**METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY of DENVER**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**Friday, September 6, 2019**

**MINUTES**

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**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Jack Pogge read the Trustees into Executive Session at 7:30 a.m., and asked for a motion. The motion was made and seconded, and unanimously approved.

**II. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

The Board of Trustees business meeting was called to order at approximately 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Pogge. He was joined by Vice Chairwoman Barb Grogan, Trustee Wendy Dominguez, Trustee Marissa Molina, Trustee Jim Mulligan, and Trustee Russell Noles. Faculty Trustee Chris Harder, Student Trustee Adetilewa Awosanya, and Alumni Association Trustee Joe Rice were also in attendance, along with President Janine Davidson, Board Secretary David Fine, Vice President Larry Sampler, Chief Operating Officer, Treasurer George Middlemist, Assistant Secretary Melinda Olivarez, various faculty, administrators, and staff.

**III. CHAIR'S WELCOME & REPORT:**

A. Farewell to Lacey Hyde, and Introduction of New Student Trustee Adetilewa Awosanya. Chairman Pogge announced that the Foundation board and the Board of Trustees will meet in a joint retreat at Devil’s Thumb Ranch October 16 through 18, 2019.

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA:**

A. Approval of May 10, 2019 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

B. Office of Human Resources revised report of personnel actions for the Board's information which have occurred since the last Board meeting on May 10, 2019

Trustee Shoemaker **moved for approval** of the Consent Agenda, with a **second** by Trustee Dominguez. The motion was **unanimously approved**.

**V. PRESENTATIONS:**

A. CSU National Western Stock Show Water Center – Amy Parsons, CSU Executive Vice-Chancellor

Ms. Parsons described the National Western Center project that will open beginning in 2022. CSU is building three centers (Animal and Human Health, Agriculture and Food, Water and Sustainability) on the banks of the South Platte River within the historic National Western Stock Show site near I-25 and I-70. Although the centers will be research- and education-oriented, they are mainly intended to be vibrant public facilities. The university is considering offering a few master’s degree programs on the site, but no undergraduate degrees. Ms. Parsons said the center will operate more as a large extension center.

Approximately $1.5 billion of CSU’s new facilities were publicly funded (the State issued COPS in the amount of $200 million, and voters in the City of Denver supported an increase in the lodgers tax). Some funds were also contributed through the sale of real estate, and a regional tourism grant in the approximate amount of $20 million was awarded. The university is contributing $200 million of its own funds. The City has an RFP out now for a P3 that will provide funding for the construction of a new Coliseum and new expo center, parking garage, and renovation of the 1909 Stadium Arena. The partner that is awarded the contract will build those required elements of the project, and will also receive 40 acres for development.

Trustee Mulligan asked if there will be restrictions on development of the 40-acre parcel. Ms. Parsons said that there are no requirements at this point; however, there have been discussions as to affordable housing being a percentage of total units of housing -- if housing is built. The developer is not required to build housing on the site and will have the ability to develop the site to its best economic use.

The CSU Water Building will be the largest on the site, and will open to the Platte River. Railroad tracks that block access to the river are being removed and a 1.5-mile stretch of the river will become accessible. Trustee Shoemaker added that there will be an eight- to ten-acre riverfront open space on a section of the river that is currently completely inaccessible. CSU and MSU Denver are collaborating on the facilities being built. The Water Building is expected to open in 2022, and the University’s other centers will follow, in 2023 and 2024. Construction will stop each January when the Stock Show is held.

In response to a question from Trustee Berman, Ms. Parsons said that approximately 50 rooms are planned that will provide short-term housing for veterinary medicine students who are on rotation, students who are in the Future Farmers of America (FFA) program, and for staff working with horses in the Temple Grandin Equine Assisted Therapy Program.

B. Referendum CC – Ali Mickelson, Director of Legislative and Tax Policy, Colorado Fiscal Institute

Ms. Mickelson said that the Colorado Fiscal Institute (CFI) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank, promoting economic prosperity for all.

Proposition CC was referred to the ballot by the legislature, and will be voted on in November 2019. Proposition CC would allow the state to retain revenue it is currently required to refund under the [Taxpayer's Bill of Rights](https://ballotpedia.org/Article_X,_Colorado_Constitution#Section_20) (TABOR). Retained funds would be used for K-12 education, higher education, and transportation purposes.

The TABOR Amendment limits the amount of money the state of Colorado can take in and spend. When the State collects annual revenues, the base from one year is allowed to grow by population growth plus inflation, creating a Revenue Limit, or Cap. Revenue above the Revenue Limit is required to be returned to taxpayers (TABOR Rebates).

Revenue growth in a given year does not always exceed the Cap and result in a TABOR rebate to taxpayers. If Prop CC passes, that $300 million would be equally split among K-12 education, higher education, and transportation, resulting in $100 million to each of the three areas. In 2021, Legislative Council expects revenues to exceed the Cap by approximately $340 million, resulting in $115 million to each of the areas.

If Prop CC does not pass, that money is instead returned to taxpayers in one of three ways: through the senior homestead exemption, a property tax relief program for seniors who have lived in their home for ten or more years; through the six-tier sales tax rebate, which is an income tax rebate based on income; or through a one-year temporary income tax reduction.

Mr. Fine clarified that Board members may do anything in their personal capacities to support the “Yes on CC” or “No on CC” campaigns; however, they must not use University resources to do so. State statute is explicitly clear that the Board of Trustees can pass a resolution endorsing Prop CC. He presented a resolution to the Board stating that passage of the referendum, if revenues are available, will advance higher education in Colorado, allow universities to make necessary investments in higher education, benefit student performance, well-being, and job readiness.

Vice Chairwoman Grogan **moved to approve** the resolution in support of Proposition CC, with a **second** by Trustee Shoemaker. The motion was **unanimously approved**.

C. Introduction & CDHE Agenda – Angie Paccione, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Higher Education

Angie Paccione, Ph.D., executive director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education, provided an update on her team’s work in support of students.

She outlined Governor Polis’s goals for higher education, which include saving students money on the cost of higher education, looking at innovative ways of cost containment from the institution’s side, concurrent enrollment, workforce development, and internships that provide students an opportunity to earn while they learn. She outlined the goals of the state’s Master Plan which include increasing credential completion, erasing the equity gap, improving student success, and investing in affordability and innovation.

Ms. Paccione updated the board on a recent Higher Education Return on Investment (ROI) Report produced by her office. One of its findings is that completion is key to having a high ROI. Students who fail to complete have no way to repay the debt they incurred.

D. Board Oversight of Education Quality & Student Success (EQSS) – Support for Low- Income Students – Braelin Pantel, Associate Vice President, Student Engagement & Wellness/Dean of Students; Christian Hardigree, Dean, Hospitality, Events and Tourism, and Students

Associate Vice President Braelin Pantel introduced two students who relayed the hardships they have experienced while working on their undergraduate degrees, especially related to finding and maintaining housing and the cost of living in Denver.

Ms. Pantel said that students have been able to succeed with the support of University programs, emergency funds, the Food Bank, Student Support Services, and financial aid. The Student CARE Center will open later this month in the Tivoli.

**VI. REPORTS & ACTION ITEMS**

Taken Out of Order

E. Foundation Report & Action Item – Christine Márquez-Hudson, VP & ED, University Advancement and MSU Denver Foundation

2. Ms. Márquez-Hudson announced approval of naming of the Day Leadership Academy in the School of Hospitality, Events and Tourism, and the receipt of a $1.54 million gift from Frank and Gina Day of Concept Restaurants. The gift is the largest in University history, and it will be divided equally between the School of Hospitality, Tourism and Events endowment, and a new academic-leadership academy.

Vice Chairwoman Grogan **moved** **to** **express the profound gratitude** of the Board of Trustees to Frank and Gina Day for their extraordinary gift, and **to approve** **the naming** of the Day Leadership Academy, and Trustee Mulligan **seconded** the motion. The motion was **unanimously approved**.

A. President’s Hails & Farewells

President Davidson introduced Michael Benitez, Ph.D., who will be the University’s new Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion, and Larry Sampler, Vice President Administration and Finance, and Chief Operating Officer.

Provost Vicki Golich will be retiring this year. President Davidson said that Dr. Golich has been, among many other things, an advocate for the professionalization of MSU Denver faculty, revising the tenure and retention program, developing more robust sabbatical programs, programs for diversity and inclusion, and the Wilton Flemon post-doctoral fellowship. President Davidson thanked Provost Golich for her many years of service.

Professor Matt Makley will lead the search for the University’s new provost.

B. Finance Committee Report – Trustee Wendy Dominguez

1. Trustee Dominguez said that staff prepared and presented the Fiscal Year 2019-20 Phase II Base Allocations. In summary, the University has approximately $11.7 million additional revenues made up of $7.2 million in additional state support and $4.5 million in additional tuition revenue. The additional tuition revenue is reflective of closing the tuition window, a 3% increase in the tuition rate, and a decrease in enrollment of a little more than 3%.

In May the Board approved Phase I Base Allocations to cover $4 million in mandatory costs, and approximately $1.6 million in student success efforts, leaving approximately $6.1 million for Phase II Base Allocations. The main recommendation for Phase II Base Allocations is a 3% across-the-board increase for faculty, professional staff, and executive leadership, as well as maintaining the University’s competitive position with regard to salaries. This would be an allocation of $4.2 million.

An additional recommendation is the allocation of $300,000 to additional financial aid for students, $2 million to the top priorities of each branch, and increasing the institutional base reserve by $870,000. The additional $870,000 will bring the University’s base reserve to $2.1 million, leaving a budget shortfall of nearly $1.2 million. The shortfall is covered by ending the summer revenue sharing program, which will balance the University’s budget.

Trustee Shoemaker **moved** to approve the Phase II base budget and associated allocations, and Trustee Mulligan **seconded** the motion. The motion was **unanimously approved**.

1. Approval of College Level Examination Program (CLEP) Fee Change

Staff also presented a recommendation to reduce the cost of the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) fee from $379 to $122. This decrease brings the fee charged in line with other universities and reduces the expense paid by MSU Denver students to take the CLEP exam.

Trustee Mulligan **moved** to approve the reduction of the CLEP fee to $122, and Trustee Shoemaker **seconded** the motion. The motion was **unanimously approved**.

Trustee Dominguez said that Vice President Sampler led a robust discussion regarding how the University should plan for the future, including factors that will impact funding and spending over the next several years.

Liza Larsen, the University’s controller, provided an update on the FY2018-’19 unaudited financial statements. Overall, the University’s financial position improved by nearly $5 million from the prior fiscal year. Ms. Larsen will update the committee again in December after the University’s financial audit is complete.

George Middlemist presented a reconciliation of the 2018-‘19 budget-to-actual performance. Overall revenues were slightly higher than budgeted in the general fund. Tuition and fees came in slightly higher than anticipated. The auxiliary fund significantly outperformed the anticipated budget, generating $2 million more in revenues than projected, due to strong performance in the University’s graduate programs, the Innovative and Lifelong Learning Program, and the Student Health Center. There was an increase of nearly 1,000 students enrolled in the student health insurance program, due mainly to the affordability of the insurance, the robust services offered by the Center, and overall benefits offered by the student health insurance program.

C. ASA Committee Report – Trustee Elaine Gantz Berman

Trustee Berman reported that the committee had no voting items but was updated on free speech, campus climate, inclusion, civility, and support for low-income and first-generation students. Will Simpkins also provided a one-year update on Student Affairs. Enrollment is approximately 2.8% lower than last year, and the committee is investigating all possible options to recruit new students, recruit transfer students, and reevaluating past practices to determine the value of outreach efforts. A task force has been formed to research the transfer process. The committee reviewed a letter of intent to be signed by President Davidson and the Hart Center for Public Service and will update the Board as this evolves into a more formal MOU in the next several months.

D. Governance Committee Report – Trustee Jim Mulligan

Approval of Board Policy Regarding Evaluation of the University President

Trustee Mulligan said that there were no action items for referral to the Board. The roles and responsibilities of Board members as outlined at the AGB Governance Conference and updated by the committee were discussed and approved. These include roles and responsibilities, selection, orientation, monitoring, and Board assessment.

E. Foundation Report & Action Item – Christine Márquez-Hudson, VP & ED University Advancement and MSU Denver Foundation

1. Christine Márquez-Hudson said that a generous gift of $388,000 was received from the Gateway II Fund, a donor-advised fund of the Denver Foundation, for student retention, re-engagement, and to provide wraparound student support services.

Ms. Márquez-Hudson presented a recap of 2018-‘19 end-of-year outcomes in the four metrics established by the Advancement Office: donor visits, retained donors, alumni donors, and engaged alumni. Each area met or exceeded its goal, except alumni donors which reached 99% of its goal. Cash and pledges totaled $5,829,098; planned gift commitments totaled $3,710,000. Cash and pledges was the second highest fundraising total that MSU Denver has ever had. Number of donors increased by more than 500 over last year. The University’s endowment has grown from $10.87 million to $15.42 million. Planned gift commitments in 2018-19 totaled $140,000 over last year, and there were the most engaged alumni ever, at 5,817.

F. State Legislative Update – Tyler Mounsey, Director of Government Affairs, and Christine Staberg, Founding Partner of The Capstone Group

Ms. Staberg stated that in June, staff worked to gather the documentation for requests for the coming year related to capital requests for the Health Institute ($8.3 million), the capital IT modernization bucket ($3.3 million), and AHEC for submission of additional requests related to HVAC replacement ($19 million). Ms. Staberg will provide updates on next steps.

Additionally, the operating budget process is ongoing. Her team supported legislation to require the Commission to review the funding formula, and that appears to be trending positively for MSU Denver. The Governor presented his recommendations on all budget items including capital, IT, all investment items, as well as operating budget for higher ed and every other department. On November 1 that will go to the JBC and the legislature will begin their deliberations on that budget.

Governor Polis’s office asked President Davidson to join the Education Leadership Council.

G. Alumni Representative Report – Joe Rice, Alumni Trustee

Mr. Rice said that President Davidson asked the Association to help with student recruiting, and the Alumni Engagement Committee is working on Homecoming activities coming up in October.

About two-thirds of the Alumni Association board are new members. Of its several committees, 46 alumni signed up with Student Recruitment to be MSU Denver Ambassadors.

Criteria is being finalized for the Last Mile Scholarship. The Alumni Association will contact students who are a few credits short of earning their degree and not enrolled, to encourage them to return to the University.

H. AHEC Board Report – Trustee Elaine Gantz Berman

Trustee Berman reported that Colleen Walker is AHEC’s new executive director. Trustee Berman will invite Ms. Walker to come to the next meeting of the Board.

AHEC received $18.7 million from the Capital Development Fund to convert the steam-powered HVAC on campus to natural gas. The buildings impacted include Arts, Boulder Creek, Central Classroom, Cherry Creek, PE, Science, Plaza, and West Classroom. The conversion will result in great savings on utilities costs. The transition will begin this month and continue through November.

I. Faculty Trustee Report – Chris Harder, Faculty Trustee

Faculty Trustee Harder noted that he serves on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Faculty Employment Handbook Committee. He brings the Board perspective into those discussions as much as possible.

He will also work with the Faculty Senate General Studies Committee dealing with issues relating to curriculum, an important part of the student experience at MSU Denver, and the General Studies Assessment Committee, which ensures that curriculum aligns with the University’s stated goals, a significant part of the accreditation process.

Trustee Harder will also be working with the Policy Advisory Council and the Faculty Senate Academic Policy Committee.

J. Student Trustee Report – Adetilewa Awosanya, Student Trustee

Student Trustee Ade Awosanya said that the number of student organizations on campus has increased from 129 in 2018-19 to approximately 140 in the 2019-20 academic year. MSU Denver students are working to hold leadership positions on campus.

SGA is being very transparent with students on closing of the tuition window, and is gathering as much information as possible to be able to pass on to students. She thanked Mr. Sampler for providing a printout of FAQs with regard to West Classroom which SGA is providing to students.

Currently, SGA is working on a financial literacy workshop to be available to all MSU Denver students. SGA believes that financial literacy is a life skill that will serve students while they attend school at MSU Denver and beyond.

K. Student Government Report – Danielle Holmes, Student Government Assembly President

Ms. Holmes said that SGA been involved in several events during the last several weeks, launching a “Welcome to Students.” SGA is partnering with leadership to get the Department of Health and Human Services to process applications here on campus, for the convenience and benefit of students.

SGA is reviewing its governing documents and future structural changes that would help it to be more cohesive and supportive of students.

L. Faculty Senate Report – Katia Campbell, Faculty Senate President

Dr. Campbell reported that Faculty Senate will have a first reading of three policies on September 18: the intellectual property policy, the honorary degree policy, and a statement of principles dealing with freedom of speech on campus. The policies are being developed by the Executive Committee and the Academic Policy Committee.

M. Athletics Update – Anthony Grant, Director of Athletics

Dr. Grant reported that there are many activities occurring in Athletics, listed on page 35 of the meeting packet. On the alumni side, former student-athletes are in professional teams, such as the Philadelphia Phillies Baseball organization and the San Francisco Giants. In Basketball, Nick Kay plays on the Australian National Basketball Team and was instrumental in the upset of the U.S. Team International on International Play.

Two head coaches were hired over the summer. Hank Lewis was hired in Men’s Soccer, and Nick Lara was hired in Men’s and Women’s Cross Country. Both are working closely with student-athletes, and Dr. Grant said the Department is shaping up very well.

Homecoming was moved from Spring to Fall and will begin September 30 through October 5.

N. West Classroom Update – Larry Sampler, COO/Vice President of Administration

Mr. Sampler reported that events in the West Classroom began when a faculty member reported that she was the third of four people in the same office who, in the past six months, had been diagnosed with a very aggressive form of breast cancer.

A townhall meeting was held with faculty, staff, and students enrolled in the Summer semester. After approximately ten days, the test results came back, and another townhall was held to present those results.

Mr. Sampler has received numerous emails from people who were on campus or who had family members on campus. His responses to those emails were tailored to each individual’s situation.

West Classroom came back with a clean bill of health. According to OSHA and the EPA, on every single test the building came back at no more than 10% of the permitted exposure level. For example, with 4% as the PEL for radon, the level in West Classroom was .44 to .5.

O. Strategic Plan Update – Cathy Lucas, Chief of Staff/Vice President of Strategy

Ms. Lucas said that Phase 3 of the six phases of the Strategic Plan process is being closed out. Nearly 1,500 stakeholders were contacted this summer through surveys, one-on-one interviews, townhalls, facilitated conversations, focus groups. One subcommittee has been researching future trends, and another is looking at aspirational peers. Ms. Lucas and her team spent a day at San Jose State University, an aspirational peer, speaking to their leadership team about their best practices. Those were brought back and incorporated into key concepts. The Strategic Planning Team spent the last two Fridays organizing 5,000 ideas which they put into common themes and smart ideas. This resulted in five concept papers.

The concept papers will be presented at the September 23 Vision Conference. The Vision Conference will provide an opportunity to home in on ideas and think through next steps as the Strategic Plan is written. The Strategic Plan will again be discussed at the joint retreat on October 16. The Goals Conference will be held January 10 and will include the people who will be implementing the goals.

P. Health Institute Update – Jenn Capps, Dean, College of Professional Studies

A program plan was completed in June. Included in the plan were estimates of the physical space needed by the Health Institute’s programs, as well as other needs of the programs. The Institute currently has approximately 33,000 square feet assigned to its health programs. The program plan identifies the need for approximately 166,000 square feet of space to accommodate the Institute’s current and future needs.

A CDHE funding request for the Health Institute building was put forward, ending up as 18th on CDHE’s list. The goal for funding requests typically is to be in the top 20.

The next stages are to work with the Budget Office, Advancement, and the Board, to determine how to move the concept forward.

Q. President’s Report

President Davidson expressed her appreciation of the University’s leaders who have demonstrated great skill in working together, both in times of crisis and times of great opportunity. She said she frequently hears from members of the community that they are so impressed with MSU Denver students, and she takes great pride in being part of this University.

MSU Denver’s brand marketing program, “Reimagine Higher Education,” has begun.

**VII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

A. Human Resources report of personnel actions for the Board’s information, which have occurred since the last Board Meeting on Friday, May 9, 2019

B. Important/Exciting Upcoming Events and Engagement Opportunities

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The Board of Trustees meeting was duly adjourned at approximately 12:23 p.m.