

MINUTES
BOARD OF REGENTS
MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
February 11, 2021

The Board of Regents, Midwestern State University, met virtually on Thursday, February 11, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. The meeting was live-streamed, and there was, therefore, no meeting location.

Individuals participating in the virtual meeting were:

Regents: Mr. Caven Crosnoe, Chair
Ms. Nancy Marks, Vice Chair
Ms. Tiffany Burks, Secretary
Mr. Warren Ayres
Mr. Tony Fidelie
Mr. Shawn Hessing
Mr. Oku Okeke
Ms. Karen Liu Pang
Dr. Shelley Sweatt
Mr. Montes Martinez, Student Regent

University Administration: President Suzanne Shipley
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs James Johnston
Vice President for Student Affairs Keith Lamb
Vice President for Administration and Finance Beth Reissenweber
Vice President for Enrollment Management Fred Dietz
Vice President for University Advancement and Public Affairs
Tony Vidmar
Associate Vice President for Facilities Services Kyle Owen
Director of Athletics Kyle Williams
General Counsel Barry Macha
Chief Audit Executive Leigh Kidwell
Controller Chris Stovall
Chief Information Security Officer Jim Hall
Director of Marketing and Public Information Julie Gaynor
Director of Board and Government Relations Debbie Barrow

Governance Representatives: Dr. David Carlston, Faculty Senate Chair
Ms. Reagan Foster, Staff Senate Chair
Ms. Shelbi Stogdill, Student Government Association President

Per a duly posted notice and a quorum present, Chair Crosnoe called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Opening Comments and Introductions

Chair Crosnoe welcomed and thanked everyone for being adaptable and joining the meeting virtually. Ms. Barrow introduced the individuals participating in the meeting.

Public Comment

Chair Crosnoe noted that the Board provides an opportunity for public comment concerning agenda items at the beginning of each meeting. He stated that in addition to the standard option for in-person public comment, a dedicated e-mail address was available for individuals to provide comments. Ms. Barrow reported that no one had signed up to speak or submitted comments via e-mail.

Reading and Approval of Minutes

21-29. The Board of Regents approved the minutes of the November 11, 2020 Board meeting as presented.

COVID-19 and Campus Operations Update

21-30. Provost Johnston and Vice President Lamb, co-chairs of the Return-To-Campus Task Force, provided information to bring the Board up-to-date on the reboarding of students for the spring semester. Dr. Lamb reported on the screening of students upon their return to campus following the winter break, and indicated students seemed to have more energy and less anxiety. Dr. Johnston discussed technology and infrastructure updates made to improve course delivery. They reported on the Incident Management Team's work, the creation of a 24/7 hotline for COVID-related questions and concerns, and student compliance with COVID protocols. The Board received information on the increasing number of student life activities and athletic events on campus. The Board expressed appreciation to the Incident Management Team, the Task Force members, the administration, faculty, staff, and students for their efforts this spring.

Faculty Report

21-31. Dr. Dave Carlston, Faculty Senate Chair, reported on the work of the Faculty Senate. He noted that the Senate had continued to meet and recently reviewed their initiatives and areas of focus. Dr. Carlston expressed appreciation to Dr. Johnston for regularly meeting with the Faculty Senate, and the Incident Management Team for being responsive to faculty concerns and needs. He reported on several items, including the faculty's ongoing work on the faculty Tenure and Promotion policy review, course evaluation challenges with online instruction, and the upcoming policy review as MSU policies are reconciled with those of the Texas Tech University (TTU) System. He indicated the faculty's commitment to the culture of shared governance at MSU and the hope that it will remain strong as the university aligns with the TTU System.

Staff Report

21-32. Ms. Reagan Foster, Staff Senate Chair, reported on behalf of the staff. She stated that 413 staff members are employed at MSU with a combined 3,595 years of experience. Ms. Foster noted that the staff of MSU are essential to the university's success. She expressed appreciation to the Board of Regents and administration for maintaining the employment

of faculty and staff during the pandemic without layoffs and furloughs. She added that the Staff Senate appreciates the strength of shared governance at MSU Texas.

Student Government Report

21-33. The Student Government Association (SGA) President Shelbi Stogdill's report was presented in the Board Book, and she reviewed highlights. She thanked Dr. Carlston and the faculty for the smooth transition, especially with online finals. She also thanked the staff, and Ms. Reagan Foster, for their hard work keeping up with cleaning procedures and planning all of the great events scheduled for the spring semester. Finally, she thanked the administration for always answering questions and moving the course drop deadline later in the semester. Ms. Stogdill highlighted the upcoming initiatives and events listed in her report.

Athletics Report

21-34. Athletics Director Williams' report was presented in the Board Book as a point of information only. Mr. Williams indicated he was proud to share in his report the strong academic records of the student-athletes. He noted that information comparing MSU student-athlete GPA's to those of other Lone Star Conference schools would not be available until after the spring semester. He reported on upcoming football games and other athletic events, and noted that COVID testing was a key component of team protocols.

Enrollment Management Report

21-35. Vice President for Enrollment Management Fred Dietz reviewed his report in the Board Book, including the spring 2021 enrollment report. He noted that new first-time freshmen and dual credit enrollment improved this spring, and the first doctoral students were enrolled at MSU Texas. He discussed enrollment challenges facing MSU and Texas to include lower numbers of transfer and international students. The administration and regents discussed admissions staffing levels, recruiting in the Metroplex and throughout Texas, and how the process has changed during the pandemic.

Academic Affairs Report

21-36. Provost Johnston reviewed the information provided in the Board Book regarding the tenure and promotion policy revision updates, review of the faculty office hours policy, and the new doctoral programs. He also provided an update regarding the process of the university's reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and notification to SACSCOC regarding MSU's potential alliance with the TTU System.

May 2021 Graduating Class

21-37. The administration noted that with the change in the spring academic calendar, the May graduation would be May 1, one week before the scheduled Board of Regents meeting. So that the required Board approval of the candidates for graduation will be approved on time, Regent Marks moved that the Board authorize the Chair of the Board and the President to approve the list of candidates on the Board's behalf. Dr. Sweatt seconded the motion and it was approved.

Proposed Change/Addition to Core Curriculum

21-38. Provost Johnston reviewed the information shown in the Board Book regarding the addition of American Popular Music (MUSC 1043) to the core curriculum as a Component Area Option (CAO) under Cultural and Global Understanding. Regent Marks moved approval of this action as presented. Regent Okeke seconded the motion and it was approved.

Wichita Falls Museum of Art at Midwestern State University – Ratification of Artwork Accessions

21-39. The Board Book included information regarding artwork recommended for accession to the Museum's Permanent Collection. Regent Marks moved the Board ratify this action as presented. Regent Fidelie seconded the motion and it was approved.

Summaries of Financial Support and Comprehensive Campaign Update

21-40. Regent Ayres highlighted gifts received since the last meeting of the Board of Regents. Vice President Vidmar reviewed the summaries of financial support that were presented in the Board Book. Regents and administration discussed the importance of keeping donors informed of the progress of the campaign and the impact gifts have on students' lives.

Financial Reports

21-41. The [FY 2020 Annual Financial Report](#) and the September, October, November, and December 2020 Financial Reports were accepted upon a motion by Regent Ayres and a second by Regent Hessing. Vice President Reissenweber reviewed a Financial Update to include information on this year's budget activity, funding from the federal stimulus package, and budget planning for FY 22 as shown in the Board Book.

Regents and administration discussed how the new federal funds would be allocated to students and the number of students that would be served through these funds. Questions were raised about the funds spent on hardware and software in the last fiscal year as a result of the move to more online learning and working, and the anticipated ongoing costs. This information was not available and will be provided to the Board in May.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 12:45 p.m. for lunch. The meeting resumed at 1:15 p.m.

Investment Report

21-42. The Board accepted the first quarter FY 21 investment report upon a motion by Regent Ayres and second by Regent Fidelie.

Salary/Title/Position Changes in FY 21 Budget

21-43. The Board Book included reports of personnel changes that were presented for information only. The salary, title, and position changes were ratified upon Regent Ayres' motion and a second by Regent Sweatt.

Information Technology Presentation

21-44. Chief Information Security Officer Jim Hall presented a high-level overview of the information security activities completed at MSU for 2020, as shown in the Board Book. The presentation included information about the 2020 Texas State Security Plan, applications risk assessed, monthly simulated phishing of the campus, security incidents, security awareness training, the information security handbook, work on the continuity of operations plan and the IT disaster recovery plan, the new data center, and redundancy in the MSU network. The presentation ended with a brief review of planned information security activities for 2021.

Construction Update

21-45. The Board Book included several reports on current construction projects for the Regents' information. Associate Vice President Owen reviewed the photographs of current projects, as shown in the Board Book.

Detention Facility Agreement

21-46. Mr. Macha presented information on a Detention Facility Agreement required under the City of Wichita Falls regulations for stormwater detention basins on the real property owned by Midwestern State University and leased to the Wichita Falls Metropolitan YMCA as presented in the Board Book. The administration requested authorization for the President to work with the Chair of the Board of Regents to approve the agreement. Regent Ayres moved approval of this item as presented. Regent Pang seconded the motion and it was approved.

Tuition and Fee Rates for 2021-2022 – Discussion

21-47. President Shipley stated that MSU is one of the few universities in the state with a tuition guarantee for four years for every entering student. She reviewed the information in the Board Book indicating that the proposal for consideration represents an increase of 1.9% for new entering students in fall 2021 and aligns with the FY 20 Higher Education Price Index increase of 1.9%. She noted that this item was presented as a point of discussion only, and the recommendation regarding tuition and fees would be presented to the Board for approval in May.

Vice President Reissenweber reported that she and Vice President Lamb reviewed the proposal with the Student Senate during their recent meeting and received favorable responses overall. She noted that for new students beginning in the fall, there would be a 1.9% increase, which would be less than \$100 per semester. The overall cost adjustment is made up of increases to designated tuition (which is held flat for four years) and the athletic fee as shown in the Board Book. The Board Book also presented a comparison of athletic fees across the Lone Star Conference (LSC). Dr. Reissenweber added that the increase in the athletic fee would affect all students. A new tuition of \$50 for doctoral students as allowed by statute would also be recommended.

Discussion centered on the athletic fee, what it was used for, and the disparity between MSU's fee and those charged at other LSC institutions. It was noted that the fee was increased during the current year. Regents encouraged the administration to pursue a

student referendum if needed to bring the MSU fee more in line with our LSC peers. The administration will continue looking at how best to support athletics, including enhanced donor support, while remaining focused on overall affordability for students.

Compliance Update

21-48. The Compliance Update was included in the Board Book as a point of information.

Internal Audit Update

21-49. The Internal Audit Update was included in the Board Book as a point of information.

Independent Validation Report/Office of Internal Audits Quality Assurance and Improvement Program

21-50. Ms. Kidwell presented the Texas Tech University System auditors' review report of the MSU Office of Internal Audits' conformance with auditing standards for the Board's acceptance. Regent Burks moved acceptance of the report as presented. Regent Marks seconded the motion and it was approved. Regents commended Ms. Kidwell for her efforts and work at MSU as Chief Audit Executive.

Quality Assurance Review Self-Assessment Report

21-51. Ms. Kidwell presented the Office of Internal Audits' self-assessment report of the internal audit program's conformance with auditing standards. Regent Burks moved acceptance of this report as presented. Regent Marks seconded the motion and it was approved.

Youth Protection Program Guidebook

21-52. Pursuant to Audit Report 19-01, the administration recommended approval of a Youth Protection Program Guidebook as presented in the Board Book. Vice President Lamb noted that this document supports Policy 4.129, Protection of Minor Children on Campus, and reviewed the information provided in the Board Book. He stated that the Guidebook was modeled after similar documents at The University of Texas at Austin and Rutgers University.

Regents raised questions about whether two adults should always be present rather than just one when dealing with a minor and whether workers needed to be the same gender as the youth. Following discussion, Regent Burks moved that the Board approve the document as presented with the understanding that the administration would consider the questions and suggestions made by the Board and report back to the Board in May on any changes needed to the Guidebook. Regent Hessing seconded the motion and it was approved.

Interlocal Cooperation Agreements

21-53. Mr. Macha reviewed the four interlocal cooperation agreements between the university and local governmental units to establish formal working mutual-aid relationships in support of police, fire, and emergency services as shown in the Board Book. The administration recommended approval of these agreements. Regent Burks moved approval of these four agreements as presented. Regent Fidelie seconded the motion and it was approved.

MSU Policies and Procedures Manual – Proposed Changes

21-54. Regent Burks noted that updated policies, UPP 4.146 (Honorific and Gift-Related Namings) and UPP 4.197 (Information Resources Use and Security Policy), were outlined and described in the Board Book and were presented for approval. There being no questions, Regent Burks moved approval of these policy changes as presented. Regent Ayres seconded the motion and it was approved.

University Leadership Report

21-55. President Shipley presented information regarding the legislative session, the university's alliance with the TTU System, and the work of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force. She reported that the legislative session began January 11, and HB 1522 by Rep. James Frank and SB 447 by Senator Drew Springer to move MSU into the TTU System were filed. Much more information will be available in May regarding the progress of the state budget and these pieces of legislation at that time. Additionally, a strategic plan recommended by the DEI Task Force will be presented to the Board in May.

Chair Crosnoe, on behalf of the Board, commended President Shipley, the administration, faculty, staff, and students for how they handled everything during the pandemic. He noted for the record that everyone did a magnificent job.

Presidential Performance and Compensation Review

21-56. Chair Crosnoe stated that the President's Performance and Compensation Review would be accomplished in May. He asked Dr. Shipley to forward to the Board her self-evaluation at least three weeks before the May Board meeting. He noted that the Board would also evaluate Ms. Kidwell's performance in May. Chair Crosnoe added that since the Board had her audit plan, annual report, and quality assurance reports, there was no need for the Board to receive additional information at this time.

Executive Session

21-57. Chair Crosnoe announced that the Board of Regents would go into Executive Session to discuss Item 21-57A (Consultation with Attorney), Item 57B (Real Property), and Item 21-57D (Personnel Matters) as allowed by Texas Government Code Sections 551.071, .072, and .074. He noted that no action would be taken in Executive Session, and the Board would reconvene in Open Session when the Executive Session concluded.

The Executive Session began at 2:18 p.m. Individuals remaining for the complete session were Regents Crosnoe, Burks, Hessing, Marks, Sweatt, Ayres, Fidelie, Okeke, Pang, and Martinez, President Shipley, Mr. Macha, and Ms. Barrow. Vice President Reissenweber, Vice President Vidmar, and Associate Vice President Owen participated in the Executive Session until 2:37 p.m. The Executive Session concluded at 3:04 p.m.

Open Meeting

The open meeting resumed at 3:05 p.m. Mr. Crosnoe reported that the closed session was complete; the only items discussed were the items announced, and no votes were taken.

Closing Comments

Chair Crosnoe thanked the Regents for their participation in the meeting. He noted that the next regular meeting of the Board would be Thursday, May 6, 2021.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

I, Tiffany Burks, the fully appointed and qualified Secretary of the Midwestern State University Board of Regents, hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Midwestern State University Board of Regents meeting on February 11, 2021.



Tiffany Burks, Secretary
Midwestern State University
Board of Regents