

METROPOLITAN STATE COLLEGE *of* DENVER
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Meeting

December 1, 2010
7:30 – 9:00 a.m. Executive Session
9:00 - 12:00 p.m. Open Meeting
Tivoli Center - Room 320

ATTENDANCE

Chair Cohen and Vice Chair Lucero, Trustees Robinson, Hanzlik, Phelan, Esquibel, Nees, and Cammack were present. Alumni Representative to the Board Peterson was also present. Trustee Garcia-Berry attended telephonically. Trustees Bookhardt and Harris were excused.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Esquibel moved to convene the Executive Session. Trustee Phelan seconded. The Board moved to Executive Session at 7:36 a.m. The open meeting reconvened at 9:08 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Robinson moved to approve the Minutes of November 3, 2010. Trustee Nees seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

REPORTS

Chair's Report - Chair Rob Cohen

Chair Cohen stated that he has been seeing momentum and energy in the community about all that is happening at Metro State. He, President Jordan and Vice President Lutes testified before the Joint Budget Committee on Metro State's budget. They are headed back to the Capitol today to report on Metro State's capital projects for the Capital Development Committee. He reminded the Trustees of the groundbreaking for the Student Success Building on Friday. Chair Cohen stated that it is the responsibility of the Board to assess the performance of the President on an annual basis as well as to perform a more comprehensive assessment, per the President's contract, every five years. The Board asked the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) for assistance. The Board chose the very well qualified Dr. Tom Meredith to perform the performance review. The process began over the summer and was extensive. Dr. Meredith spoke with more than 80 individuals during 40 meetings with both internal and external parties. Trustees Lucero and Phelan selected the local, state and national entities to provide feedback. Chair Cohen asked Dr. Meredith to summarize his findings for the Board.

Dr. Meredith stated that the purpose was to find the ways Dr. Jordan can be an even better President, because it is clear that he is doing an excellent job. The review process focused on two parts. First, he asked what things Dr. Jordan does well that we can encourage him to continue doing. Second, he asked what advice would you give Dr. Jordan? What would you say to him to help him be an even better President? Responses were open and candid. He stated that everyone is proud to have Steve Jordan as their President and they are pleased that he is the face of Metro State. In his experience it is unusual that no one person or group wants him to go. In fact, the campus is hopeful that Dr. Jordan is not going anywhere anytime soon. One of the most telling statements someone made was that people no longer say, "I just went to Metro". Metro State is now an institution of choice, which shows the great progress Metro State has made under President Jordan.

Dr. Meredith summarized the two parts of his report. First, the things Dr. Jordan is doing well and personal characteristics noted:

- Knowledge of higher education
- Strategic thinker
- Student-centered & responsive
- Trusted, fair-minded, friendly
- Passionate about Metro State
- Great speaker, articulate
- Motivator for big ideas
- Transparent
- Respected
- Politically effective
- Sincere about diversity
- Good decision-maker
- Together with Ruthie, a great team for Metro State
- Good Board relationships
- Reaches out to Alumni for input, good working relationship with Alumni
- NCAA work recognized
- Metro State a player in state policy & funding for higher education
- Visible, attends campus functions
- Active within community
- Buildings are evidence of momentum on campus
- Believes in shared governance
- Town Hall meetings are appreciated
- Created a culture of planning, publicizing and branding
- Fiscal prowess appreciated
- Metro State a player in Denver and community
- Executive briefings well-received
- Great at forging partnerships

Second, Dr. Meredith summarized the advice to Dr. Jordan for improvement:

- Focus on execution of current initiatives, bring them to successful conclusion

- Be selective on new initiatives moving forward
- Focus on:
 1. Retention
 2. Graduation Rates
 3. Campus morale
 4. Legislature
 5. Private fund-raising
- Strengthen relationship with Foundation Board
- Improve communication, teamwork, transparency among leadership team
- More Town Hall meetings
- Accept well-earned position as a top leader in higher education in Colorado, become spokesman for all of higher education

Trustee Esquibel added that he read the article: “The Changing Demands of Presidential Leadership” in AGB’s Trusteeship Magazine, which included a checklist of the items that make for a good President. Dr. Jordan scored highly on all the items on the checklist, validating what the national organization says about leadership and what Dr. Meredith found during his evaluation work.

AHEC Board – Trustee Maria Garcia Berry

Trustee Garcia Berry stated that a mini retreat/workshop involving all three Boards at Auraria took place, which has not happened before. There was good dialog, and discussion on the neighborhood plans and the tennis court relocation, but no conclusions were reached. They will have a follow-up meeting in January. On Monday at noon there will be a follow-up meeting of the search committee for the AHEC Executive Director position. They are narrowing down finalists.

President’s Report – Dr. Stephen Jordan

President Jordan directed the Board to his written report, which includes a summary of news items from the past month. The legislative process began with the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) yesterday. Any further impact on higher education budgets won’t be known until after the March 15 budget projections come out. President Jordan summarized some statistics reflective of Metro State’s fulfillment of its mission. Using the year before his arrival (04/05) as a baseline, the retention rate for first-time full-time freshmen has gone from 61% to 67%, full-time transfers of new students has gone from 68% to 71%, continuing student retention has gone from 57% to 72%, so the pipeline is there for an increase in graduation rates. Statistics regarding the population served by Metro include an increase in Pell Eligible students from 23% to 34%, low-middle income students have gone from 36% to 46%, first generation students have gone from 25% to 30%, and students of color have risen from 24% to 28%. Together these statistics show that Metro State has not walked away from the population it has traditionally served and has generated success in serving its students while under fiscal constraints. These figures will be posted on the Web site. President Jordan reminded the Board of Commencement on December 19th, with Lt. Governor-elect Joe Garcia as the speaker. He also noted that

the CCHE seems to be on a path to adopt the strategic plan from the Governor's Task Force as the Master Plan for Higher Education. He and others are of the opinion that they are two different things, and he joined with all the four-year institution presidents in signing a letter to the CCHE asking them not to adopt the Strategic Plan as the Master Plan, and to engage the governing boards in a real master planning process.

Legislative Report – Capstone Group, LLC

No report. Christine Staberg is at the legislature for Metro State today.

Student Government – Student Government Assembly President

Sammantha O'Brien

Ms. O'Brien reported that the SGA held a non-profit job fair on Monday with 35 non-profits and attendance from about 250 students. They held a social with student organizations on campus to find better ways of supporting them. They are also working on the Runners Program to improve processes. Over 200 Runners have signed up and over 80 of them are active in the program. On Thursday at 4:00 p.m. they have their final workshop and will give out prizes and certificates. They will have the Runners Program orientation online next semester. They are conducting their final survey this week asking students about MetroConnect's accessibility, user-friendliness and any improvements. SGA is working with career services to reach out to freshmen and sophomores. They are also working with Alumni on Homecoming, February 14 – 19, 2011. SGA will have 'food for finals' as well as blue books, scantron answer sheets and pencils available for students during finals week. SGA is also forming focus groups looking at the new faculty evaluations.

Finance Committee – Trustee Ellen Robinson

Trustee Robinson reported that the most recent meeting of the Finance Committee focused on a review of the audit, which will be released in mid December. They have confidence in the controls and policies of Metro State. A spring semester graduate class will perform projects related to the internal audit. At their next meeting, near the end of January, the Provost will present more information on the Faculty Evaluation System.

Academic and Student Affairs Committee – Trustee Antonio Esquibel

Trustee Esquibel reported that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee met via teleconference call on November 17, 2010. They are recommending two study abroad courses for approval on the Action Item Agenda today. They meet again on January 19, 2011 and will hear an update on General Studies, a follow-up report on program review, and the First Year Success program.

Foundation Report – Trustee Bill Hanzlik

Trustee Hanzlik was impressed with the quality of fellow Board members at his first meeting of the Foundation Board. The Foundation Board selected BNY Mellon as the

investment portfolio manager. An MOU between the Foundation and HLC@Metro, Inc. outlining the relationship and responsibilities of both is in draft form. The Foundation Board also approved the policies and procedures for the capital campaign.

Faculty Senate – Professor Kamran Sahami, President

Dr. Sahami reported that the faculty will vote next week on an aspect of general studies policy. New curriculum will be vetted next semester. The Strategic Planning Committee has performed an evaluation of the existing plan. Cathy Lucas pared down the 122-page document to a two-page executive summary which will be discussed as an Information Item today. The Faculty Senate Diversity and Welfare Committees analyzed the results of both their survey of faculty and ModernThink’s campus-wide survey. They found strong statistical agreement, allowing great confidence in both sets of results. Dr. Sahami will provide a two-page executive summary for the Board. The Faculty Senate and its officers will be taking an active role in Commencement.

Council of Chairs – Professor Greg Watts, President

No report.

Alumni – Alumni Representative Eric Peterson

Mr. Peterson reported that the new Executive Director of Alumni Relations, Mark Jastorff, started work on October 15, 2010. Mr. Jastorff thanked all for his warm welcome to Metro State and reported on several initiatives by Alumni Relations, including a young alumni council as part of the alumni board, student/alumni programming, strengthening relationships between students and alumni, making a change to an open position to reframe it to work with career services on internships, the launch of an Alumni Campus Employee Appreciation program that will affect several hundred alumni employees of Metro State, partnering with SGA on a full week of Homecoming events, and Alumni recognition and awards programming. Trustee Nees added that he’d suggest an initiative to create stronger relationships between departments and their graduates. Mr. Jastorff agreed, and stated that they are working on targeting those alumni groups with special events and networking opportunities focused to their areas of interest.

ACTION ITEMS

Chinese Literature in Translation Study Abroad Course

Trustee Esquibel moved for approval and Trustee Robinson seconded the motion. The Item was **approved unanimously**.

Japan: Culture, Communication, and Identity Study Abroad Course

Trustee Esquibel moved for approval and Trustee Phelan seconded the motion. The Item was **approved unanimously**.

President Jordan asked Dr. Thobhani to update the Board on Metro State’s relationship and activities with Aksum University in Ethiopia. The U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa,

recognizing Metro State's relationship with Aksum University, invited Dr. Thobhani to participate in a two-day conference next week. There will be 90-95 attendees and topics include dialog on sustainable practices and development of higher education. Trustee Esquibel saw an article in the AGB publication detailing eight liability issues that colleges need to be aware of related to study abroad programs. Dr. Thobhani stated that International Studies is fully aware of the issue and developments in the field. On November 5, 2010 they held a campus-wide workshop for faculty dealing with health, safety and liability issues. He agreed to provide the Board with a report at the next meeting.

CONSENT ITEMS

Office of Human Resources Report of Personnel Actions which have occurred since the last Board meeting of November 3, 2010.

Trustee Robinson moved for approval and Trustee Hanzlik seconded the motion. The Item was **approved unanimously**.

INFORMATION ITEMS (*Requires no approval by the Board of Trustees*)

Office of Human Resources report of personnel actions for the Board's information, which have occurred since the last Board Meeting on November 3, 2010.

No discussion.

Strategic Planning 2005-2010 Assessment

Dr. Sahami and AVP Cathy Lucas presented the Strategic Planning Committee's assessment of the current strategic plan. Their report came to 122 pages, which was whittled down to a two-page executive summary for the Board. Under each of the four goals they listed five or six assessments. Ms. Lucas described the highlights. President Jordan connected the feedback from his performance review urging him and the College to focus on the initiatives already underway with the work on the new strategic plan. He would like to see timelines for completing the current initiatives. Dr. Sahami stated that the committee is working on projections for completion that will be useful for budget work as well. Discussion included incorporating the final report from the Equity Scorecard Committee as well as updates on graduating students' performance on exams such as Nursing, where the college receives a report of the percentage of Metro State students taking the exam and those passing it. Dr. Sheila Thompson stated that she can pull together the results of such field exams and how Metro State students compare on a national level. Chair Cohen complimented the strategic planning committee on the quality and depth of their work.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Chair Cohen provided time for Trustee Esquibel to encourage people to contact their representatives in support of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act. President Jordan noted that in September, when it was under consideration by the Senate, he sent a letter to both Senators Udall and Bennet asking for their support of the DREAM Act.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.