Discussion Items

Board of Governors and Administration Self-Evaluation Results

Ms. Elizabeth Walker, Board Counsel, led discussion on the results of the fourth annual self-evaluation that was conducted on an aggregated and anonymous basis. The results revealed that the Board believes as a group it works well together as a team and cooperatively with the president of the institution. The Board will develop its 2005-2006 goals during the Retreat on October 21.

Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE)

At the September 20, 2005 Board of Governors meeting, Mr. Merle Dempsey, Executive Vice President, provided information to the Board on the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE).

CCSSE assesses the extent to which students are engaged in good educational practices at community and technical colleges. Student engagement is considered the amount of time and energy that students invest in meaningful educational practices.

CCSSE results help colleges focus on good educational practice defined as practice that promotes high levels of student learning and retention, and identify areas in which community colleges can improve their programs and services to students. Each year, CCSSE releases the results of its survey, which is administered directly to community college students at CCSSE member colleges during randomly selected classes.

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Discussion Continued

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The survey asks questions about institutional practices and student behaviors that are highly correlated with student learning and retention. Results include national benchmarks and institutional benchmark scores for five key areas of engagement.

Mr. Dempsey discussed the summary of Southern’s results with the group. He plans to share Southern’s data, both strengths and weaknesses, with faculty, staff, and students.

Akers, Huffman, Kostas Reappointed to Board

West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin reappointed Linda Akers, Shelley Huffman, and George Kostas to Southern’s Board of Governors. Each served on the Board until their term expired on June 30 of this year. They will serve another four-year term ending June 30, 2009.

Mrs. Patricia Cutlip administered the Oath of Office to the returning members before the full Board on October 20, 2005.

Ms. Akers currently serves as Chair of the Board of Governors. Both Ms. Huffman and Mr. Kostas are past Board chairs.

Huffman Receives Special Recognition

In recognition of her service and commitment to Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College, President Joanne Jaeger Tomblin presented the Board of Governors Chairman’s Award, an inscribed crystal Victoria Pedestal Bowl, to Ms. Shelley Huffman, past Board chair.
President’s Report

President Joanne Tomblin updated the Board on relevant institutional developments:

1. President Tomblin and Vice President for Economic, Workforce, and Community Development, Allyn Sue Barker, participated in a workforce development event host by the Appalachian Regional Commission on September 22, 2005 at Zane State College in Zanesville, Ohio. They joined other representatives from the Association of Community Colleges of Appalachia, the region’s Workforce Investment boards, and private industry for a discussion of community-based workforce development efforts in Appalachia. The forum, focusing on Best Practices and an Overview of the President’s Job Training Programs, aims to help community colleges in developing more competitive proposals for Department of Labor workforce development programs.

2. One-on-one confidential meetings are being conducted with a cross section of employees to discuss issues and concerns as well as obtain responses to the goals and plans for the College. President Tomblin will continue these conferences throughout the academic year.

3. President Tomblin served as the guest speaker for the Vandalia Rotary Club of Charleston on October 5th. She presented an overview of the College and shared information about new programs at the College.

4. Fundraising continues for the Major Gifts Campaign through a variety of activities. The president has mailed personal letters and packets to four potential major donors. To date, employee contributions total $109,000.

5. President Tomblin attended the Land Use Management forum on September 23 hosted by the Corridor G Regional Development Authority.

6. High school and middle school visits are underway.

7. The Adult Recruitment Team is developing a visitation schedule for the fall.

8. Marshall University President, Steven Kopp, and Board of Governors member, Robert Shell, traveled to Southern on October 19 to meet with President Tomblin and key administrators to discuss the possibility of providing additional opportunities for students.

9. The Economic, Workforce, and Community Development Unit hosted its annual Business Appreciation Dinner on October 18, 2005 at the Earl Ray Tomblin Convention Center. The black tie event was well attended.

10. The Williamson Campus Task Force is preparing to conduct community surveys.

11. Progress continues on the construction of the Center for Allied Health and Technology. A field trailer is on-site and work has begun on the reconfiguration of Dempsey Branch Road.

12. The 2006 Harmony Week Luncheon is scheduled for March 3 at the Earl Ray Tomblin Convention Center.

13. On October 19, 2005, President Tomblin and West Virginia University officials, Dr. Eugene Cilento and Dr. Gerald Lang, established a 2-plus-3 program between Southern and the West Virginia University College of Engineering and Mineral Resources that provides an opportunity for students who achieve an A.S. degree in the University Parallel Pre-Engineering option from Southern to transfer into a B.S. degree program in engineering at West Virginia University.

Other

Chair Akers appointed a committee to conduct the one-year written evaluation of President Tomblin as delegated by the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education in Title 135, Procedural Rule, Series 5, Guidelines for Governing Boards in Employing and Evaluating Presidents. The committee consists of the current Board chairs: Linda Akers, Shelley Huffman, and George Kostas, and Board member James Sheatsley.

Next Meeting

The next Board of Governors meeting is scheduled for November 29, 2005, in Room 433 at Southern’s Williamson Campus, 1601 Armory Drive, Williamson, West Virginia.