

Board of Trustees of Mesa State College

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

JULY 16/17, 2003
As corrected March 12, 2003

MESA STATE COLLEGE
LIFF AUDITORIUM

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2003

The first official meeting of the Board of Trustees of Mesa State College was called to order at 2:50 PM by Mesa State Interim President Dr. Sam Gingerich.

ROLL CALL

Board of Trustees

Student Trustee Garrett Branson
Trustee Luis Colón
Trustee Lena Elliott
Trustee Jamie Hamilton
Trustee Thomas Kaesemeyer
Trustee Steve Meyer
Trustee Charlie Monfort
Trustee Carol Nesland
Faculty Trustee Gayla Jo Slauson
Trustee James Wexels

Excused

Trustee Jane North

President's Staff attended.

OATH OF OFFICE

U.S. Magistrate Judge Gudrun Rice administered the oath of office to the Trustees.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Trustee Monfort moved to nominate a slate of officers as follows:

Chair: Trustee Lena Elliott to serve a one-year term

Vice Chair: Trustee Jim Wexels to serve a one-year term

Secretary/Treasurer: President Sam Gingerich to serve at the will of the Board

Trustee Steve Meyer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Comments

Chair Elliott accepted and thanked the Board members for their enthusiasm, acknowledging the honor and responsibility bestowed by the Governor, and highlighting two equal roles: 1) to ensure tax dollars are being well spent and 2) to act as advocates for Mesa State. She stated that the Board is committed, focused, and looks forward to working with the president, staff, and faculty to provide students a first class education in an environment that will help them learn in the academic field and become vital members of society.

Appointments

Chair Elliott appointed Trustee Carol Nesland to serve as Assistant Secretary to the Board and Trustee Steve Meyer to serve as Assistant Treasurer to the Board.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S ORIENTATION

Mr. John Sleeman, Esq., First Assistant Attorney General, gave an overview of the role of his office and its support to the Board, and offered explanation on attorney-client privilege, confidentiality, acting on authority of the Board, and Colorado Sunshine Law and Colorado Public Records Act. There was discussion about whether the Board was obligated to use the attorney general's office and its discretion to use other legal services.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. John Marshall, special liaison on behalf of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education and the Office of the Governor, made a brief statement on the Commission's direction and activities and the importance of improved business models and public accountability. He expressed his pleasure at visiting his alma mater.

REPORTS

President

Interim President Gingerich reported on enrollment, re-accreditation, Mesa's role as regional education provider and the anticipation that the Board may wish, in the future, to review and/or revise policies with regard to issues of personnel, academic programming, and facility construction. He answered in more detail questions related to enrollment caps, enrollment comparisons to previous years, the process to respond to increased enrollment, the accreditation process, plans for Board interaction with Montrose Advisory Council, and communication between Mesa staff and city officials.

Upon request for documents that address official long- and short-range plans, President Gingerich indicated his intent to provide the Board with Mesa's vision statement and the Academic, Facilities, and Technology Master Plans, which address five- to ten-year and three- to five-year goals.

Faculty Trustee

Faculty Trustee Slauson welcomed the Board and expressed excitement at faculty establishing relationships with the Board. She gave a brief report on faculty activities, Faculty Senate, and the effect of increased benefits costs.

Student Trustee

Student Trustee Branson gave a brief overview of student activities. In response to questions, he indicated that the student government has been reduced in size to provide for a more focused group, that there is a lack of participation in elections, that due to current events he anticipates the percentage of employed graduates will be lower, and that the reaction of students to an independent governing board is positive.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Budget and Financials

Chair Elliott recognized Linda Curran, Vice President for Financial and Administrative Services, who gave a presentation on financials for the academic year 2003-2004, beginning with a broad overview and continuing into more detail as questions were posed from the Board.

Chair Elliott asked that Trustees Meyer, Monfort, and Nesland hold a public work session, with Vice President Curran, to develop a plan and come back to the Board with a simplified method of reporting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Meyer moved, and Trustee Monfort seconded, that on Thursday, July 17, 2003, the Board go into executive session at 7:30 a.m. pursuant to 24-6-402(3)(b)(I), C.R.S. for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter related to the interim president, and reconvene in open session at 9:00 AM. Trustee Monfort seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Board then recessed.

THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2003

REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Elliott convened the Board at 9:51 AM and asked Trustee Kaesemeyer to report on the executive session. Trustee Kaesemeyer relayed that the Board had reviewed Sam Gingerich's role as interim president and asked him to continue in his position under the same terms as his existing contract. He expressed the Board's appreciation for Dr. Gingerich's efforts in managing the day-to-day operations of the college and indicated the Board's pleasure that Dr. Gingerich had agreed to continue to serve as interim president. At an appropriate time, the Board will address the structure of a presidential search, but for now is concentrating on organizing and working closely with staff on short-term objectives.

CONTINUE DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Meeting Schedule

The Board agreed to continue with the tentative schedule, including the August 20 one-day meeting, and to make decisions on future two-day meetings as needed.

OTHER

Chair Elliott raised the issue of other items for the next and future agendas. For the next meeting, Trustee Hamilton accepted the task of developing a plan to address the trustee policy manual and the trustee and MSC handbooks.

President Gingerich offered a tour of campus to facilitate discussion on academic planning and programs offered, and in preparation for role and mission discussion. In response to Trustee Nesland's inquiry regarding whether there are degree programs or curriculum issues pending for which the Board would have approval responsibility, Dr. Gingerich explained that there is a Spanish major in the approval process and that a formal proposal is being developed to present to the Board.

With regard to legal representation, Chair Elliott reiterated that the Board has the option to continue using the AG's office or to seek its own local attorney. It was clarified that the Board is not required to have legal representation at meetings. Trustee Nesland asked to leave the issue open until the Board had the opportunity to review the AG's proposal.

ADJOURN

Trustee Hamilton moved to adjourn at 11:20 AM. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.