

TRUSTEES OF MESA STATE COLLEGE
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
January 21, 2004
Coors Field Board Room
Denver, Colorado

JANUARY 21, 2004

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lena Elliott called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Trustees Present

Trustee Lena Elliott; Trustee Steve Meyer; Trustee Charlie Monfort; Trustee Carol Nesland; Trustee Jane North; Faculty Trustee Gayla Jo Slauson; Trustee Jim Wexels

Trustees Excused

Trustee Luis Colon, Trustee Jamie Hamilton, Trustee Tom Kaesemeyer

President's Staff Present

Vice President Hrcir, Executive Assistant Achen, Director Brock

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 18-19, 2003 meeting. The motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REPORTS

Board Chair: Trustee Elliott informed the Board that she had been spending much time with the media – radio, TV, and newspaper – regarding the presidential search.

Interim President: President Gingerich reported on the 3-4% growth in enrollment over last year and associated additional tuition revenue, which will be reflected in budget information over the next couple of meetings. Questions were answered on faculty position vacancies for next fall and on the NCA/HLC accreditation written comments report filed with CCHE.

Dr. Gingerich announced that, as part of the Center Project in conjunction with a Vermont Foundation, Mesa State is working with Delta and Montrose schools and will host 100 Delta freshman students. The Trustees were invited to attend the recognition of these students at the basketball game half-time on Saturday, February 7.

Faculty Trustee: Trustee Slauson reported that the presidential search was a faculty priority. Additionally, she commented on the complex issues of class size and room usage, pointing out that, according to the Quality Indicator System numbers, the requirement of maintaining a

certain percentage of classes with no more than 50 students has been exceeded, although the requirement for percentage of classes with less than 20 was met.

Student Trustee: Chair Elliott announced that Garrett Branson had sent an e-mail stating he had been asked to resign his position as Student Trustee. She indicated that his replacement would be determined by a College internal election process. Dr. Gingerich, responding to a question posed by the Chair, stated that the trustees Policy Manual states that if a resignation occurs, the vacancy has to be filled in the same manner as caused the student to be elected originally and he would discuss this on campus. Trustee Nesland offered that the process of bringing the faculty and student representatives to the Board is set up statutorily and requires election. Trustee Nesland also asked that Garrett Branson's email stating he was asked to resign be attached to the minutes of this meeting and become a part of the public record.

ASG President: ASG President Jenn Hensel reported that the presidential search is a major student government focus. She also informed the Board on ASG participation in the plans for the College Center renovation, including a trip during the first week of February to other Colorado colleges to visit their student union buildings. President Hensel announced her plan to give the State of the Student address on February 4 at 7:00 p.m. and invited the Trustees to attend. Questions were answered regarding the campus safety blue phone that was mentioned in the ASG president's report, and on the content of the State of the Student address.

Classified Staff Council: On behalf of the Classified Staff Council, President Gingerich expressed Council's appreciation for including it in the report process.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Quality Indicator System Report

President Gingerich provided information on the Quality Indicator System report, explained the established performance measures, and stated that, while Mesa has done very well historically on most indicators, the retention and graduation rates continue to be a challenge. Of the measures included in the indicators for retention and graduation rates, including minority retention and graduation rates, benchmarks have been met on half and not met on the other half; however, improvement has been shown in almost all of them. Dr. Gingerich explained the programs that have been developed to address these issues and that Mesa State has exceeded benchmarks in almost all indicators, placing it at second or third in the state.

In other indicators, it was noted that success has been achieved in the area of professional exams, e.g., PLACE in education and the NCLEX-RN in nursing. With regard to the success in exceeding the benchmark for low administrative costs per fte student, Dr. Gingerich offered that streamlining administration, making funds available for instruction, and averaging the highest number of faculty/student contact hours per week has a direct correlation to the success achieved by students on licensure exams.

Dr. Gingerich informed the Board that the challenge of maintaining class sizes under 50 has surfaced recently with the limited resources and growth in enrollment over the last few years. Discussion occurred regarding classroom and lecture hall capacity, the complex issues surrounding class sizes, and Mesa State's ability to balance the numbers of students that can be

accommodated in the larger lecture halls and the under-50-students required by QIS benchmarks and desired by Mesa's culture of low student-to-faculty ratio. President Gingerich stated that the numbers of students in classes is reviewed annually, as well as daily at the beginning of semesters, to determine when another section can and should be added to avoid overcrowding classes.

College Center Improvement Planning Process

President Gingerich shared background information on plans, in conjunction with the Facilities Master Plan recommendations, to improve the College Center. He explained that the nature of the student population has changed, that the majority of students are now commuters, and the only place on campus for those students to have quiet space is in the MSC library which, as a result, has one of the highest usages in the state. Since there are several areas to be addressed, a whole systems evaluation is being done to determine a plan to address needs for additional space, updates and renovations. The Board was informed that, since the project is partially student funded, students have made plans to survey other sites. Costs will be determined for review by ASG and the Board, and the anticipated date for plan completion is March or April. The Trustees were invited to join the students in their travel to front range institutions.

Discussion included the percentage of the cost that would be carried by students; the approximate increase in student fees per semester for the next 20 years to cover the bond for construction costs plus daily operations; the required student vote; and options for revenue generated from the College Center. Dr. Gingerich offered that both the bookstore and food services would have some funds to contribute to their portion of the renovations.

Financial Reports

Mark Achen reported that the financial report provides information through November, which is not the entire semester, and that December 31 will give a much better impression of the current status. Preliminary numbers indicate that the budget is essentially on track. Explanation and discussion occurred on E&G and Auxiliary funds; on net assets as of November 30; and on revenues and expenditures. Mr. Achen apprised the Board that the December 31 report numbers will look different with the shift to accrual techniques applied to financial statements, versus numbers as posted, but the format will be the same. Background and an explanation of the impact of shifting to the accrual technique were shared. He also informed the Board that the FY02-03 audit, released by the state auditor during the first week in January, would be presented by Controller Cackler at the February meeting. Discussion occurred on schedules for Student Activities and Other Auxiliaries, as well as on Attorney General fees.

It was reported that the cost for the presidential search would be slightly over \$20,000 in the December report due to a higher-than-anticipated cost for Denver news agency ads.

Regarding the level of report detail shared with the entire Board, it was decided that the Board would continue to receive the same level of detail that the finance sub-committee receives.

ACTION ITEM

Trustee Wexels moved and Trustee Nesland seconded that an additional up to \$40,000 be allocated to continue the presidential search activities. Discussion included clarification of the

use of funds. The original \$20,000 was used for advertising; the additional \$40,000 is anticipated to be used for candidate travel. The motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Acquisition & Demolition of Houses

President Gingerich brought the Board up to date on the plans for demolition of seven of the eleven properties that were approved in 2001 for transfer from the Foundation to the College. He explained that since the properties in disrepair would require significant funds from the Foundation to maintain and the approval to transfer and demolish expires June 30, 2004, it would be expedient to approve transfer and demolition plans at this time. Dr. Gingerich explained that of the eleven properties, three will remain rental property of the Foundation, one has been demolished, leaving seven to be transferred to the College for demolition. Some of the seven are targeted to become an extension of existing parking, and some for green space.

Discussion occurred on plans for informational community meetings, notice to renters, and the source of funds for demolition and transformation into parking lots and/or green space. Trustee Nesland, who is working with the Foundation and will meet with them at the end of the month, stressed the importance of ensuring that possession of property not be accepted until renters have vacated.

Chair Elliott announced that Faculty Senate President Russ Walker and faculty committees are beginning work on the faculty policy book and would like to have until March to make a report.

Chair Elliott also suggested that meeting dates for February through June be reviewed to accommodate president candidate interviews, if necessary.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Nesland moved and Trustee Wexels seconded that the Board convene into executive session for the rest of the afternoon and through the following day to consider employment issues relating to the presidential search in accordance with 24-6-402(3)(b)(I), C.R.S. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:15 p.m.