

**TRUSTEES OF MESA STATE COLLEGE**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**February 18, 2004**

**Liff Auditorium**

**Mesa State College**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Lena Elliott called the meeting to order at 9.05 a.m.

Trustees Present

Trustee Kaesemeyer, Trustee Meyer, Trustee Monfort, Trustee Nesland, Trustee North, Trustee Wexels, Faculty Trustee Slauson, Chair Elliott

Trustee Excused

Trustee Colon

Chair Elliott recognized and welcomed Joseph Mulcahy representing Associated Student Government.

President's staff attended.

Trustee Meyer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Assistant Secretary Nesland presented the following corrections and additions to the January 21, 2004 minutes:

Date of the regular January Board meeting corrected to January 21, 2004; under Student Trustee on page two, added language reflecting Dr. Gingerich's statement outlining the procedure for electing a new Student Trustee; additionally under Student Trustee a request to reflect that Student Trustee Branson, in his email resignation letter, stated he was asked to resign; a request by Trustee Nesland that a copy of Student Trustee Branson's e-mail be made a part of the public record and attached to these minutes; under Executive Session addition of the language "for the rest of the afternoon and through the following day"; deletion of the January 22, 2004 inference that a public meeting was held.

Trustee Meyer offered for the record that he had arrived late for the January 21 meeting, and that the minutes, under Interim President report, referred to a football game that was actually a basketball game.

Trustee North asked for clarification on the amount the Board approved in additional funding for the Presidential Search.

Trustee Nesland agreed to review the tape of the January meeting and present corrected minutes for approval at the March meeting.

Chair Elliott called the Board's attention to the February minutes. Trustee Meyer asked for clarification on the time he arrived to the meeting. Trustee Nesland agreed to review the tape and present corrected minutes for approval at the March meeting.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **ACTION**

#### **Academic Program Addition – Spanish Major**

Vice President Hrcir presented for Board approval an academic Spanish Major. He gave a history of the proposal process, the rationale to add the program, and explained the three concentrations within the BA Spanish. Discussion included questions about the physical capacity to add the major, including the need for grant-supported enhancement in language lab capability, need for faculty now and going forward, number of variable required hours for the program and adequate credit hours for recognition for graduate study.

Trustee Nesland moved to accept the addition of a Spanish Major as presented, Trustee Meyer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **Financial Report**

Interim CFO Mark Achen presented the Financial Report dated December 31, 2003, which included the quarterly financial report submitted to CCHE. He also distributed an updated January 31 report on Board reserve and presidential search costs.

#### **Audit Report**

Controller Larry Cackler presented highlights of the FY 2002/03 financial and compliance audit noting that the College received an unqualified opinion. Of note was a \$2.7M increase in net assets, refinanced debt portfolio and net proceeds of \$2.5M received for dormitory improvements.

### **ACTION**

#### **BOCES Agreement Amendment and Appointment of Additional Directors**

Trustee Hamilton shared a history of the legislation and search process to add additional directors to the BOCES Board, and made a formal motion to approve the appointment of Dave Duff and Lenna Watson. Trustee Nesland seconded the motion. Discussion included clarification of authority to make decisions on the number of directors to be added, the Board of Trustees' role in that decisions making, current members of the BOCES Board, reappointments, and alternates. Trustee Meyer asked for further discussion around having two additional appointees versus four appointees. Chair Elliott called for the question and, there being no further discussion, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointments.

After clarification on the term limits provision of the amended agreement and the ability of the Board of Trustees to bring additional issues to the BOCES Board for discussion, Trustee Hamilton moved to approve the Amended Agreement as presented. Trustee Meyer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

## **RECESS**

Chair Elliott called a recess at 10:35 a.m. and reconvened in open session at 10:40 a.m.

## **REPORTS**

**Board Chair:** Chair Elliott reported on the presidential search. The Board received and reviewed approximately ninety applications and conducted personal interviews with seven applicants. The Chair reported that the Board is at a selection point in the process and would determine whether they would name a finalist or finalists to invite to campus, or abandon the search and go to Phase II. Chair Elliott stated that the original intent on the agenda was to recess into executive session to discuss this next step, but, based on the number of people in attendance, she deferred to the Board for a decision on whether or not to conduct the discussion in open session.

## **ACTION**

Vice Chair Wexels suggested that the issue be discussed in open session. To further that discussion, Trustee Wexels moved that candidate Tim Foster be named as the finalist for the position of President at Mesa State College and that he be invited to visit the campus at his earliest convenience to meet with faculty, students, and community and then to have an opportunity, and the Board as well, to further decide if he is the right individual. Trustee Nesland seconded the motion. The Trustees agreed, in discussion, that Tim Foster's understanding of higher education, background and knowledge of the College communities, understanding of the political process in Colorado and the financial challenges facing all higher ed, and his knowledge of Mesa State College make him the best candidate for the position of President.

The unanimous vote on this motion was done by roll call with Trustees Hamilton, Kaesemeyer, North, Nesland, Elliott, Wexels, Meyer, Monfort and Slauson all affirming "yes".

Chair Elliott announced that visits would be scheduled for the finalist on campus before moving on to the next step. Trustee Wexels stated that there is a waiting period of 14 days before an official offer may be made, during which time the candidate will visit and the Board will have opportunity for further deliberations.

## **ACTION**

Vice Chair Wexels further moved that a special meeting of the Board be scheduled for March 5 for the purpose of determining whether to continue to Phase II of the search process, or to make an offer of employment to Mr. Foster and determine the procedure to follow in negotiating a contract or seeking other activity. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Elliott stated that the visit to campus would be scheduled for next week, input would be collected from groups, and the Board would move on from there.

## **RECESS**

Chair Elliott recognized several members of the public for comment, then called for a recess at 11:05 a.m. and reconvened in open session at 11:12 a.m.

Interim President: President Gingerich updated the Board on items in his report, i.e., the finalization of spring enrollment and the trend with fall projections of increasing enrollment at Mesa State. He also noted that in early March a team from NASM (National Association of Schools of Music) would visit with regard to music accreditation and that later in March teams from NCATE and CCHE would visit to review programs in education with regard to their accreditation and reauthorization by the Commission. With regard to lobbying services, Dr. Gingerich reported that an agreement is being entered into with Todd Saliman and Associates and that they, along with Jake Zambrano, Mesa, Metro, and Adams, will be working with CCHE.

Faculty Trustee: Faculty Trustee Slauson presented her perception on change, specifically at Mesa State College, including change management, organizational culture and tradition, using a Kenyan story to illustrate what tools might be used to effect change. Trustee Slauson offered that she had had the opportunity to work more closely with the Board than most members of the faculty, that Board members hold many of the same values as the Mesa State community, and that change can be positive. She expressed her desire that Mesa State be able to compete effectively with eastern slope schools and become an entity that draws resources and students because of its quality, her belief that this Board is able to help MSC get there, and her high hopes that change will lead to a better place.

Faculty Senate President: Dr. Russ Walker, Faculty Senate president, distributed a statement to the Board from the Faculty Senate on behalf of the faculty.

In response, Trustee Nesland read a statement on behalf of the Board and asked that the text of the statement be made a part of the public record. The Board statement is attached to these minutes.

Trustee Monfort was recognized and expressed his feelings regarding faculty's insinuation of the Board's lack of trust.

ASG President: ASG President Jenn Hensel clarified details of the student trustee resignation and subsequent election. She stated that Garrett Branson left his position on his own volition with support of his decision from his friends. Ms. Hensel explained the rationale, e.g., time constraints and the vital necessity of student representation on the presidential search, behind the interim election and stated that ASG stands behind its decisions and process in electing Joseph Mulcahy as Student Trustee of the entire student body.

Trustee Nesland clarified the rules for the student trustee election, provided reasons for moving on, and acknowledged Joe Mulcahy as student government representative until the April general election process.

Classified Staff Council: Council President Bob Sours stated that there were no changes to the written report already submitted to the Board, that their issues involve legislative proposals, and that Council members appreciate the opportunity to keep the Board informed of their concerns.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Chair Elliott asked for copies of the final, corrected Trustee Policy Manual. Mr. Achen offered that copies would be made available right after executive session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Trustee Nesland moved to convene into Executive Session pursuant to Title 24-6-402(3)(a)(II), C.R.S., to confer with the Board attorney to receive legal advice on specific legal questions and to discuss a personnel issue and the presidential search pursuant to Title 24-6-402(3)(b)(I), C.R.S. Trustee Monfort seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**RECONVENE**

Chair Elliott reconvened in open session at 2:30 p.m.

Chair Elliott stated that the finalist, Tim Foster, would be on campus next week for anyone and everyone who would like to see him, and that the visit will be arranged with the help of staff.

In response to an earlier question from the media, regarding the disclosure of the names of the other applicants in the pool that were interviewed, Chair Elliott recognized Vice Chair Wexels who stated that those names would not be made available.

**OTHER PUBLIC COMMENT**

Those who commented included a Mesa State employee, students from the Criterion newspaper, a local reporter, and an emeritus faculty member.

Trustee North requested that Chair Elliott read into record a statement from head football coach Joe Ramunno in support of the Board's decision. A copy of the letter is attached to these minutes.

Chair Elliott thanked the Board members for the countless hours spent on the process, commended them for their dedication and hard work in finding the best person for president, and expressed her hope that candidate Foster would be welcomed on campus. She further reminded the participants of the open session to keep in mind that they were all here for Mesa State College.

**ADJOURN**

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.