

TRUSTEES OF MESA STATE COLLEGE

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

May 20, 2004

Gates Foundation

3575 Cherry Creek North Drive

Denver, Colorado

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Elliott called the regular meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Trustees Present

Trustees Hamilton, Kaesemeyer, Nesland, North, Wexels, Faculty Trustee Slauson, Student Trustee Dukes, and Chair Elliott

Trustees Excused

Trustees Colon, Meyer, and Monfort

Also in attendance were Interim VPAA Futhey, Budget Director Sutton, and Budget Services Coordinator Callaway.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Nesland moved to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2004 meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wexels and passed unanimously.

INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Elliott welcomed Jenna Allen who introduced herself as the new Chief Operating Officer for the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, filling in at this meeting for Jake Zambrano, CCHE liaison to Mesa State. Chair Elliott also welcomed Student Trustee Charles Dukes to his first meeting with the Board.

REPORTS

President: President Foster discussed the proposed alternative structure of a management team of Department Chairs and referred to a memo from the campus working group who is examining the new model. The working group concluded that this was a reasonable model in light of current and possible future budget challenges. The new model would pose no NCA criteria issues if adopted and implemented.

If adopted by the Board of Trustees, implementation could occur in late summer with 10-15 departments. Discussion continued regarding release time for Chairs, the role of Chairs, and the selection process. The Board further discussed a Department Head approach as compared to the Chair model.

Board consensus was to move forward with implementing the Chair management model.

President Foster discussed the recent resignation of the Athletic Director, stating a search will be started soon with the possibility of hiring a replacement early in 2005.

President Foster explained a new effort to track more closely Mesa State's application and admission data on a weekly basis, including new admits, transfers, and re-admits. Admissions is submitting reports in a graphical format, comparing three years; these reports will be made available to the Board. There was discussion about the possible effects the College Opportunity Fund might have on enrollment, the admissions process, requirements, and opportunities for UTEC students.

President Foster presented Grand Junction Economic Partnership's request for a donation from Mesa State. Trustee Hamilton explained the role of GJEP and the relationship with UTEC in providing job training. Conversation favored making a donation to GJEP. Discussion ensued concerning whether the donation should be through the Foundation or discretionary money from the Mesa State budget. President Foster will clarify and bring this topic back to the Board.

Faculty Trustee: Faculty Trustee Slauson explained the faculty perspective on course fees as necessary for items such as software, supplies, materials, licenses and training. Faculty support course fees, but would support another plan which would insure acquisition of necessary supplies and equipment.

President Foster explained that he recently worked with Chairs and Deans to assess adequacy of fees and to simplify the structure.

Student Trustee: Student Trustee Dukes reported that summer is fairly quiet and that he will have a report for the Board at the next meeting.

Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs: Dr. Carol Futhey reported that Mesa State awarded approximately 700 degrees at a very successful Commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 9, and expressed appreciation to the four Trustees who participated.

Also, a letter was received from North Central Association's Higher Learning Commission continuing Mesa's accreditation for ten years. NCA noted three issues to be addressed that will result in a site visit in September of 2006; institutional leadership, which includes addressing transition to a new, independent board and numerous interim positions; assessment of student learning, specifically to develop activity and assessment related to general education as well as in the disciplines; and budget planning and the need for a systematic budget planning process. All issues are being addressed through the strategic planning process.

Dr. Futhey reported that nine grant proposals have been submitted during the past two months requesting over \$3M, an increase of about 30% over FY03 total grant activity.

Discussion and planning have begun for some type of interim/January session between fall and spring semesters. Faculty, Chairs, and Deans are conferring as to what courses might be of interest and feasible within the shorter session.

Two campus committees, Handbook Revision Committee and the Planning Committee, will be meeting and will report to the Board at the next meeting.

A search has been initiated for an Associate Vice President for Outreach and Dean of Students. This position combines the current responsibilities of the Interim Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management with extended study activities and delivery of services under the Regional Education Provider model.

Dr. Futhey and President Foster have been attending year-end activities at area high schools for the Century Programs, funded by the Foundation for Excellent Schools. Current Mesa State students who graduated from these participating high schools serve as mentors for the students from their respective high schools.

ACTION ITEMS

FY05 Budget Update: Whitney Sutton provided the Board a corrected “Tuition, Food Service, and Housing Rates” schedule. Ms. Sutton noted that the corrected full-time tuition figures are \$2,063.38 for Undergraduate Resident and \$8,349.44 for Undergraduate Nonresident.

Ms. Sutton also provided handouts and made a presentation on the proposed FY05 budget. Ms. Sutton detailed proposed increases in revenues and expenditures for Education and General as well as Auxiliaries. The overall proposed FY05 budget was provided in the Agenda Packet.

Tuition Structure: Ms. Sutton presented and reviewed the “Tuition, Food Service, and Housing Rates” schedule. Tuition figures represent a 1.1% tuition increase. This includes the change in full-time credit hours from 10 to 11 credits. Other increases are a 2.5% Food Service rate increase and a 5% increase for Housing. Discussion followed as to how the increases are determined.

Course Fees: Ms. Sutton referred to the Course Specific Fees schedule and explained changes made by the Deans and Chairs in response to the recommendation from Student Government to make course fees more consistent within departments. Overall, there are minimal course fee additions for FY05.

Trustee Hamilton moved to approve the FY05 Budget, the Tuition, Food Service, and Housing Rate Schedule, and the Course Specific Fee Schedule as presented with the understanding that work will continue on these items. Trustee North seconded the motion. Student Trustee Dukes initiated discussion on the housing cost increase, resulting benefits to students, and ways to communicate this to students. In addition to meetings with the Housing staff, a suggestion was made to post a breakdown of housing costs in the Student Center. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

12:15 p.m. Chair Elliott announced a break for lunch with Rick O’Donnell present as guest.

1:20 p.m. Chair Elliott reconvened the session.

Financial Reports: President Foster noted that the financials in the Agenda packet are current including March and April, and that May reports will be prepared for the June meeting.

Foundation Discussion: Trustee Nesland reported that Trustees Kaesemeyer, Nesland, and North, and President Foster met prior to the April Board meeting in preparation for a meeting with the incoming Foundation Chair Dan Roberts to discuss informational items concerning the Foundation and its partnership with Mesa State. Discussion continued including previous agreements between Mesa State College and the Foundation, current working relationships, structure, successes, and opportunities. Consensus was to invite the Foundation to do a presentation at the upcoming Board Retreat including general information on Foundation activities and operation.

Retreat Information and Goals: President Foster suggested a format to include the Foundation presentation, a luncheon speaker, and an evening speaker. Content discussion included having focused sessions on topics such as student retention; topics raised by community focus groups; strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and related goals; Mesa's Regional Provider role and related data; demographics of students and future projections; UTEC history and current programs; working with other institutions to address challenges with a unified approach; and the college's future financial health, priorities, and related possible strategies such as ratio analyses. A tentative agenda will be developed and presented to the Board.

Capital Construction: President Foster reported that the Foundation has expressed interest in a capital campaign. Discussion included the feasibility of a campaign at this time, existing needs on campus, and clarifying goals and priorities. The \$250,000 match for the City of Grand Junction funds was also discussed, including current costs related to campus expansion.

Personnel Items: President Foster referred to personnel items for information only including retirements, resignations, and temporary appointments. Vacancies within the Business Department and the AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) designation were discussed. The search for Vice President of Finance is underway with a wide variety of applicants.

Chair Elliott summarized initial plans for the June meeting and the Board Retreat which will be June 21 and 22 at the Marriott West in Golden. A short meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. immediately followed by the Retreat. It was noted that there would be no Board meeting in July.

There was no further business.

At 2:45 p.m. Trustee Wexels moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Hamilton and passed unanimously.