

*University of Central Missouri
Board of Governors Retreat
Meeting Summary
September 19, 2007*

The University of Central Missouri's Board of Governors held a retreat on Wednesday, September 19, 2007, beginning at 10:30 a.m. at Selmo Park on the campus of the University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, Missouri 64093. In attendance were Board President Deleta Williams and Governors Jennifer Nixon, Richard Phillips, Lawrence Fick, Edward Baker, Walter Hicklin, Michelle Wimes, and Anthony Arton. Also in attendance were President Aaron Podolefsky, General Counsel Judith Siminoe, and Monica Huffman, Assistant Secretary to the Board.

Opening - Session I

As in past years, the Board President asked Ms. Siminoe to serve as the facilitator for the retreat. In opening, Ms. Siminoe reviewed some rules of engagement for and reviewed the agenda distributed to Board members with their monthly meeting materials (Attachment 1).

Old Business – Session II

A. Collective Bargaining

Discussion of this matter results from a recent Missouri Supreme Court decision involving the Independence, Missouri School District, which determined that while the public labor law excludes teachers from collective bargaining, the Missouri Constitution recognizes their right to do so. Ms. Siminoe said that over the past few years, there has been a group of faculty on campus that have formed a faculty association affiliated with the Missouri National Education Association, but that it has not be formally recognized by the entire faculty.

Ms. Siminoe stated that if a faculty union were formed, it would be her recommendation that the Board of Governors appoint someone from the administration to represent it at meetings. The Board concurred. It was also suggested that a meeting may be held with the association even though they are not recognized by the faculty.

B. Student Governor Voting

This item was previously discussed at the Board of Governor's February 21, 2007, meeting, where a motion was made to oppose any legislation or initiative that would require one voting member of the Governing Board of UCM to be a full-time student. The motion passed with a vote of four in favor and three against. At the time, it was suggested that further discussion be held regarding this matter at the Board of Governor's next retreat.

Discussion during the retreat centered on the advantages and disadvantages of student governor voting privileges. While some board members favored this and felt it was important to the students, others felt that there are a number of things to be considered related to student governor voting privileges. Some of the concerns raised included that legislators' require different life experiences of more mature governors than student governors and have different expectations related to their service on the Board; student governors serve shorter terms on the Board (2 years vs. 6 years) and therefore, may not have the knowledge or understanding of an issue to vote fairly; student governors could be placed in conflict of interest or difficult situations and experience political pressure to vote one way or another on issues. Those favoring a student governor vote felt that students would feel they have a stronger voice in matters. Also, student governors experience the same appointment process as more mature members of the Board and should be entitled to the same rights and privileges. All were in agreement that the feedback and input provided by the student governor on certain matters is very important.

C. Student Recreation Fee

There was discussion about the recently implemented student recreation fee and the need to increase it to twice the amount if a student recreation center is to be constructed. This realization comes after meeting with the architectural firm who determined that the current fee would not be sufficient to construct a facility and that the cost would be twice the cost of what staff originally estimated it to be. The Board was agreeable to Governor Arton's suggestion that the Student Government Association (SGA) hold a public forum for students to express their views concerning an increase. Following the forum, the SGA will vote on an increase and make a recommendation to President Podolefsky, who will in turn bring a recommendation forward to the Board for action.

President – Session III

President Podolefsky distributed and reviewed his goals for the 2007-2008 academic year (Attachment 2). He spent additional time covering Goal 2 related to Strategic Planning and Goal 4 of Building a Strong Sense of Identity, Place and Pride Campus Wide.

President Podolefsky noted that the deadline for completing a draft of the strategic plan is December, following which time it will be presented to the Board for approval. He also talked about efforts to create a university-wide crest that could lend itself to creating a stronger sense of identity, place and pride at UCM and shared several university crest designs developed by University Relations. These will be presented to the campus and a recommendation will be brought forward to the Board at its October meeting.

Board of Governors – Session IV

The Board discussed how its goals tie into the President's goals and to the strategic plan. There was further discussion regarding the Board's role in the development of the strategic plan. President Podolefsky suggested appointing a Board member to the Strategic Planning reconciliation committee. Richard Phillips was asked to serve and agreed to do so. The Board indicated it would like an executive summary of the plan once it is completed. Ms. Nixon asked how the strategic plan will link to the campus master plan that will soon be developed. President Podolefsky explained that Aramark conducted a facilities assessment, which will be considered as the strategic plan is developed. This led to discussion about the university's deferred maintenance budget and a suggestion that the Board be given a tour of some of the campus facilities at the October meeting.

The Board also discussed its role determining the legislative agenda, which resulted in a request for a list of state representatives that are UCM graduates, and a list of UCM graduates who are state-wide supporters who may have ties to a state representative. It was suggested that a pamphlet be prepared that includes this information for easy reference. The Board also asked that the UCM legislative team develop a list of issues that could potentially arise during the next legislative session. Once received, the Board would like to work on developing a legislative agenda that would include its position on these issues.

Board Operations – Session V

The Board determined that it would like to hold a quarterly retreat to discuss the strategic direction and plan of the university. The Board discussed the frequency of its meetings and determined Board meetings/retreats should be held in the following months:

January

February

March – meeting with strategic retreat following

April

June – meeting with strategic retreat following

July – annual retreat only (no meeting)

September

October

November – meeting with strategic retreat following

The Board discussed the possibility of canceling the December 14, 2007, meeting and instead holding a meeting in November or early December with a short retreat following to discuss the strategic plan and development of a legislative agenda. Monica Huffman will check the availability of the President and the Board to determine if this is feasible.

The Board discussed its current committee structure and concluded that it should remain the same. Priority or ad hoc groups will be formed to address items that are cross-functional or special in nature.

The Board discussed the possibility of state-wide Board representation and concluded that they were not interested at this time.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the retreat ended at 4:00 p.m.

*Attachment Listing
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Attachment 1

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Attachment 2

Retreat Agenda

2008 Presidential Goals