**METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY of DENVER**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**Friday, December 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, Trustee Jeff Shoemaker, Trustee Elaine Berman, and Trustee Russell Noles. Alumni Representative Joe Rice, Faculty Trustee Chris Harder, Student Trustee Adetilewa Awosanya 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. President’s Contract

Chairman Pogge announced that the Board and President Davidson have signed a five-year employment contract, and added that President Davidson has shown great leadership skill. Faculty Trustee Harder stated that faculty feel very positively about President Davidson and appreciate the great work she continues to do for MSU Denver.

Trustee Noles **moved for approval** of the employment contract with President Davidson, with a **second** by Trustee Dominguez. A roll call vote was taken, with the following results:

Trustee Molina: Aye

Trustee Mulligan: Aye

Trustee Dominguez: Aye

Vice Chair Grogan: Aye

Trustee Noles: Aye

Trustee Shoemaker: Aye

Chair Pogge: Aye

The motion was **unanimously approved**.

B. Election of Officers

i. Passing of Gavel from Jack Pogge to Barb Grogan

Chair Pogge announced that his tenure on the Board is ending.

Chairman Pogge **moved for approval** the election of Barb Grogan as chairman of the Board, with a **second** by Trustee Dominguez. Trustee Berman **moved for approval** the election of Wendy Dominguez as vice chairwoman of the Board, with a **second** by Trustee Noles. The motions were **unanimously approved**.

C. Upcoming Events

1. Fall Commencement: Friday, December 13, 2019 – Denver Coliseum

a. Morning Ceremony: 9:30-11:30 a.m.

b. Afternoon Ceremony: 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Chairman Pogge encouraged attendance at one or both graduation ceremonies.

2. CDHE’s Higher Education Governing Boards Convening & Training:

January 7, 2020, 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Denver Branch, Federal Reserve Bank

More info will be sent by Angie Paccione’s Office in mid-December

Vice Chair Grogan stated that she attended this event last year and found it extremely instructive. Trustee Berman was one of the founders and leaders of it. The event brought most of the trustees from all of the public universities in the state together. The presentations were excellent, and Vice Chair Grogan recommends attendance.

3. AGB National Conference on Trusteeship: April 4-7, 2020 – Washington, D.C.

Discounted Early Bird registration ends December 20. Please let Mel know (ASAP) if you’d like to attend.

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA:**

A. Approval of September 6, 2019 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

B. Office of Human Resources report of personnel actions for the Board's information which have occurred since the last Board meeting on Friday, September 6, 2019

C. Approval of Recommendation for Tenure Upon Appointment (*Carry-in*)

Chair Pogge **moved for approval** of the Consent Agenda, with a **second** by Vice Chair Grogan. The motion was **unanimously approved**.

**V. REPORTS & ACTION ITEMS**

A. President’s Hails & Farewells

President Davidson and the Board thanked Jack Pogge for his years of exemplary leadership and service to the University.

Dr. Anthony Grant is leaving MSU Denver to take a position as head of Athletics and Recreation at MIT. The Board and President Davidson thanked Dr. Grant for his many outstanding accomplishments and years of service to the University. President Davidson announced that a search would be launched soon to find a replacement for Dr. Grant.

B. Finance Committee Report

Trustee Dominguez reported that the Finance Committee met yesterday to receive the financial audit and three internal student audits, as well as presentations on state funding and a human capital report from the HR team.

Trustee Noles **moved for approval** of the external audit for FY2018-‘19, with a **second** by Vice Chair Grogan. The motion was **unanimously approved**.

C. ASA Committee Report

1. Approval of New Programs

* Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology
* Bachelor of Science in Business Intelligence
* Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Leadership
* Bachelor of Arts in Professional Selling
* Concentration in Trauma
* Concentration in Disciplinary Knowledge
* Minor in Trauma Studies
* Digital Marketing Certificate
* Digital Marketing Minor
* Minor in Business Sustainability
* Graduate Certificate in Business Analytics
* Graduate Certificate of Cyber Defense
* Graduate Certificate of Cybercrime Investigation
* Graduate Certificate of Cybersecurity Leadership
* Bilingual Education Specialist Added Endorsement

2. Approval of Discontinued Programs

* School of HEaT Programs
* Literacy Concentration
* Recreation Generalist
* Recreation Minor
* German Translation Certificate

3. Approval of Proposed Name Change from the School of Hospitality, Events and Tourism (HEaT) to the School of Hospitality

4. Approval of Proposed Creation of the Rita and Navin Dimond Department of Hotel Management. The Dimonds made a major contribution to the University.

Trustee Mulligan **moved for approval** of the New Programs, Discontinued Programs, Proposed Name Change from the School of Hospitality, Events and Tourism (HEaT) to the School of Hospitality, and approval of the proposed creation of the Rita and Navin Dimond Department of Hotel Management, with a **second** by Trustee Shoemaker. The motion was **unanimously approved**.

D. Governance Committee

Trustee Mulligan reported that the Governance Committee met yesterday and is in the process of restructuring duties of committee members. Board Secretary David Fine presented a draft policy creating the Staff Senate which replaces the classified staff representative body and council of administrators. This new Staff Senate will represent both classified and non-classified staff, regardless of their status with the state.

Trustee Noles **moved for approval** of the policy creating the Staff Senate for both classified and non-classified staff, with a **second** by Trustee Molina. The motion was **unanimously approved**.

E. Foundation Report

Christine Márquez-Hudson reviewed recent gifts, which include $100,000 from Victor Fenhaus (Helen Grace Fenhaus Foundation) for immigrant students, Dreamers/DACA, ASSET, and undocumented students. Mr. Fenhaus also supports an annual scholarship for Access students.

$200,000 from Reisher Scholars for student scholarships. This will soon become one of the largest scholarship programs in the state and MSU Denver was one of the first institutional partners. $90,500 from the Perls Foundation School of Education, which expands other gifts from them and supports scholarships for the School of Education. A $45,000 gift to support the aviation simulation lab; and $20,000 from DaVita to support a cohort of MSU Denver students interested in health careers.

Lori Herrera, new CFOO, begins her new position with the Advancement Office on Monday. She is an alum of MSU Denver and her most recent work experience is as a professional fiduciary working with individuals to create their estate plans.

The annual scholarship dinner is scheduled for March 5, and Ms. Márquez-Hudson said that special tables for Trustees are available. May 29 is the Athletic Scholarship Dinner and Auction. The Annual Day of Giving is on March 19, which is the most pushed-for MSU Denver giving campaign.

F. State Legislative Update

Christine Staberg reported that the Higher Education Interim Committee and Capital Development Committees have both visited the campus this summer and fall. The Auraria campus was the only one visited by the Higher Education Interim Committee. President Davidson visited with them while they were here.

The Governor’s budget was released November 1. Growth of around 2% is expected in the budget. Over the last several years growth in the budget was around 6%. This means there will be less funding to go around.

Funding for capital and level one controlled maintenance are fully funded in the Governor’s request, and it also requested that approximately $99 million be set aside for capital construction projects in higher education. Currently neither the AHEC project nor MSU Denver Health Institute project are above the line for funding. Five total projects are funded at higher ed institutions, and of those only one is a new project.

Ms. Staberg reminded Trustees that last year MSU Denver supported a bill for a re-look at the formula, distributing it according to the state’s master plan goals. The legislature did exactly that last year. In mid-November the Governor suggested that the distribution for higher education funding be given to the JBC and that is where the ten percent of the base going into the new formula originated. The new formula is very positive for MSU Denver. It more closely aligns with the state’s master plan, which is very good for MSU Denver, because it provides additional money for Pell-eligible and underrepresented students. As submitted to the JBC, the Governor’s proposal proposes 10% of the base money be through the new formula this year so the effect is not too jarring. Then over the next five years all of the base funding would be moved through the formula. That represents a dramatic benefit to MSU Denver. If the legislature moves the funding there faster, the benefit accrues to MSU Denver more quickly.

The Governor’s proposal is beneficial to MSU Denver. Many other institutions are opposed to putting any money through the new formula, saying that everybody must present a united front and must come up with more money. This is what MSU Denver was working toward with Prop CC. But JBC members and the Office of State Planning and Budgeting have indicated that higher education faces a significant risk for getting less money overall. So, the total amount available, the fight about the formula, how the total funds will be distributed, and the tuition question are all related to how much funding there is for higher education overall. Ms. Staberg and her team are making the case that the state should fund all of what MSU Denver is asking for so that an increase in tuition does not become necessary. Those are all the moving pieces as the budget discussion progresses.

To implement the new formula that the Department of Higher Education came up with this summer, a bill must be run because the underlying formula bill, HB1319 that was passed, would be changed. So one or two higher education funding bills may address the formula

Ms. Staberg and her team have met with the JBC staff analyst in higher education. The analyst’s presentation to the JBC is scheduled for next week. After that staff will begin to make recommendations to the legislators.

Vice President Sampler added that other university CFOs have proposed that MSU Denver join them in opposing the new bill, and have intimated that if it does so, they may be able to help MSU Denver increase its base, which is this institution’s primary goal. The foundation of MSU Denver’s financial well-being is the base amount it gets from the state each year and it has consistently fought to increase its base. The new formula will not fix the financial problems that MSU Denver has until the base is adjusted. Several other university CFOs want to present a unified front at CDHE to send the message that the formula needs work and that all the universities oppose putting more money through the new formula. Under the new formula, those institutions will not fare as well as MSU Denver, and their CFOs would like MSU Denver to join them in unanimously opposing the new formula, and in return have suggested they would support MSU Denver’s efforts to increase its base.

Ms. Staberg noted that the formula moves money more slowly, over time, than if MSU Denver were to get a new base allocation.

Ms. Staberg stated that the university CFOs do not get to make the decision on how the funding is spent. They can support MSU Denver receiving $5 million in its base, but she said that JBC members have expressed no interest in that solution. The formula is tied to metrics that the legislators can track and it is more transparent than an across-the-board increase. Ultimately, the decision is the legislature’s with the Governor’s blessing. For this reason, all avenues must be pursued simultaneously.

President Davidson said that the formula represents simple math: the more money that goes to the formula, the better MSU Denver does. At the same time, the institution’s message to the legislature, that if MSU Denver’s base is increased by $7 million, it will avoid having to raise tuition. Otherwise, it will be forced to increase tuition by 7%.

G. AHEC Board Report

Trustee Berman, MSU Denver’s representative on the AHEC Board presented to the Trustees. Trustee Berman thanked Colleen Walker, CEO of AHEC, for the amazing job she is doing. Each institution on the Auraria campus, CCD, CU Denver, and MSU Denver, are represented on the AHEC board by either their chancellor, president, board member, or, in the case of CU Denver, a regent. In addition there are three gubernatorial appointees who are community members. The gubernatorial appointees are expected to be unbiased and are the only members chosen to serve as chair of the board.

Each AHEC institution has a neighborhood and a shared core, and maintenance of buildings in the shared core has been deferred. Many buildings in the shared core are predominantly used by MSU Denver. They are in need of repair but there are no resources to make those repairs. President Walker is working on a new strategic plan for AHEC and is collaborating with MSU Denver to address the infrastructure needs faced.

CU Denver will build a dorm and is breaking ground in the next few months. The CU Board of Regents unilaterally approved a modification to the plan. The number of rooms has increased, and the plan now allows up to three beds per room. This modification will greatly increase the number of students housed by the dorm. Having a dorm on campus increases the need for security services and policing.

**VI. PRESENTATION** (out of order)

A. AHEC Presentation

Ms. Walker presented the history of the Auraria neighborhood, which existed prior to the establishment of Denver. Although Denver emerged as Colorado’s capital city in in April 1860, Auraria would continue as a small city for more than 100 years, known from its earliest days as a place of diversity.

Ms. Walker listed the AHEC projects that need state funding. Project A was a tremendous success. AHEC received $19 million to convert the original steam heating system to natural gas. The next element, Project B, will be presented to the Capital Development Committee, and is related to the replacement of all the aging HVAC systems in 11 buildings. Those original systems were rated for 25 years and are now at approximately 45 years. Multiple leaks have occurred costing tens of thousands of dollars, so the ask will be for complete replacement of those systems for modern energy efficiency.

Project C is for building envelopes, roofs, windows, and doors.

Project D is to improve ADA access.

All these projects together will save $1 million to $2 million annually in energy efficiency.

At this point, the legislature has ranked the projects enumerated by Ms. Walker below the funding line. The projects will not receive funding unless lobbying is ramped up. President Davidson said that bringing members of the Capital Development Committee to campus helped increase awareness and build an appetite for moving MSU Denver above the funding line. She pointed out that the manner in which projects are ranked for funding has historically rewarded poor stewardship of state assets, and that the pathology in state scoring is beginning to show. The institution is making the case to the legislature that the savings it could have on the back side should count, and that over a five-year period they would amount to approximately $10 million.

**REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS (continued)**

H. Alumni Representative Report

Alumni Representative Joe Rice said that the Alumni Association and the exceptional staff in the Alumni Office are working diligently on President Davidson’s first priority, which is to increase student recruitment. There were originally 46 alumni volunteer admissions ambassadors; now there are 180. A training is scheduled for January 15. Quite significant is the Finish Line Scholarship which the Alumni Board oversees. The corpus is $262,000, with $130,000 in the payout account. Approximately $15,000 annually is added to that and the Alumni Association is determining the best use of those funds. MSU Navigators contact dropouts or former students who are not currently enrolled and offer awards of between $1,000 and 5,000 to those who could finish their degree within two semesters. Hence, “Finish Line Scholarships.”

Mug Club raised $29,264 for student scholarships.

A hiring event was held at MSU Denver with Lockheed Martin which resulted in 13 new employees, six full-time offers, and seven paid internships.

The Alumni Association would like to build awareness around the $20 million multi-year contract with NASA, as a supplier to Lockheed Martin and other aerospace companies as well, that would transform MSU Denver into a service provider, students would do research, engineering, and build products that would go into spacecraft. MSU Denver was in a position to become a provider to the national aerospace industry because it had attained HSI status.

I. Faculty Trustee Report

Faculty Trustee Chris Harder had nothing to report at this time.

J. Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Addy Awosanya reported that SGA has worked this semester to increase awareness of the number of students who are housing- and food-insecure. SGA President Braeden Weart designed a campaign to place flags on the lawn in front of the Student Success Building posting the number of students who are experiencing homelessness or hunger.

SGA donated $200 every month to the Food Pantry, and celebrated Homeless Awareness Week.

Next semester’s goals include better serving students of color and DACA students.

An election will be held next semester. Students who have transferred in and want to participate in SGA have brought attention to a requirement in SGA’s constitution which prevents them from participating in SGA until they have completed nine credits. SGA is now considering opening up SGA to half-time and full-time students, and will put this out in a referendum to the student body.

K. Student Government Report

Student Government Assembly President Braeden Weart reported that a few students came to the homelessness awareness events to share their story about homelessness and food insecurity, issues that SGA hopes to minimize.

L. Faculty Senate Report

Faculty Senate President Katia Campbell highlighted policies passed by Faculty Senate, which include an honorary degree for terminally ill students. A new Incomplete policy also passed. Under the prior policy, students with a grade of Incomplete defaulted automatically to a grade of F at the end of the year. Under the new policy, the instructor may give the student the grade he or she would have received at the time they withdrew from the class, if they submitted no further assignments. This arrangement allows a student’s financial aid to continue without being impacted by the grade of F. The change will impact enrollment very positively.

Lastly, Dr. Campbell stated that the IP policy passed after 14 years working on it.

M. Athletics Update

MSU Denver will host the NCAA Volleyball National Championships on campus next week in the PE Events Center. The Board will visit the PE Events Center as part of their campus tour following this meeting.

Basketball games will begin to be aired on Channel 20 at 7:00 this evening. This will be the first of five basketball games to be broadcast on television and will highlight the University’s Athletics programs. Alumni and students are involved in production of the series.

The Athletics Auction is scheduled for May 29.

N. President’s Report

President Davidson thanked Ms. Walker for her presentation on AHEC. At the retreat the Board began rethinking this campus and its infrastructure with a different lens, linking its own neighborhood with Auraria. The Board, she said, would like to continue its master plan refresh to work in sync with Auraria’s master plan.

The Senate candidates are going to be brought to campus for fireside chats, not a formal debate. Governor Hickenlooper has already come to campus and the students are engaged in hosting these and doing the interviewing. This is another example of how civically engaged the University and its students are and care about the future of Colorado and the country. There will be a list of dates for those who would like to attend.

Our commencement speaker is Admiral Jim Stavridis, a retired 4-star admiral, supreme allied commander of Europe, who MSU Denver would like to award an honorary MBA degree, which requires Board approval.

1. Approval of Award of Honorary MBA Degree to Admiral Stavridis

Trustee Grogan **moved to appro**ve the award of an honorary MBA degree to Admiral Stavridis, **with a second** by Trustee Noles. The motion was approved unanimously.

**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

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

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