

MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
August 15, 2003

The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Friday, August 15, 2003, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 507 of the Education and Research Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

Members present: Mr. Noal Akins, Major General Denver Brackeen, Ms. Veldore Young, Mr. Napoleon Moore, Dr. Dorothy Nelson, Mr. Lawrence Warren, and Mrs. Brenda Yonge.

Members absent: Mr. Jimmy Murphy, Ms. Patricia Randall and Mr. George Walker.

Staff in attendance: Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Dr. Randall Bradberry, Dr. Larry Day, Mrs. Deborah Gilbert, Mr. Rodney Hodges, Mrs. Sandra Lucas, Mrs. Eloise Richardson, Mrs. Denise Walley and Dr. Evelyn Webb.

Guests in attendance: Dr. Bill Smith – IHL; Ms. Jerry McClendon – MS Department of Education; Dr. Tommy Davis – East Mississippi Community College; Mr. Victor Branch – Mississippi State University; and Mr. Gwyn Young – Copiah-Lincoln Community College.

CALL TO ORDER

In Chairman George Walker's absence, Vice-Chair Lawrence Warren called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. All guests present introduced themselves.

PRELIMINARIES

Mr. Lawrence Warren gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes of July 18, 2003, Meeting

Upon a motion by Mrs. Brenda Yonge and a second by General Denver Brackeen, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2003, meeting.

Review and Approval of Agenda

Dr. Stonecypher asked that the agenda be amended to include consideration of appointing a member to the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education for the State Department of Education. It was the consensus of the Board to approve the amended agenda.

REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

Dr. Stonecypher began by explaining that an error was made at the July meeting in appointing someone from the "new" congressional district, instead of the "old" congressional district for the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education appointment. Therefore, Dr. Stonecypher recommended Mr. Pat Flaherty from Hinds Community College to serve the four-year appointment.

Dr. Stonecypher then gave a report on Mrs. Nancy Alley, who recently retired from the SBCJC office. Mrs. Alley has been experiencing health problems, but has had surgery and is now back at home.

SBCJC Minutes: August 15, 2003

There have been several departmental changes in the SBCJC office. The Virtual Community College has been moved under the Programs division; therefore, Jason Pugh and Beverlin Givins will be reporting to Dr. Bradberry. In addition, Mr. Rodney Hodges who has been coordinating the WIA Dislocated Worker program will fill the position slot that became vacant when Dexter Holloway was promoted to Workforce Director. Therefore, we will begin the hiring process for someone else to work with the Dislocated Worker program.

Dr. Stonecypher congratulated Mr. Noal Akins on his success during the preliminary election for the House of Representatives.

The Board was updated on the development of the Career and Technical Contract with the State Department of Education. Also, Dr. Stonecypher related that he had met with Dr. Potter with IHL and his staff regarding the collaborative efforts for a centralized computer system.

Dr. Stonecypher referred to a document that was provided by Dr. William McHenry regarding accredited institutions in Mississippi and their classification (Exhibit A).

There have been meetings with the State Department of Education in an effort to come to an agreement regarding Occupational Diplomas. Dr. Stonecypher outlined the concept of the diploma, along with the pros and cons. He stated that Dr. Johnson has a strong desire for the community colleges, along with the SBCJC, to accept the diploma as they would any other.

A copy of newspaper clippings was provided to the Board (Exhibit B) for information purposes.

The Board was given a copy of an email and itinerary (Exhibit C) for the September Board meeting. Dr. Nelson extended an invitation to the Board and Staff for lunch at her home at 12:30 p.m. in Greenville on Thursday, September 18th. Mississippi Delta will provide the evening meal, as well as, transportation and admission to a local jazz concert.

MACJC Report

Dr. Tommy Davis related that the MACJC had not met since the Board's July meeting. However, he felt that he should mention that an unfavorable article, written by an English professor from Mississippi State, had recently been published in Jackson's *The Clarion-Ledger* regarding the Articulation Agreement that the community colleges have with IHL. In a joint effort to defend the Articulation Agreement, Dr. Stonecypher and Dr. Davis submitted a letter to the newspaper that was published. Dr. Davis stated that the articulation agreement will be on the agenda of the upcoming Association meeting to discuss possible adjustments to make the agreement more effective.

Dr. Davis informed the Board that East Mississippi Community College, as well as all the other colleges, is registering students for the upcoming semester. It will be a few weeks before enrollment numbers will be released.

Appointment to the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education

As mentioned earlier in the meeting, the State Department of Education has requested an appointment to the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education. Dr. Stonecypher provided information regarding his recommendation, Mr. Pat Flaherty from Hinds Community College (see Exhibit D) to serve the four-year term. Upon a motion by General Denver Brackeen and a second by Mr. Noal Akins, the Board voted unanimously to recommend Mr. Pat Flaherty

SBCJC Minutes: August 15, 2003

for appointment to the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education.

EdNet Report

Dr. Evelyn Webb reported that the regular monthly meeting of the EdNet Board was held on Monday, July 21, 2003. The WorldCom Bankruptcy process continues in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in New York State. EdNet's original claim of \$27 million dollars remains on file with the Court. EdNet is waiting to see how the court rules on the ITFS equipment rights. Meanwhile, EdNet continues to work toward building out its system so that it will be least affected by the bankruptcy and be able to provide services and to generate revenue independent of court action. Consideration has begun regarding approaching Nextel, should they make an offer to lease spectrum or if they desire a relationship with EdNet.

EdNet and the Mississippi Department of Health will have contracts finalized for the "Health Alert Network" before August 30, 2003. Also, EdNet staff and licensee representatives are monitoring the activities of the Federal Communication Commission in their restructuring process for the Instruction Television Fixed Services (ITFS) spectrum.

In closing, Dr. Webb reminded the Board that during the 2003 session the legislature approved \$200,000 for EdNet in appropriated funds and \$900,000 in bond funding. The \$200,000 was sent to EdNet from Information Technology Services in July. Bond funding will become available in late October or November.

Athletic Report

Dr. Bradberry introduced Mr. Gwyn Young, Athletic Director at Copiah-Lincoln Community College. Mr. Young, who is Chairman of the Athletic Directors Association, thanked the Board for the opportunity to meet with them. He began by stating that until last year there were only 14 teams in the Association; however, Meridian has rejoined the league bringing 100% community college participation in Mississippi. As a coach and an athlete who participated in sports during his junior college education, Mr. Young stated his dedication to community college sports and gave his view on its importance. He gave various examples of how MACJC's Rules and Regulations were not as flexible as the National Rules and Regulations, one being the limited number of out-of-state players. Sports at the colleges include: Football, Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Soccer, Golf, Tennis and a few have track. Mr. Young briefly summarized financial aid and scholarship opportunities.

Workforce Report

Mr. Dexter Holloway, Director of Workforce Education gave the Workforce Report in Mr. Walker's absence. He began by reporting that three (3) of the five (5) strategically placed contacts for the WIA Dislocated Worker Program are now in place and the other two (2) locations will have someone in place in the near future.

Mr. Holloway explained that the Workforce Council is expanding its partnership in workforce education with other entities. He reported on a trip he had taken to Atlanta last month to meet with the Department of Labor to ensure proper steps were taken regarding buying equipment and filing forms needed for the automotive industry grant that is providing \$5,000,000. He is also working with the Central Mississippi Planning Development District on an additional \$2,500,000 grant that we will be receiving this coming year from the Department of Labor.

SBCJC Minutes: August 15, 2003

As we close out FY 2003, our reports show that there were 1,279 workforce projects, 22,094 workforce classes, and approximately \$10,830,924 of workforce allocated monies spent.

The Workforce Council met on August 13. They are finalizing their work on the strategic plan. Mr. Holloway and Dr. Stonecypher have met with the joint WIA Workforce Council to find ways to collaborate efforts and not duplicate services out in the field. They are currently working with the Department of Human Services to finalize a memo of understanding to continue working with TANF clients. They are also working with the Mississippi Manufacturers Association (MMA) in developing industrial training programs. In closing, he stated that the Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce is putting together a program explaining services that are offered for workforce training.

Program Report

Dr. Bradberry provided a letter from Itawamba Community College to add a Furniture Technology option to its Drafting and Design Technology program (Exhibit E). Students who successfully complete this curriculum will receive an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Drafting and Design Technology. Upon a motion by Mr. Noal Akins and a second by Ms. Veldore Young, the Board voted unanimously to approve Itawamba Community College's request to add Furniture Technology option to its Drafting and Design Technology program.

Legislative Recommendations

Dr. Stonecypher provided a draft copy of the LBO Recommendations (Exhibit F) that will be proposed to the LBO next month. He reminded the Board that they had previously approved the figures for the request when they approved the budget. Mrs. Deborah Gilbert gave a brief overview of the recommendations.

*The meeting recessed at 10:10 a.m. and reconvened at 10:25 a.m.

ABE/GED Report

Mrs. Eloise Richardson announced that the Mississippi Association of Adult and Community Education (MAACE) had a wonderful turnout (approximately 728) at their annual convention on July 30 – August 1 at the Pearl River Resort in Choctaw, Mississippi. Dr. Stonecypher and Dr. Bradberry were both on the program and showed their support by giving encouragement to the teachers. Also on the program was Mrs. Louise Sinclair, this year's GED Poster person; and Cynthia Ward, a student with dyslexia that was given special accommodations by receiving extra time to take the test. Ms. Ward not only received her GED, but also wrote a book about her mother's life entitled "Sometimes There's a Dove". Both GED recipients commended the ABE instructors who encouraged them and helped them achieve their goals.

Finance Report

Mrs. Deborah Gilbert presented the items on the Finance Agenda for information and action.

Upon a motion by General Denver Brackeen, and a second by Mrs. Brenda Yonge, the Board voted unanimously to approve disbursements from the Education Enhancement Funds 4080 and 4110 for the month of July, and the Budget Contingency Fund 3296 for the month of August in the total amount of \$3,245,764.49 (Exhibit G).

SBCJC Minutes: August 15, 2003

The following items were reported on, with no action required:

FY 2003 Lapse Period Financial Statements for funds 2291 and 3291 (Exhibit H).

FY 2004 Financial Statements for General Fund 2291 and Special Funds 3291, 3292, 3293 and 3297 (Exhibit I).

Mrs. Gilbert provided a recap of Support Expenditures for FY 2003 (Exhibit J).

In regards to the Budget Requests for FY 2005, all fifteen community and junior colleges' FY 2005 (MBR) Budget Requests, as well as, the composite request and the SBCJC Request have been finalized and are available should the Board choose to review any or all of them. A budget hearing before the Joint Legislative Budget Committee has been requested. The date and time is unknown at this time; however, the Board will be notified as soon as it has been scheduled.

In closing, Mrs. Gilbert shared a copy of a letter to Dr. Stonecypher from the Office of the State Auditor (Exhibit K) in regards to the Single Audit Management Report regarding the Federal Adult Education Program. There were no written findings in the Audit.

Location of Classes

Dr. Evelyn Webb reported that she received a request from Meridian Community College for two (2) additional locations for the Fall Semester for East Mississippi Correctional Facility and Meridian High School. Upon a motion by Ms. Veldore Young and a second by General Denver Brackeen, the board voted unanimously to approve two (2) additional locations for classes for the Fall Semester at East Mississippi Correctional Facility and Meridian High School.

Career-Technical Post-Secondary Education Update

Dr. Stonecypher provided a "draft" copy of the proposed contract between the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) and SBCJC (Exhibit L). MDE's Board is currently reviewing the Contract, and is expected to place the contract on their agenda for approval at their September meeting. Dr. Stonecypher explained that once this contract was approved that the State Board office would need to hire three (3) additional employees. Mrs. Gilbert gave an overview of the Contract that would be in effect for a two-year period.

Invitations for SBCJC Meetings

Dr. Stonecypher related that Itawamba Community College, Jones County Junior College, and Northwest Mississippi Community College have extended invitations to the Board to visit their campuses during one of their monthly meetings.

There were some concerns of the additional expense of having off-site meetings due to accommodations for the Board and certain SBCJC staff and discussion regarding how many off-site invitations the Board should take each year. The Board decided to table the discussion of the invitations and to discuss it further at the September meeting.

SBCJC Minutes: August 15, 2003

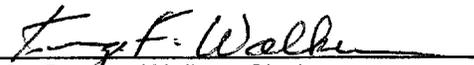
Travel Authorizations

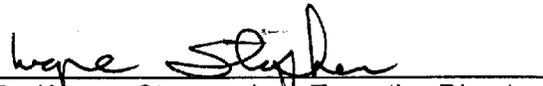
Mrs. Gilbert asked if there were requests for travel reimbursements for events other than regularly scheduled Board meetings. Upon a motion by Dr. Dorothy Nelson and a second by Mrs. Brenda Yonge, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following travel authorizations:

George Walker has advised that he plans to attend a Mississippi Educational Leadership Initiative in Natchez on September 4-5, 2003 and a SWDC meeting on September 10, 2003, in Jackson.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.


Mr. George Walker, Chairman


Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Executive Director