

University of Central Missouri
Board of Governors
March 16, 2017
Work Session

The University of Central Missouri (UCM) Board of Governors convened in Work Session on Thursday, March 16, 2017, at 10:30 a.m. in University Union 237A on UCM's main campus in Warrensburg, Missouri. Presiding over the meeting was Board President Gus Wetzel II. Also in attendance were Governors John Collier, Mary Long, Mary Dandurand, Weldon Brady, Marvin E. Wright, Walter Hicklin, and Mathew Martinez. University President Charles Ambrose; Associate General Counsel Lindsay Chapman; Assistant Secretary to the Board Monica Huffman; and Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE) Commissioner Zora Mulligan were also present.

Call to Order – Agenda Item No. 1

Dr. Wetzel called the meeting to order and determined a quorum was present to conduct business. He asked Dr. Ambrose to introduce our guest.

Missouri Higher Education – Agenda Item No. 2

President Ambrose introduced MDHE Commissioner Zora Mulligan. Following his introduction, Board members introduced themselves and shared information about their length of service on the Board. As part of Ms. Mulligan's presentation (attached), she discussed the Higher Education System Mission Review, legislative issues, and the impact of State's budget on higher education.

Ms. Mulligan stated a task force was established to conduct the Higher Education System Review, and that its charge was to review the overall structure of Missouri's system of higher education and the demand for and supply of postsecondary education. Its charge was also to assess the Coordinating Board's current mission approval structure and recommend changes to, or replacement of, that model; recommend revisions to the Coordinating Board policies both as they relate to future mission reviews and program approval; and to recommend statutory changes as needed to enable the implementation of the revised system of institutional missions and program approval processes. Ms. Mulligan noted that legislation is required to enact task force recommendations.

Mr. Wright asked who served on the task force. Ms. Mulligan responded that there was representation from both the four-year and two-year higher education institutions. President Ambrose represented UCM.

Ms. Mulligan said as part of the basic principles of the mission review there may be situations in which an institution needs to offer a program outside its current mission to meet a workforce need. In these instances, the most efficient, high-quality way to offer that new program is typically through collaboration with an institution that already offers it. Dr. Wetzel noted that some public colleges collaborate with private institutions rather than public four-years and questioned whether it is more expensive to do so. Ms. Mulligan stated that two-year institutions experience greater flexibility collaborating with private institutions versus public. President Ambrose added private schools seem to be competitively priced and in some instances offer even greater discounts than public four-year institutions.

Ms. Mulligan also provided an overview of proposed legislation related to higher education including bills that address the questions of “Is a degree worth it?” and “Are campuses safe for liberals and conservatives?”

With regard to the budget and next steps, Ms. Mulligan said program review across campuses continue and provisional approvals of academic programs may be given. However, the Coordinating Board will consider no more than three proposals, in total, to offer a degree outside an institution’s state-defined mission in Year 1; and will consider no more than five proposals, in total, to offer a degree outside an institution’s state-defined mission in Year 2. The Coordinating Board will reconvene a task force to evaluate the new framework after two proposal cycles and recommend changes at that time. Other steps include review of administrative costs, shared services and procurement, regulatory relief, and employee benefits.

President Ambrose asked Ms. Mulligan if she has a prediction of where Missouri higher education is headed in the future. Ms. Mulligan said MDHE is still working to identify Governor Greiten’s priorities. He values education, but questions who should pay for it and if institutions are disciplined in expending funds. The Governor indicated he will make individual decisions about the appropriation of funds, and stated he expects higher education institutions to cap tuition at the C.P.I. and to not request tuition waivers. Ms. Mulligan added that the 10% funding cut for FY 18 is affecting institutions differently. The funding model has treated schools as though they are the same and provided the same percentage of funding across-the-board, when, in fact, colleges and universities are different in many respects.

In closing her presentation, Ms. Mulligan reviewed UCM’s place in the state, noting the University has had the largest increase in enrollment growth over the past five years.

President Ambrose thanked Ms. Mulligan and presented her with a token of appreciation.

Request for Closed Session – March 16, 2017 – Agenda Item No. 3

Dr. Long moved pursuant to the Missouri Revised Statutes, Section 610.021, that the UCM Board of Governors meet in closed meeting, with closed record and closed vote, for the purpose of considering real estate matters, legal actions, and personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Ms. Collier and carried with the following roll call vote:

<i>John Collier</i>	<i>aye</i>	<i>Weldon Brady</i>	<i>aye</i>
<i>Mary Dandurand</i>	<i>aye</i>	<i>Walter Hicklin</i>	<i>aye</i>
<i>Marvin E. Wright</i>	<i>aye</i>	<i>Gus Wetzal</i>	<i>aye</i>
<i>Mary Long</i>	<i>aye</i>		

The meeting concluded at 12:00 noon.