

**MINUTES
MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF REGENTS**

**Executive Committee
November 3, 2005**

The Board of Regents, Midwestern State University, met in regular session in the Board Room, Hardin Administration Building, Wichita Falls, Texas, at 1:39 p.m., Thursday, November 3, 2005. Executive Committee members in attendance were Mr. Mac Cannedy, Jr., Chairperson; Mr. John Bridgman; Vice Chairperson; Ms. Patricia Haywood, Secretary; and Mr. Munir Lalani, Member-At-Large. Other regents attending the meeting were Ms. Pamela Gough, Mr. Stephen Gustafson, Mr. Don Ross Malone, Mr. David Stephens, and Mr. Ben Wible.

Administrative staff members present included Dr. Jesse W. Rogers, President; Dr. Friederike Wiedemann, Provost; Mr. Juan Sandoval, Vice President for Administration and Finance; Dr. Howard Farrell, Vice President for University Advancement and Student Affairs; Dr. Bob Clark, Associate Provost; and Mr. Keith Lamb, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs. Other university personnel attending the meeting included Ms. Gail Ferguson, Controller; Mr. David Spencer, Internal Auditor; Dr. David Tucker, Chairperson of the MSU Faculty Senate; Mr. Buck Shaw, Director of Physical Plant; Ms. Dianne Weakley, Director of Personnel; Ms. Kristal Amador, Director of the Annual Fund; Ms. Cindy Ashlock, Assistant to the President; and Ms. Debbie Barrow, Executive Assistant to the President. Mr. Will Morefield, Student Government Association President, and Mr. Jason York, Student Government Association Observer, also attended the meeting. Representing the news media were Ms. Ann Work, reporter for the Wichita Falls *Times Record News*; Mr. Charles Boardman, reporter from Campus Watch; Mr. Eli Ross, reporter for KAUZ-TV; as well as photographers for KAUZ-TV3 and KFDX Channel 6.

Chairperson Cannedy called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

Reading and Approval of Minutes

06-02. Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting August 4, 2005 were approved as presented.

Five Year Campus Plan Update

06-03. Mr. Cannedy reported that each year the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) requests an update of the university's plans for deferred maintenance and demolition needs (MP2 and MP4). He noted that the administration developed and submitted the plans as shown in the agenda document. He added that the plans were included for the Regents' information and that any modifications or changes desired by the Regents would be forwarded to THECB.

Dr. Rogers stated that the university is asked to plan projects carefully and to report on the prioritization of deferred maintenance. He noted that the MP2 reported on deferred maintenance to be accomplished in the future. The MP4 listed the deferred maintenance projects that were taken care of in the 2005 fiscal year. Dr. Rogers noted that MSU's list of deferred maintenance projects totaled \$2.9 million. He added that THECB utilizes this list when considering project and funding requests. He noted that this amount of deferred maintenance is acceptable for an institution the size of MSU.

Mr. Cannedy indicated that he had asked why all of the projects were considered “non-critical.” Mr. Sandoval responded that a critical project would be required due to a health and safety issue or concern. None of the current projects fit into that category.

Mr. Stephens asked about the \$250,000 item for carpet replacement in the Moffett Library. Mr. Shaw responded that the carpet in the Library has deteriorated and should be replaced. Mr. Lalani asked about the size of the building. Mr. Shaw responded that it is approximately 121,000 square feet. He added that the state requires institutions to purchase carpet with a useful life expectancy of 25 years. This causes the carpet to be priced higher than regular commercial carpet. Mr. Sandoval added that due to the lack of available funds this year a number of projects that would have normally been done have been placed on the deferred list. He noted that the projects on the list are scheduled to be accomplished within the next five years. Dr. Rogers commented that the current carpet in the library has been used for over 20 years. He added that there is a great deal of labor involved in recarpeting the library because the books, furniture and equipment must be moved.

This item was presented as a point of information and no action was necessary.

Architectural Selection – Wellness Center, Museum, and University Entrances and Signs

06-04. Mr. Cannedy reported that the administration was requesting the Board authorize the Executive Committee of the Board of Regents to work with the administration on the selection of architectural firms to design the new Wellness Center, the Museum renovation, and the University Entrances and Signs projects. He added that it is expected that the Architectural Selection Committee will have recommendations regarding these projects prior to the December holiday break.

Dr. Rogers stated that the university had recently received a commitment of private funds for new campus entrances and new corner signage that would be made of MSU brick, stone, and brass letters. He added that the project would be a “design to build project” with the architect and the builder selected at the same time. An architect is also needed to work with the Museum Director on a building plan for the Museum. He added that these two projects would be paid from private funds. Additionally, the Architect Selection Committee is preparing to receive proposals for the Wellness Center architect selection. Dr. Rogers noted that the administration was requesting that the Executive Committee be authorized to work with the administration on the architect selection for these projects so that the decisions could be made before the February Board meeting.

Ms. Haywood moved approval of this recommendation as presented. Mr. Bridgman seconded the motion and it was approved.

University Mission Statement

06-05. Mr. Cannedy noted that as part of the strategic planning process, a committee had reviewed the mission of the university with input from the entire university community. The mission statement was recommended for approval as shown in the agenda document.

Dr. Rogers commented that the mission statement was last revised as part of MSU’s reaccreditation review by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) in 2002. Dr. Wiedemann stated that during the strategic planning process it was determined

that the mission statement would be reviewed at the conclusion of the process. The Strategic Planning Committee met and thoroughly discussed the ideas that should be included in the statement. A small sub-committee of the large planning committee came together and developed the mission statement with the help of other individuals on campus. The statement was submitted to the President and the large Strategic Planning Committee. During each step of the process, ideas were considered and the mission statement was modified as needed. The entire university community had an opportunity to participate in the final review process. As a result of this development and review process the proposed statement was presented to the Board for final review and approval.

Dr. Wiedemann commented that the mission statement reflects what the university is doing at this time. Midwestern State University has a very solid liberal arts foundation that every student receives as part of the core curriculum.

Dr. Rogers stated that he had been asked several times about the first sentence which reads “*Midwestern State University aspires to be the public liberal arts university of the state of Texas.*” He stated that this statement was not intended to de-emphasize the fact that MSU offers strong professional programs in education, business and the health sciences. He added his belief that these professional programs are strong because the university stresses the fine arts, the sciences and the liberal arts in the core education. Dr. Rogers noted that the university is currently applying to become the one public university in Texas to be accepted for membership in the Council on Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC).

Mr. Bridgman asked if there were no other public liberal arts universities in the state of Texas. Dr. Rogers responded that if MSU were accepted into membership in COPLAC, MSU would be the only public member from Texas and could boast that our university is the selected public liberal arts college in the state of Texas. He noted that universities in Texas have been asked for a number of years to identify educational priorities. He indicated his belief that this statement does just that. Mr. Bridgman indicated his feeling that the statement was misleading. Dr. Clark commented that one of the COPLAC member institutions, Georgia College and State University, advertises itself as “Georgia’s Public Liberal Arts University.” He indicated his hope that the same would be able to be said for MSU in Texas. Mr. Cannedy pointed out that the statement says “MSU aspires to be...” and that is different from stating “MSU is....”.

Mr. Bridgman added that in the sentence which ended “*to see the past clearly, to examine the present fairly, and to act with judiciousness*”, he looked for the future to be mentioned in the sentence. Dr. Wiedemann commented that this was something the sub-committee also considered and discussed. She indicated that the group concluded that if graduates act with judiciousness they would do so in the future and throughout their lives.

Mr. Lalani stated that he was in agreement with the administration concerning the importance of a liberal arts foundation in the educational process. He added that he also understood the university’s commitment to the professional schools. He noted that since the liberal arts are emphasized so much more than professional programs in the mission statement it was important that the support of professional programs not be lost or misunderstood. Dr. Rogers responded that everything the university does in terms of

marketing the university would continue to emphasize professional programs as well as the liberal arts foundation offered at MSU.

Mr. Cannedy indicated that as a graduate of MSU's College of Business Administration he shared Mr. Lalani's concern and wanted to make certain that the professional programs would continue to be promoted. Dr. Rogers responded that the majority of MSU's graduates come from the professional colleges while the three liberal arts colleges generate the majority of the semester credit hours. Both are important and necessary parts of the university's mission.

Dr. Rogers and the Board commended everyone who worked on the mission statement. Mr. Lalani moved approval of the mission statement as presented. Ms. Haywood seconded the motion and it was approved.

University Mascot Selection

06-06. Mr. Cannedy noted that a Mascot Committee had met since mid-September concerning the selection of a new university mascot. This committee was made up of faculty, staff, student, and alumni representatives. He added that input was requested from the university and Wichita Falls communities.

Dr. Rogers commented that during the last few years many people had asked him what it would take for MSU to change its mascot. His standard response was always that the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) would have to force the university to make this change. He added that universities that have had Native American names and symbols as their mascots have been asked by the NCAA for at least four or five years to consider changing their mascots. He noted that during the last year Midwestern State University and others were asked to submit a report defending its Native American mascots. This was, in effect, MSU's appeal to keep the "Indian" mascot. He added that there seemed to be the impression that the administration did not fight the NCAA's determination that the mascot should be changed. He noted that the university's appeal was turned in several months ago and detailed the history of MSU's "Indian" mascot, the behavior of fans, the traditions that were established on campus, and other issues. The MSU appeal was turned down.

Dr. Rogers noted that when he received the letter from Myles Brand, Executive Director of the NCAA, stating that MSU was one of 18 schools in the nation whose appeals had been rejected he knew it was time to deal with the matter straight on. He then formed a committee chaired by Keith Lamb and comprised of representatives of the Board of Regents, the student body, the athletic administration, the faculty, alumni, the M-Club, and the administration. Dr. Rogers reported that he gave the committee three charges. The first was to determine if the university should appeal the decision to the NCAA Executive Committee, which was the court of last resort. The committee looked at the matter, reviewed the original appeal, and decided that there was not any additional information that could be added to the original appeal to justify a subsequent appeal. Consequently the Mascot Committee recommended that the university not reappeal. Dr. Rogers noted that his second charge to the committee was that they reflect on the history, traditions and culture of the Wichita Falls and North Texas communities in their deliberations. His third charge was that the committee consider mascots that were marketable, forward looking, and something that would represent the spirit of the

university well. He also asked the committee to consider alliteration, how the mascot name sounded with Midwestern State University. The committee was also asked to recommend mascot names that would work for men's and women's athletics teams.

Dr. Rogers commented that he had received a number of inquiries concerning what would happen to the manner in which the university honors the Native American culture, symbols and people on campus. He noted that the NCAA only has control over athletic rules and programs and they have nothing to do with other aspects of campus life and traditions. He explained that he did not plan to recommend changes to the Sunwatcher statue, the names of rooms and streets, the Wai-Kun yearbook, and other campus traditions related to Native American culture.

Dr. Rogers noted that the Mascot Committee recommended three possible choices to him. He added that there had been a great deal of speculation in the media and throughout the university community with regard to his recommendation. Dr. Rogers stated that following careful consideration he recommended that the university mascot change to "Mustangs" effective with the spring semester 2006.

Mr. Lamb stated that he was impressed with the committee and the work they did. He noted that members of the committee took their charge seriously. A website was established and received over 400 suggestions. The group considered over 130 mascot names. He added that it was a very thorough process.

Mr. Malone commented that subsumed in the recommendation that a new mascot be named would be the understanding that the university had to take this action in the first place. He asked the administration to verify that all legal and administrative remedies to be able not to have to change the university's mascot had been exhausted. He stated that if that were the case, the administration and Board do not have a choice in the matter. He added that what had not been mentioned was that the "Indian" mascot would not have to be changed if the university was willing to hurt its student athletes. He noted that in not changing the mascot, athletes would no longer be allowed to play in the post-season. He added that if Dr. Rogers has satisfied himself and could assure the Board that there were no legal or administrative remedies or appeals from which to go, he applauded the recommendation.

Dr. Rogers responded that all of his experience, attendance at NCAA sessions and meetings, and discussions with NCAA representatives had led him to believe that there was no other alternative. He stated that one of his major concerns was that if the university were to become embroiled in a long-term legal battle, MSU students would pay the price by not being able to participate in NCAA post-season play until the matter was resolved.

Ms. Haywood commented that it was very important that the process be fully explained to the public. She indicated that many people want the university to fight for the "Indians" and they do not realize what has already taken place.

Dr. Rogers commented that there are many issues related to why the NCAA has allowed Florida State to continue with the Seminole mascot. He noted that the name "Indian" has become synonymous with a race of people whereas the Seminoles are a nation or a tribe.

He added that there were still conditions placed on Florida State by the NCAA in order for them keep the Seminole mascot.

Dr. Rogers added that a writer for the *Times Record News* endorsed a different mascot because it was a symbol that was important to Native Americans. He noted his feeling that the Mustang was also important to Native Americans because they became the noblemen of the plains once the Mustang appeared.

Mr. Bridgman added that this could be a positive change for the university. Dr. Rogers expressed his appreciation to the university's marketing committee for their efforts in the process and expressed his thanks to Mr. Lamb for the very professional and excellent job that he did in chairing the committee. He also thanked Mr. Cannedy and Ms. Haywood for serving on the Mascot Committee.

Ms. Haywood moved approval of this recommendation as presented. Mr. Lalani seconded the motion and it was approved.

Possible Purchase of Properties

06-07. Mr. Cannedy announced that discussion of this item would be held later in the meeting.

Recess

The Executive Committee went into recess at 2:27 p.m.

Reconvene

The Executive Committee discussion resumed at 5:02 p.m.

Executive Session

The Board went into closed session at 5:02 p.m. as allowed by the Texas Government Code Chapter 551, Section 551.072, Real Property, to consider item 06-07 (Possible Purchase of Properties). Individuals remaining for the discussion included Regents Cannedy, Bridgman, Haywood, Lalani, Stephens, Gough, Malone, Wible, and Gustafson. Other individuals remaining were Dr. Rogers, Dr. Wiedemann, Mr. Sandoval, Dr. Clark, Dr. Farrell, Mr. Spencer, and Ms. Barrow.

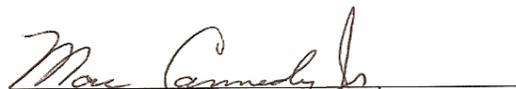
Open Meeting Resumes

The closed session ended at 5:16 p.m. with an announcement by Mr. Cannedy that no action was taken during Executive Session.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Executive Committee discussion concluded at 5:16 p.m.

Reviewed for submission:



Mac Cannedy, Jr., Chairperson
Midwestern State University
Board of Regents Executive Committee