MINUTES
MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD
Thursday, February 18, 2016

A Special Meeting of the Mississippi Community College Board was held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 18, 2016, at Drago's restaurant, located at 1005 East County Line Road in Jackson. The meeting recessed at 7:45 and reconvened at 8:00 p.m. in the Hattiesburg Room of the Hilton Hotel in Jackson.

Members present: Mr. Lee Bush, Chairman; Mr. John Pigott, Vice-Chairman; Mr. Bubba Hudspeth; Mrs. Cheryl Thurmond; Mr. Johnny McRight, Mrs. Dolly Marascalco and Mr. Todd Hairston.

MCCB Staff in attendance: Dr. Andrea Mayfield, Dr. Shawn Mackey, Mr. Ray Smith, Mr. Raul Fletes, Mr. Kenneth Wheatley, Mrs. Deborah Gilbert, and Mrs. Missy Saxton.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bush called the meeting to order and expressed his appreciation for MCCB staff for their efforts with the Legislature and having a presence at the Capitol.

REPORTS/ACTIONS

Executive Director's Report

Dr. Andrea Mayfield reported the Delta is now a certified "work-ready" community and is recognized as such by business and industry in the state. Part of this designation is due to the efforts of Mississippi Delta Community College and others. She and MCCB staff have had the opportunity to meet with key members of the Legislature as well as the Governor and Lieutenant Governor. In these meetings, an explanation of the system's request for more funding has been made. The community and junior college system is focused on, and committed to, building partnerships with the Institutions of Higher Learning, Mississippi Department of Education and career and technical education and workforce groups. The reverse transfer policy is in place and discussions regarding four-year colleges being able to award an Associate's degree are in the beginning stages. Governor Bryant mentioned this possibility in his State of the State address in January.

Dr. Mayfield said she will request the board's approval on Friday to appoint Dr. Jim Haffey, President of Holmes Community College, to the Education Achievement Council (EAC.) Dr. Ronnie Nettles, President of Copiah-Lincoln Community College, who has been a long-time member of the EAC, has resigned from the EAC. The Board is responsible for naming a replacement member to the council. Dr. Mayfield reported that there have been several personnel changes and she will provide more information on those tomorrow. Dr. Mayfield was able to meet with Mr. Glenn McCullough, Executive Director of Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), and Mr. McCullough said he wants to formally partner with MCCB regarding workforce and also wants to also provide financial resources. Dr. Mayfield reported Mr. McCullough said Continental Tire would not have chosen to do business in Mississippi if it weren't for the diligent efforts of Dr. Shawn Mackey and Mr. Dexter Holloway. The Governor's $50 million workforce bill has moved to the House floor, as of today. Dr. Mayfield concluded her report.

Workforce, Career Technical Education and Curriculum Report

Dr. Shawn Mackey reported that he would have one action item to present to the Board at the Friday meeting with regard to final approval of the 2015 Curricula Revisions. He concluded his report.

Finance Report

Mrs. Deborah Gilbert reported that she will present the regular Finance report during the Friday meeting. She will make the usual request for disbursement of funds and she will also have three purchasing requests that will require the Board's approval.

Other Business

Vice-Chairman John Pigott asked Board Members to consider two items: the necessity of Thursday night meetings and leadership of the Board, particularly, the position of Chairman. Mr. Pigott said that while he enjoys the Thursday evening meetings, the agency is wasting time and money, during a time of budget cuts, when a quorum is not present. Mr. Johnny McRight summed up the issue of Thursday night meetings by saying, "either we commit to Thursday nights or we don't do Thursday nights at all." Chairman Bush said he thinks it is important to meet on Thursday night, as it builds comradery. It requires a commitment and extra effort and a sacrifice for everybody.

Mr. Pigott asked board members to consider going back to electing a chairman who has the time and ability to serve in that role. His concern is what is most effective for the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Lee Bush adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Recorded by:

Missy Saxton, Executive Assistant

Approved by:

Mr. Lee Bush, Chairman

Dr. Andrea Mayfield, MCCB Executive Director