks**

Chairman George Walker called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. All individuals present introduced themselves.

Mr. Walker stated that the purpose of the meeting was to have representatives of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges review and discuss the funding formula study recommendations with the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior College (MACJC) presidents.

**Review of the Funding Recommendations**

Mrs. Deborah Gilbert distributed a handout of Scenario One of the MGT of America Funding Formula Recommendations (Exhibit A). She also distributed a copy of an explanation of a vote taken by the MACJC at a special meeting held on December 19, 2002 (Exhibit B).

Mrs. Gilbert stated that Scenario One is the MGT recommendation and includes a 1.5 million dollar base amount per college to cover fixed costs. The base is phased-in over a three-year period. The scenario implements the full-time equivalency formula (FTE) with equal weights of 1.0 assigned to Academic, Technical and Vocational students. A

higher weight of 2.19 is assigned to Associate Degree Nursing and Allied Health categories due to the high cost nature of those programs. The full-time equivalency part of the formula would be phased-in over a three-year period. In this scenario the campus/center designations would be eliminated.

Mrs. Gilbert stated that during the December 19, 2002, meeting, Dr. David Cole made a motion, seconded by Dr. Clyde Muse, that the Association recommend implementation of Scenario One, with a trigger to set up a fund to hold harmless those districts that lose funding with Scenario One. At the end of three years the formula would be fully adopted with no additional funding for those that lose funding. This gives the community colleges three years to adapt their mission toward the concept of education anytime, anywhere, and anyplace. Dr. Howell Garner asked that the motion be amended to reflect that implementation of Scenario One would be a top priority of the FY 2004 Legislative Platform. The motion passed 13 to 2.

In effect with the adoption of Scenario One by the presidents, in FY 2004, \$1,413,058 would need to be appropriated over and above the current FY 2003 funding formula level of \$125,497,519. If that funding is not received for FY 2004, the proposal would not be adopted and the current headcount, campus/center formula would be utilized until additional funds to cover the formula change losses are realized.

Mrs. Gilbert stated that after the presidents met and voted there was further discussion and that discussion led to today's meeting. Mr. George Walker was present at the December 19, 2002, meeting and felt that it was important that the SBCJC call a special meeting to allow the presidents to share their comments and concerns. All MACJC presidents were invited to attend.

#### Remarks from MACJC Presidents

Mr. Walker thanked all the presidents for being at the meeting. He emphasized the Board's commitment to work cooperatively with the MACJC for the good of the colleges. He stated that the Board wanted to hear the presidents' comments and concerns before they voted on the recommendations.

Dr. Tommy Davis, president of East Mississippi Community College, addressed the Board. He stated that deciding on a funding formula is recognized by the SBCJC and MACJC as a very important issue. The MACJC realizes the role of the SBCJC and their responsibilities to make a recommendation to the Legislature. He stated that the MACJC appreciated the fact that the SBCJC asked for the presidents to attend and relay their concerns and comments.

Mr. Walker called on Dr. Charles Chance, president of Northeast Mississippi Community College for comment. Dr. Chance reminded the group of the problem that brought about the study, the fact that the colleges were not funded adequately for all potential students for the system in Mississippi. Attention was not paid to part-time students that were not acknowledged in the present funding system. When the time came for the proposal from the Legislature for this funding study, it came because there had been a long period of time researching a move to a Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) funding formula. In fact a program had been developed for getting there and that plan was approved more than two years ago. When the plan went before the Legislature it stalled. The Legislature then requested the plan be validated by having an independent study conducted.

so that as appropriations grow the base will also grow. The base operation of the colleges is the same for the small and large colleges; however when you examine the cost of operation, administration is not the largest part of that cost. He used the example that a few years ago the colleges' appropriations were over \$150,000,000 and a 15% base would have yielded each college \$1,500,000, or the MGT recommended base.

With regard to the recommendation to change the support level for all Associate of Applied Science Allied Health Programs to 2.19, Dr. Lott stated that he was not in agreement due to the fact that reimbursement is received from the State Department of Education's (SDE) Office of Vocational and Technical Education. The 2.19 level plus the reimbursement from the SDE might in some areas, exceed the cost of a program, and suggested that a support level of 1.19 might be more appropriate.

He suggested that the SBCJC consider the need to add more campus designations for several of the community colleges. This approach would provide a more even-handed allocation to large and small schools alike, particularly as the value of the FTE declines. Some colleges have branches that are larger than their home campuses.

Dr. Lott stated that Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College has for a long time tried to meet the mission of teaching students anywhere and any time and encouraged the SBCJC to examine all the colleges' locations to upgrade campus/center designations. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to meet with them and thanked them for all their efforts in support of Mississippi's community and junior colleges.

Mr. Walker recognized Dr. Clyde Muse, president of Hinds Community College. Dr. Muse stated that each president that had spoken to the Board was reflective of the interests and concerns of the MACJC. The MACJC supports the concept of FTE. As each president works to always secure the best possible situation for their college, there may be areas of the recommendation they would want to change to a slight degree. The most important issue is to find a way to adequately fund the community college system. He stated that additional funding to ensure that no college suffers is key to implementing the FTE formula.

Dr. Muse stated that if the SBCJC takes the recommendations outlined in the study it will be very important to get additional funding, pass the base we have right now, to implement the FTE formula. At the end of the three-year phase-in period, many colleges will have to have made some major adjustments. Dr. Muse expressed his hope that at the end of that time the state's economy will have grown and more adequate funding would be available for all the colleges.

Mr. Walker recognized Dr. Howell Garner, president of Copiah-Lincoln Community College. Dr. Garner stated that the concept of moving to an FTE formula had been worked on for a long time. Last year the Legislature felt that some integrity or validation needed to be added to the concept of changing the formula to the extent that they mandated an independent consultant to complete a study. Dr. Garner stated that each president might have a little difference in how to apply the recommendations. The SBCJC and MACJC have a vehicle or opportunity this year to do something good for community and junior college family, while continuing to work for the good of their individual institutions. He stated that he hopes there was a way to reach consensus, between the SBCJC and MACJC, to take control of the colleges' future and make viable

recommendations to the Legislature and possibly prevent them from mandating undesirable legislation. He encouraged the group to be open-minded in deciding what is best for the system in developing a concept that all could support.

Mr. Walker recognized Dr. Ronald Whitehead, president of Jones County Junior College. Dr. Whitehead stated that he was frustrated because of the position that the recommendation placed Jones. When the campus/centers designation was implemented in FY 03, Jones lost approximately \$460,000. He stated that it was his understanding that there is a legislative statute that stipulates that no new branches are to be established without legislative approval. If a site is established, grows, and the designation is upgraded to an extension or a comprehensive center, the Legislature may view the procedure as a way to circumvent the intent of that statute.

Dr. Whitehead stated that if Scenario One of the recommendation is implemented it would not address any of the concerns Dr. Lott previously addressed. Jones would lose about \$1,650,000. He stated that the issues addressed by Dr. Lott were very serious and needed to be looked at closely. At this time he could not support Scenario One and be true to the Board of Trustees of Jones County Junior College.

Mr. Walker recognized Dr. Starkey Morgan, president of Holmes Community College. Dr. Morgan underscored Dr. Willis Lott's comments that the approval by the MACJC of Scenario One only if additional funding was secured. He stated that this had always been the position of the MACJC so that no college would suffer. He encouraged the SBCJC to emphasize that the additional \$1,400,000 would be necessary to implement the FTE formula.

Mr. Walker asked Dr. Morgan if the \$1,400,000 in additional funding could be secured, would he be in support of the proposal. Dr. Morgan answered yes. Dr. Charles Chance stated that to stand still with what we currently have would adversely affect some of the colleges in the future as it has in the past. He said he could understand Dr. Whitehead's position because Northeast Mississippi Community College also lost \$1,300,000 in state funding last year. The attempt with the FTE formula is to get some stability and equity in the system. He stated that this seemed like a good time this year to request the additional funding; however, in the future, regardless of what the funding is, at some time it will rise and fall. If this proposal gives the MACJC and SBCJC the ability to reflect stability in the future, to know where the distribution is coming from, it merits support.

Mr. Walker stated that the Board would be heavily influenced by the presidents' opinions when discussing and developing a position on the proposal during their regular meetings set for Thursday January 16, and Friday January 17, 2003. He thanked the presidents for attending to offer their comments and share their concerns.

Major General Denver Brackeen stated that he has been in the community and junior college business for approximately 28 years, and he realizes what the colleges are facing inasmuch as he has served as a lobbyist for the system. The community and junior college presidents have a powerful voice when working with the Legislature. He stated that we were mandated to do a study; however, it is important to look into securing additional funding. That action will take the combined support of the SBCJC, MACJC, faculty, alumni, and staff all working together. He pledged his support as a member of the SBCJC to assure that everyone is treated fairly, while at the same time the system needs to go forward and improve.

Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg stated that she would be contacting some of the presidents to discuss their concerns early next week.

Dr. Starkey Morgan asked if the MACJC would know the position the SBCJC takes at the regular meeting scheduled for Friday, January 17, 2003. Mr. Walker stated that the SBCJC would inform the presidents of the action taken. He reaffirmed that the SBCJC would be reflective of the MACJC's comments and concerns when taking action on the recommendations.

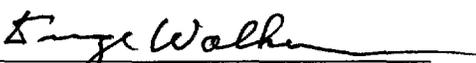
Dr. Wayne Stonecypher gave the group a brief update on Governor Ronnie Musgrove's State of the State Address earlier today. The Governor is recommending that education be funded first and be developed by the middle of January. He distributed a memo detailing the SBCJC staff's recommendation on the Funding Formula Study (Exhibit D). He stated that the FTE system of funding the colleges is the right way to go, and that the funding level of vocational education at .38 must be increased to make those programs attractive to more students. For the funding study recommendations to be approved, the SBCJC and MACJC must present a unified front to the Legislature. Dr. Stonecypher stated that he would support the MACJC's position when making recommendations to the SBCJC on the proposal.

Dr. Stonecypher asked that the MACJC review the Scenario One proposal and see if any changes could be made to address areas of concerns so that the MACJC could support the proposal unanimously.

Dr. Tommy Davis asked that all the presidents and/or their representative meet at the conclusion of the meeting today.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

  
George Walker, Chairman

  
Wayne Stonecypher, Executive Director