

**MINUTES
MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF REGENTS
July 21, 2014**

The Board of Regents, Midwestern State University, met in special session in the J. S. Bridwell Board Room, Hardin Administration Building, Wichita Falls, Texas, at 2:00 p.m., Monday, July 21, 2014. Board members in attendance at the university were Mr. Shawn Hessing, Chairman; Mr. Mike Bernhardt, Vice Chairman; Mr. Kenny Bryant, Secretary; Mr. Caven Crosnoe; Mr. Jeff Gregg; Ms. Nancy Marks; and Mr. Jesse Brown, new Student Regent. Regents attending the meeting via teleconference connection were Dr. Lynwood Givens and Mr. Sam Sanchez.

Administrative staff members present included Dr. Betty Stewart, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr. Marilyn Fowlé, Vice President for Business Affairs and Finance; Dr. Keith Lamb, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management; Dr. Howard Farrell, Vice President for University Advancement and Public Affairs; and Dr. Bob Clark, Vice President for Administration and Institutional Effectiveness. Other university personnel attending the meeting included Dr. Deborah Garrison, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate School; Mr. Matt Park, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs; Mr. Barry Macha, General Counsel; Dr. David Carlston, Chairman of the MSU Faculty Senate; Mr. Dirk Welch, Chairman of the MSU Staff Senate; Ms. Dawn Fisher, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Valarie Maxwell, Director of Budget and Management; Ms. Cindy Ashlock, Executive Assistant to the President; and Ms. Debbie Barrow, Director of Board and Government Relations. Representing the news media were Ms. Ann Work, *Times Record News*; Mr. Jimmie Johnson, KAUZ-TV; and Ms. Jessica Bruno and Mr. Ivan Gibson from KFDX-TV.

Chairman Hessing called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Ms. Gaynor introduced individuals in attendance and Mr. Hessing welcomed Mr. Brown to service on the Board of Regents. He reminded everyone that the meeting was being streamed live on the internet and asked everyone to silence their cell phones. He reported that Dr. Rogers was recovering well from surgery, but would not participate in the meeting.

Public Comment

Mr. Hessing stated that in accordance with the Board of Regents By-Laws, MSU Policy 2.22, members of the public are invited to address the Midwestern State University Board of Regents through written and oral testimony. He noted that no one had signed up to speak.

Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR)

14-127. Mr. Hessing reported that board members had an opportunity to review the draft administrator's statement as well as the summary of possible exceptional items (see Attachment 1). He asked Ms. Barrow and Dr. Fowlé to discuss these items. Ms. Barrow stated that the deadline for submitting the legislative request is August 4 which required approval of these items at this special board meeting. She noted that the Academic Expansion and Revitalization Project and the College Access and Success Program for Economically Disadvantaged Students were discussed during the May board meeting. She added that the Hazlewood Waiver Reimbursement Program had also been previously discussed with the board. She reported that the Hazlewood Act waives tuition and fees for veterans, and includes a legacy program to benefit veterans' dependents. She noted that MSU's cost for the Hazlewood Program had increased from

\$270,000 in 2008 to more than \$1.2 million in 2014. She stated that Dr. Fowlé recently attended a meeting of state university business officers. During that meeting the officers discussed the possibility of including the need for funding to offset the loss from Hazlewood as part of the legislative request. Ms. Barrow reported that Dr. Rogers' administrator's statement is the introduction to the legislative request. Dr. Fowlé reported that the LAR would be sent to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB). This LAR information from all of the state agencies will be used in the development of the base budget that will be presented to the legislature in January. She noted that the request includes various tables and schedules and the document is reviewed very closely by legislative staff. Ms. Barrow stated that MSU's first hearing before the LBB and the Governor's Office of Budget and Planning will be in September.

Mr. Bryant moved approval of this item as presented. Mr. Bernhardt seconded the motion and it was approved.

Executive Session

Mr. Hessing announced that the Board of Regents would go into closed session as allowed by the Texas Government Code Chapter 551, Section 551.074, to consider Item 14-128 (Presidential Search). The closed session was properly announced at 2:11 p.m. Mr. Hessing, Mr. Bernhardt, Mr. Bryant, Mr. Crosnoe, Dr. Givens, Mr. Gregg, Mrs. Marks, Mr. Sanchez, Mr. Brown, Mr. Macha, and Ms. Barrow remained for the discussion.

Open Meeting Resumes

The closed session ended at 3:00 p.m. with an announcement by Mr. Hessing that no action was taken during the Executive Session.

Presidential Search

14-128. Mrs. Marks moved approval of Academic Search as the search firm to assist the university with the presidential search. Mr. Crosnoe seconded the motion and it was approved. Mr. Hessing reported that a Presidential Search Advisory Committee would be appointed soon.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

I, J. Kenneth Bryant, 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 July 21, 2014.



J. Kenneth Bryant, Secretary

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Legislative Appropriations Request Administrator's Statement and Exceptional Items

**Midwestern State University
Administrator's Statement
Legislative Appropriations Request**

Most state-funded universities are facing new and unprecedented educational and fiscal challenges. Universities must deal with the cost of higher education without jeopardizing the quality of a college degree. Universities have embraced new educational strategies using communication technologies, while continuing to provide the most current and sophisticated equipment, laboratories, and classrooms. Midwestern State University (MSU) faces its own particular challenges if it is to maintain the ability to deliver a high-quality baccalaureate and master's education to its students at a reasonable cost. The MSU administration and faculty understand the changing environment of higher education and, consequently, our institution is completing a new five-year strategic plan and a ten-year facilities plan consistent with the internal and external challenges faced by the university. One of the strengths of the university is that its faculty, Board of Regents, and administration have supported its stated mission consistently for many years. MSU is the only public liberal arts university in Texas. It was accepted as a member of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) in 2006. Georgia College and State University, Keene State College, Sonoma State University, Truman State University, MSU, and others distinguish themselves through a commitment to provide a superior liberal arts and sciences core education to undergraduate students. We further distinguish ourselves through innovations in teaching and student research with full-time, tenured and tenure-track faculty. Affordable tuition rates and cultural and intellectual diversity are also integral to the educational program.

MSU reached an enrollment of 6,426 in the fall, 2010. The slow but steady growth that brought the university this enrollment was gratifying since MSU sits in the center of a large geographic section of North Central Texas that has been slowly declining in college-going population since 1950. A number of factors resulted in an enrollment decline in 2011 and 2012, including record graduating classes and a change in admissions standards. However, aggressive student recruiting and scholarship efforts aimed at STEM and health science students resulted in the 2013-2014 entering class being the largest since 1992. Thirty-seven percent of the 2013-2014 freshman class came from the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Owing to many factors including academic program mix, membership in the COPLAC, a successful Division II athletics program, and the size of the university, MSU has no competing public university in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex of similar size, scope/mission, and/or extracurricular offerings. Additionally, MSU's mechanical engineering program and programs in nursing (BSN, MSN), radiologic sciences (BSRN and MSRN), and respiratory care (BSRC) have shown significant growth during the past ten years. Private gifts from foundations and individuals in the amount of \$11.5 million have allowed the building of the McCoy Engineering Hall, the mechanical engineering program, and the establishment of the Robert D. and Carol Gunn College of Health and Human Services. MSU wishes to admit more students into these high demand fields, but this is not possible due to a lack of physical space and teaching equipment.

Beginning in FY 2015 MSU's tuition for new students is guaranteed for four years. While legislation passed by the 83rd Legislature required that such a plan be offered, MSU determined it best to develop a mandatory plan for our students. Similar two-year and three-year guarantee

plans will also be offered to current juniors, seniors, and graduate students. It is hoped that this new tuition plan will attract students to our institution and encourage timely graduation.

Academic Expansion and Revitalization Project – Capital Funding

Midwestern State University (MSU) requests capital funding in the amount of \$73 million to provide expanded and revitalized academic space. This request was developed following an in-depth master plan study that analyzed existing campus space and academic requirements. This capital request includes a new building for the Gunn College of Health Science and Human Services, including an annex for athletic training and exercise physiology. Enrollment in the Gunn College of Health Sciences and Human Services represents 39% of the university's total student population while existing facilities provide less than one-half of the needed space when compared to similar colleges at Texas peer institutions. A new 98,500 gross square foot (GSF) building would accommodate programs in respiratory care, radiologic sciences, social work, nursing, and dental hygiene, as well as the Dental Hygiene Clinic, the Simulation Center, and multiple classrooms and health sciences laboratories at an estimated cost of \$49 million. A \$12 million, 25,750 GSF Health Sciences and Human Services Annex Building would accommodate the athletic training and exercise physiology programs with a Didactic Lab, Biochemistry Lab, Bio-Mechanics Lab, Cycling Performance Lab, strength and conditioning space, and two classrooms.

The project additionally would address rehabilitation needs across the campus totaling \$12 million. This includes the relocation of the university's Information Technology operation from a 1945 army barracks building to a more secure location, at a cost of \$3 million. Facilities included in this project would be MSU's Moffett Library, built in 1965 and expanded in 1986; Hardin Administration Building, built in 1937; and Fain Fine Arts Theatre, built in 1978. The project would also concentrate on the Bolin Science Hall, built in 1966 and refurbished in 1997. Bolin Science Hall houses the College of Science and Mathematics and has a rich history of producing graduates who become medical doctors, dentists, Ph.D. qualified chemists, biologists, and physicists. The college is a leader in the fields of ecology, environmental science, petroleum geology, and pre-medical study. Bolin Science Hall must be reconstructed in order to modernize all biology and chemistry labs to improve air quality, safety, and accommodate modern teaching equipment. The project would also address electrical infrastructure upgrades, HVAC upgrades, improved egress, the addition of fire sprinklers in two auditoria, and improved accessibility to include elevators, ramps, and restrooms throughout the buildings mentioned.

Hazlewood Waiver Reimbursement

Midwestern State University appreciates the Legislature's approving a \$30 million supplemental appropriation during the 83rd legislative session to reimburse higher education institutions for costs associated with the Hazlewood Program. This resulted in a much-needed allocation of \$269,753 to MSU. We are proud of the veterans and their family members who choose to attend MSU. Wichita Falls is home to Sheppard Air Force Base and many former servicemen and women remain in our area when they leave the military. While the program greatly benefits our veterans and their dependents, the growth in program participation has placed a financial burden on our institution. In FY 2008, MSU enrolled 116 Hazlewood recipients and the cost of the waived tuition and fees was \$271,000. In FY 2014, the program provided waivers to 245 Hazlewood participants at a cost of \$1.24 million. This represents an annualized growth rate in the number of participants and cost to the institution of 11% and 24% for each of the six years respectively. The university estimates the size of the program will continue to grow at this rate

or greater owing to the military draw down. More than one-third of the students attending Midwestern State are classified as low-income (eligible for Pell grants). The university and the Board of Regents have restrained the amount of tuition and fee increases during this time period in order to maintain the university's affordability. However, the continued absorption of these waivers without additional state funding is unsustainable with the current tuition and fee levels. The university respectfully requests the state consider fully funding the Hazlewood Waiver program for Midwestern State University at an estimated cost of \$1.82 million in FY16 and \$2.07 million in FY17.

College Access and Success Program for Economically Disadvantaged Students

With the well-documented need for the state of Texas to educate underrepresented groups, primarily Hispanic, and as evidenced by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Closing the Gaps by 2015 initiative, MSU requests assistance in funding additional recruitment and support of Hispanic students in higher education. This request represents a partnership between MSU, Vernon College (VC), and the Wichita Falls Independent School District (WFISD). Specifically, this request seeks \$250,000 for the biennium to engage Café Con Leche, working with the Zavala Hispanic Cultural Initiative, in four areas: (1) community events outlining the paths to college (Community Cafes); (2) financial aid workshops; (3) early intervention programs targeting middle school students and their families (Road to College); and (4) a mentoring program for college students. With this request, MSU and its partners will be in a better position to affect Hispanic access and completion at college.

Effects of Budget Reductions

The university has previously reduced or deferred administrative, faculty, and staff positions, as well as reduced funding for maintenance, operations, travel, and deferred maintenance projects. An additional ten percent reduction in appropriations would require Midwestern State University to use planned faculty and staff reductions as well as examine the need to reduce or possibly eliminate academic programs. It is not possible, nor is it desirable, that the students of MSU bear the burden of balancing the university's budget through higher tuition. In summary, additional appropriations reductions will significantly affect the quality of education provided to MSU students.

Conclusion

As President of Midwestern State University for the past 13 years, and as one who has taught at this university for over 35 years, I am very proud of this institution. Midwestern State University has expanded its outreach to employ capable senior administrators and qualified faculty to ensure its future. As part of the hiring process the university's faculty, administration, and Board of Regents have shown the best judgment in not only seeking the best prepared faculty, staff, and administrators, but determining their qualifications beyond academic credentials. The university requires that all new faculty, staff, and administrators undergo criminal background checks prior to being hired. They are also vetted thoroughly through professional background checks.

I extend my thanks to the Board of Regents, the faculty, the staff, and the benefactors who have been involved in the development of MSU. Additionally, I thank the State of Texas for the underlying support that provides a high quality education for the students of Texas through Midwestern State University.

**Midwestern State University
Legislative Appropriations Request
Exceptional Item Funding Requests
Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017**

I. Academic Expansion and Revitalization Project – Capital Funding

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Context

According to the Texas State Demographer, the Hispanic population in Wichita County is expected to increase 26.65% by 2030, compared to overall population growth of 6.89% over the same time period (Texas State Data Center (<http://txsdc.utsa.edu/Data/TPEPP/Projections/Index.aspx>)). Equally striking is the growth differential in Wichita County Hispanic and overall population, ages 18 to 24, at 17.76% and 2.38%, respectively. When applying the 2000 to 2010 migration rate to the Wichita Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area, the Hispanic population is expected to increase by 52.94% by 2030, compared to overall population growth of 3.53% over the same time period. Similarly, the growth differential in Hispanic and overall Wichita Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area population, ages 18 to 24, is 42.24% and 0.93%, respectively.

As is with Texas as a whole, growth of the Hispanic population will continue to surpass overall population growth in Wichita County and the Wichita Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area. Given this reality, the income gap between White and Hispanic residents in Wichita Falls is particularly concerning, with 12.2% of White Non-Hispanics realizing income below the poverty level, compared to 26.3% of Hispanic or Latino residents. Educational attainment and subsequent earnings of Hispanic residents will be increasingly important to Wichita County.

Program

The program is a college readiness initiative designed to educate parents and students regarding the essential steps necessary for realizing a post-secondary education. The program focuses on creating a

college-going culture in the home, working directly with families to promote school achievement, and college preparation activities. In the proposed project, a multifaceted, longitudinal approach will be implemented to continue to support and educate the community about the importance of post-secondary education, as well as equip students and their families with the tools to navigate the often unfamiliar journey to success in higher education.

Café Con Leche's approach is to engage economically disadvantaged students by understanding norms and cultural issues, and building rapport and trust. Understanding that traditional college access programs are not designed to address issues such as language barriers, cultural biases, and personal experiences, Café Con Leche strives to bridge the educational gap through education and understanding of the socio-economic factors affecting economically disadvantaged families. Café Con Leche staff and Zavala Hispanic Cultural Initiative volunteers have the linguistic and cultural knowledge needed to relate with students and their families, which fosters relationships, trust, and confidence.

More specifically, the program will implement multiple phases to support Hispanic students in elementary, middle, and high school, as well as students currently enrolled in post-secondary education. The project will consist of:

- Community informational sessions (Community Cafes): Café Con Leche will offer four informational sessions at different community gathering places, such as churches, community centers, and schools.
- Financial aid workshops: Workshops will be held at different venues in Wichita Falls in order to provide access and convenience to families and students. Families will receive assistance with tax preparation, completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, and completion of the Texas Application for State Financial Aid.
- Road to College curriculum: Café Con Leche works with economically disadvantaged families at three different elementary or middle schools. The Road to College program occurs during the evening once per week for six weeks. Café Con Leche's curriculum will provide parents with strategies to create a college going culture at home, school, and community. At each session, parents and students will work together learning about key academic indicators to achieve educational success from elementary school to college. Targeted tutoring for students begins at this level.
- Mentoring: A mentoring program for economically disadvantaged students will be coordinated and overseen by Café Con Leche. Oversight includes selection, training, and evaluation of mentors.

The partner institutions of MSU, VC, and WFISD believe a community-based approach, such as provided by Café Con Leche and the Zavala Hispanic Cultural Initiative, will positively impact college access and completion of Hispanic students in Wichita County.