



NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Notice is hereby given this third day of April 2025, that the Board of Governors of Southeast Missouri State University will hold a meeting beginning at 9:30 am, on Friday, April 4, 2025 in the Academic Hall Board Room and Academic Hall Room 143 on the main campus of Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

The tentative agenda for the Board is attached to this notice and includes a vote to close the meeting for consideration of matters authorized by Sections 610.021(1), (2), (3), and (13) of the Revised Statutes of Missouri.

Representatives of the news media may obtain copies of this notice by contacting:

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Christopher R. Martin
Board of Governors' Secretary



SOUTHEAST MISSOURI
STATE UNIVERSITY · 1873[®]

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
9:30 a.m., Friday, April 4, 2025
Academic Hall Conference Room 143*

Open Agenda

1. General Business

(Governor Limbaugh)

- a. Action Item(s)
 - i. Welcome and Call to Order
 - ii. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum
 - iii. Consideration of Minutes of February 12-13, 2025 and February 28, 2025
(Attachment A)

2. University President's Items

(University President Vargas)

- a. Report Item(s)/Information
 - i. Modern Campus Transformational Project: Roy Blunt Health Professions Hall
 - ii. University Deferred Maintenance
- b. Action Item(s)
 - i. Consideration of Authorization to Construct Roy Blunt Health Professions Hall **(Attachment B)**

3. General Business

(Governor Limbaugh)

- a. Action Item(s)
 - i. Convene Closed Session for Appropriate Considerations Pursuant to Sections 610.021(1), (2), (3) and (13) of the Revised Statutes of Missouri
 - ii. Reconvene Open Session
 - iii. Announcements of Actions Taken in Closed Session
 - iv. Adjourn Board of Governors Meeting

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**MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE
SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
HELD ON THE
TWELFTH AND THIRTEENTH DAYS OF FEBRUARY 2025**

The Board of Governors for Southeast Missouri State University convened Open Session on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at approximately 4:01 p.m., in the Academic Hall Board Room on the campus of Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Mr. James P. Limbaugh, President of the Board of Governors called the meeting to order. Governors present were: Mr. James P. Limbaugh, President of the Board of Governors; Mr. Lloyd F. Smith, Vice President of the Board of Governors; Dr. Maureen Clancy-May, Mrs. Tina L. Klocke, Mr. David C. Martin; Dr. Andrew J. Moore; and Mr. Kerry K. Robinson.

Also present was Mr. Christopher R. Martin, Board Secretary and University General Counsel. Board President Limbaugh presided.

CONSIDERATION OF MOTION FOR CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Governor Martin and seconded by Governor Smith to recess the Open Session and convene Closed Executive Session pursuant to Sections 610.021(3) and (13) of the Revised Statutes of Missouri.

A roll call vote was taken. Voting in favor were Governors Limbaugh, Smith, Clancy-May, Klocke, Martin, Moore, and Robinson. The motion carried.

The Open Session was recessed at approximately 4:02 p.m. Board Secretary Martin stated that the Open Session would resume on Thursday, February 13, 2025 following conclusion of the Closed Executive Session.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACTIONS TAKEN IN CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon reconvening the Open Session at approximately 10:18 a.m. on Thursday, February 13, 2025, Board President Limbaugh called on Secretary Martin to make the following announcements regarding the Board's Closed Executive Session:

During Closed Executive Session the Board of Governors conducted the following business:

- During the February 12, 2025 Closed Executive Session the Board of Governors conducted an interview with Dr. Brad Hodson, an applicant for the position of 19th President of Southeast Missouri State University. No action was taken during the Feb. 12 session.
- During the Feb. 12, 2025 Closed Executive Session and by a vote of 7 to 0 the Board voted to recess the Feb. 12 Closed Executive Session and to reconvene Closed Executive Session pursuant to RSMo 610.021(3) and (13) at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 13,

2025. Governors Limbaugh, Smith, Clancy-May, Klocke, Martin, Moore, and Robinson voted to approve.

- During the Feb. 13, 2025 Closed Executive Session and by a vote of 7 to 0 the Board authorized the President of the Board of Governors to extend an offer of employment to Dr. Brad Hodson for the position of 19th President of Southeast Missouri State University and to negotiate an appropriate contract within parameters previously discussed among the Board. Governors Limbaugh, Smith, Clancy-May, Klocke, Martin, Moore, and Robinson voted to approve.
- By a vote of 7 to 0 the Board adjourned the Closed Executive Session and reconvened the Open Session. Governors Limbaugh, Smith, Clancy-May, Klocke, Martin, Moore, and Robinson voted to approve.

CONSIDERATION OF MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Governor Klocke and seconded by Governor Clancy-May to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:20 a.m. on Thursday, February 13, 2025.

Christopher R. Martin
Secretary, Board of Governors

APPROVED:

James P. Limbaugh, President
Board of Governors
Southeast Missouri State University

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE
SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
HELD ON THE
TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025**

The Board of Governors for Southeast Missouri State University convened Open Session on Friday, February 28, 2025, at approximately 9:00 a.m., in the Academic Hall Board Room on the campus of Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, MO. Mr. James P. Limbaugh, President of the Board of Governors called the meeting to order. Governors present were: Mr. James P. Limbaugh, President of the Board of Governors; Mr. Lloyd F. Smith, Board Vice President; Dr. Maureen Clancy-May; Mrs. Tina L. Klocke; Mr. David C. Martin; Dr. Andrew J. Moore; Mr. Kerry K. Robinson; and Mr. Clayton Eftink, Student Representative. Quorum having been established, Board President Limbaugh welcomed those in attendance and outlined the Board's various agendas for the meeting.

Also present were: Dr. Carlos Vargas, President of Southeast Missouri State University; members of Executive Staff, including, Dr. Doug Koch, Dr. Debbie Below, Ms. Tonya Wells, Ms. Diana Harley, Mr. Brady Barke, Mr. Dan Presson, and Mr. Wendell Snodgrass. Other attendees included Dr. Bruce Skinner, Ms. Lenell Hahn, Mr. Floyd Davenport, Mr. Bill Green, Ms. Angela Meyer, Ms. Amy Napper, Ms. Holly Bauwens, student Lauren Eftink, and representatives from Student Government and Faculty Senate. Mr. Christopher R. Martin, Board Secretary and University General Counsel; and Mr. Al Spradling, Legal Counsel, were present too. Board President Limbaugh presided.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Prior to beginning the formal agenda, Board President Limbaugh welcomed Dr. Maureen Clancy-May of St. Louis, MO, as a new member to the Board of Governors. In welcoming Dr. Clancy-May, Board President Limbaugh read the following introduction:

Dr. Clancy-May was appointed to the Board of Governors by Missouri Governor Michael L. Parson in December 2024 and she was confirmed by the Missouri Senate on January 23, 2025.

Dr. Clancy-May earned her Bachelor of Arts in Teaching Exceptional Children in 1979 at Southeast Missouri State University. She then completed a Master's degree in education administration at the University Missouri St. Louis and a Ph.D. in education administration from St. Louis University. She has served in public K-12 education for over 40 years as a special education teacher, middle school principal, assistant superintendent, superintendent of schools in the St. Louis region, and a state supervisor for instruction for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Dr. Clancy-May has been actively engaged with SEMO since graduation. She has served on the Alumni Association Board, the Work Force Development

Committee, was the keynote speaker for SEMO's Power of Women Event, and prior to joining the Board of Governors she was serving as the Chair of the Southeast Missouri University Foundation Board. She has been a recipient of the Southeast Salutes Award in 2003 and the Alumni Merit Award in 2011.

Maureen and her husband, Ken Ballheimer, have a blended and joyful family of 4 sons, 2 daughters, and 13 grandchildren scattered in Chicago, St. Louis, San Antonio, Springfield MO, Eureka, and Cottleville, MO.

Board President Limbaugh then welcomed The Honorable Abbie Crites-Leoni, United States Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court, Eastern District of Missouri, and Southeast alumna and former President of the Southeast Alumni Association, to administer the oath of office.

Following the swearing in, the assembled group welcomed Dr. Clancy-May to the Board of Governors.

Before proceeding to the agenda, Board President Limbaugh offered congratulatory remarks to Board Vice President Lloyd Smith for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award at Senator Jason Bean's Taste of the South event, to the Men's Basketball team for winning the OVC regular season conference title, and to the track program.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board President Limbaugh introduced consideration of approval of the Open Session minutes from the December 12, 2024 work session and the December 13, 2024 Open Session Meeting.

A motion was made by Governor Smith and seconded by Governor Robinson to approve the open session minutes of December 12 and 13, 2024 [Attachment A]. The motion carried unanimously.

BOARD INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

As informational items, the board was provided a copy of the November 21, 2024 and January 29, 2025 Board Executive Committee minutes (Attachment B).

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT'S ITEMS

Consideration of Naming Related to University Observatory

Board President Limbaugh called on University President Vargas to present a motion to approve naming the new observatory the "Vollink Family Observatory" in recognition of major gift from Mr. and Mrs. Dennis and Kathy Vollink and direct the Southeast Missouri University Foundation and University administration to affix appropriate signage on or near the exterior of the facility regarding the same. [Exhibit 1]

A motion was made by Governor Smith and seconded by Governor Clancy-May to approve naming the new observatory the “Vollink Family Observatory” in recognition of major gift from Mr. and Mrs. Dennis and Kathy Vollink and direct the Southeast Missouri University Foundation and University administration to affix appropriate signage on or near the exterior of the facility regarding the same [Exhibit 1]. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Demolition of Buildings

Board President Limbaugh called on University President Vargas to present a motion to approve the demolition of four (4) vacant and offline University structures, Henderson Hall and three (3) International Village buildings (Cottages C, D, and E). [Exhibit 2]

University President Vargas shared pictures of the current condition of the buildings proposed for demolition and explained that the estimated cost to renovate the buildings would likely exceed \$13 million as opposed to less than \$1 million to demolish them. University President Vargas further explained that demolishing the proposed buildings will result in savings to the university in the form of reduced maintenance, repair, and insurance expenditures.

A motion was made by Governor Robinson and seconded by Governor Clancy-May to approve the demolition of four (4) vacant and offline University structures, Henderson Hall and three (3) International Village buildings (Cottages C, D, and E) [Exhibit 2]. The motion carried unanimously.

University President’s Report

Board President Limbaugh called upon University President Vargas to deliver his University President’s Report. University President Vargas referred Governors to a print-out of division highlights and accomplishments as provided by members of Executive Staff, which included the following:

- On Jan. 24, I traveled to Jefferson City to meet with Governor Kehoe and other presidents and chancellors to discuss the Governor’s FY26 budget proposals for higher education.
- The SEMO Cyber Defense team has once again claimed the Missouri championship title at the Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (CCDC). SEMO now holds 12 statewide titles in the CCDC, furthering its reputation as a powerhouse in cybersecurity. The team will advance to the regional competition at Purdue University Northwest later this spring.
- The Office of Career Services at Southeast Missouri State University hosted the Spring Career Expo on Wednesday, February 26th. This event saw over 135 local, regional, and national employers connect with SEMO students and alumni at the Show Me Center.
- The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri will host the sixth annual Federal Justice Fellowship this summer, July 7-August 1. The program offers rising college juniors and seniors a front row seat to the operations of the federal judicial system right here in Cape Girardeau at the Rush Hudson Limbaugh, Sr., United States Courthouse. Up to six students will be selected to participate in the program, and a small stipend is provided for those selected. The success of the Federal Justice Fellowship is

attributed to Judge Abbie Crites-Leoni and other partners at the federal courthouse who work with SEMO faculty and staff to promote the opportunity and encourage student participation.

- On Jan. 29, Dr. Debbie Below announced her retirement effective June 30. Dr. Bruce Skinner will serve as interim vice president of Enrollment Management and Student Success, effective July 1. Dr. Below and Dr. Skinner will begin their transition Mar. 1.
- Dr. Joe Pujol, dean of the College of Education, Health, and Human Studies has announced he will step down from the dean role effective June 30. Dr. Melissa Odegard will serve as interim EHHS dean, effective July 1. Dr. Odegard is currently serving as interim vice provost. Dr. Michelle Brune will assume the role of interim vice provost, effective July 1. They will begin their transition Mar. 1.
- During the spring semester, the Division of Economic and Workforce Development and the Regional Professional Development Center (RPDC) worked with the College of Education, Health, and Human Studies faculty to create for-credit pathways for early career teachers pursuing Missouri Teacher Development System (MTDS) and Beginning Teacher Assistance Program (BTAP). There are over 200 students registered in these programs through the RPDC.
- The table below provides a sample summary of activities, events, and meetings that the University President engaged in since the last Board meeting:

Engagement	No. of Engagements	Sampling of Engagements
Student Events	9	Athletic Events, Events, River Campus Events, Redhawks Spring Kickoff Event, TRIO Celebration, Black Student Union Event
OVC & NCAA Meetings	2	Committees & Presidents'
Community Visits/Events	14	Alumni/Donor engagement, Coffee with the President in St. Louis, Industry Meetings/Tours, Mercy events, Jackson School's event, Cape School's event, Rotary, Boy Scout events on campus, Athletic Hall of Fame Induction, Campaign Steering Committee
Legislative Outreach & State Higher Ed Meetings	2	Meeting with Legislators, Presidents' Meeting with Gov. Kehoe
Board Meetings	5	SEMO REDI, HETS, Cape Chamber, SEMO Alumni Assoc., Boy Scouts

- The Criminal Justice programs (undergraduate and graduate) are among the most successful in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. To build on that success, Dr. Brian Donavant (Department Chair) and the faculty have made important curricular improvements. At the graduate level, they have eliminated unnecessary barriers in the admissions process and have moved the program fully to 8-week courses to provide more on-ramps for prospective students and to allow students (including working professionals) to concentrate on a fewer number of courses at any one time. At the undergraduate level, they have created greater coherence in the course offerings,

increased the rigor of the program with additional upper-division hours, and developed a new experiential learning capstone requirement. They also have structured the major in such a way that when the university is prepared to put forward reduced-credit hour degrees, this one is ready to go. And, for both programs, they have made changes to make it easier for students to receive prior learning credit that can be applied to their degree.

- The Athletic Training Education Program has received full accreditation for five years. The program was originally an undergraduate program, but the accrediting body (Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education or CAATE) required that all athletic training programs must transition to a master's degree level by 2022. The university began to enroll students in the Master of Science in Athletic Training two years ago. This is the initial accreditation for the master's program.
- Dr. Zach Cao and accounting majors in his undergraduate and graduate-level taxation courses are currently offering free tax preparation services to qualified residents in the region. Their volunteer efforts are part of the IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Nationally, the VITA program has existed for over 50 years. VITA sites, including our location in Dempster Hall, offer free tax help to people who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns, including people who generally make \$67,000 or less, persons with disabilities, and taxpayers with limited English-speaking abilities. Last year, Southeast students prepared 27 returns for local taxpayers and saved them approximately \$6,750 in tax preparation fees. According to estimates provided by the IRS, the services of these students had an overall economic impact valued at \$207,630.
- The students of the MK443 Integrated Marketing Communications or IMC Practicum course (Fall 2024), taught by Dr. Sandy Sen from the Department of Marketing, partnered with the Cape Girardeau Chamber of Commerce to create an IMC campaign for the Young Professionals of Cape Area. Some of the advertising from the campaign and course assignments were entered into the American Advertising Awards (ADDY Awards) competition organized by St. Louis Ad Club. The university was notified that the material developed as part of the campaign and course assignments are winners of six ADDY Awards.
- From January 1, Dr. Edward Crowley led 15 students from various colleges on an 11-day study trip to Japan. Ten of the students had never left the country, and three had never flown before. Organized by International Business Programs, the trip included business and cultural exploration in Tokyo and Kyoto. Students met representatives from diverse industries (technology, manufacturing, retail, energy, music, and film) and visited a Tokyo business incubator with an AI language-translation startup. They also explored various cultural, religious, and tourist attractions.
- Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) has enhanced its engineering education programs with a donation of approximately \$160,000 in equipment from the OMRON Foundation. This donation allows SEMO's Department of Engineering and Technology to provide students with modern automation technology for hands-on learning, preparing them for the engineering field. The donation supports SEMO's objective of integrating classroom learning with practical applications. Students have the opportunity to work with OMRON's technology, aligning with SEMO's goal of offering career-focused education.

- Sunday, February 2, over 200 high school teachers, students and their families attended the 47th Annual Juried High School Exhibition hosted by the Crisp Museum and the Department of Art + Design. High school juniors and seniors from nineteen schools entered works in painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, photography and more.
- The Department of Music is gearing up for an incredible semester of performances that will invite thousands of people to the River Campus. The annual Clark Terry Jazz Festival had 22 schools from Missouri represented, the Honor Band Festival had over 400 nominations and has invited over 200 students to campus, the Southeast Symphony Orchestra March concert will feature three SEMO student soloists – winners of the Concerto and Aria competition – as well as music from everyone’s favorite Film scores, and our Opera program just finished their run of *Hansel and Gretel*, which hosted over 400 area students for an Opera in Schools performance and had nearly 600 patrons at their two shows.
- The Dobbins Conservatory successfully produced the *Winter Dance Collection* the week of February 6. The concert included choreography from students, faculty and a guest artist. They opened *Girlhood*, a new original play selected from The Lanford Wilson New American Play Festival’s summer 2024 season on February 27.
- The Regional Campuses continue enhancing visibility and outreach through targeted events and advertising initiatives. In collaboration with Admissions, Student Financial Services, and TRIO/Educational Access Programs, both campuses hosted Paying for College workshops to provide prospective students with essential financial aid information.
- Through a partnership with SEMO Dining and Residence Life, the University is repurposing unused meal plans to invite faculty, staff, and graduate assistants to join students for "FlyDay Fuel" each Friday during lunch. Faculty, staff, and graduate assistants can join students in a residential dining venue for lunch. The program began the first week of spring classes and has grown in popularity each week. More than 200 employees have participated in the FlyDay Fuel program and joined students for lunch at Towers Landing, Copper Dome Café, or St. Vincent’s Commons.
- On January 8, Faculty Development Day was dedicated to new student recruitment. Faculty from each college shared their best practices and the admissions team communicated several ways faculty can support recruitment. The presentations were attended by more than 80 faculty.
- The Office of Admissions has modernized campus visit offerings. The Merick Hall demo room was moved to provide a view of the football stadium and our interior design staff completed a room makeover. Show Me Day underwent major enhancements based on survey evaluations from families and collaboration with faculty on campus. A partnership with athletics resulted in 84 families attending the SEMO football game as a part of their Show Me Day experience in November. We increased on-campus visit attendance this fall by 6% from August 1 to December 15 through personal tours, groups tours and our special event offerings.
- President’s Scholarship, our most prestigious award valued at \$43,000 over four years, attracted over 400 applicants with 122 finalists interviewed. Our five recipients include Kaylee Horn majoring in psychology from Marquette HS in Ballwin, MO; Samantha Taylor majoring in chemistry from Parkway Central HS in Chesterfield, MO; Theo Rickert majoring in musical theatre from Belleville West in Belleville, IL; Simon Lanter

majoring in music education from Springfield HS in Springfield, IL; and Isabella Pittman majoring in nursing from Dexter HS in Dexter, MO.

- Southeast Missouri State University proudly served as a premier sponsor at foundation events for our top feeder high schools, fostering stronger partnerships and reinforcing valuable relationships. We had the pleasure of attending Notre Dame's Winter Extravaganza, Jackson's Red and Black Affair and Cape's Penguin Party. Graduates from each high school who are current SEMO students joined us to celebrate these schools.
- Admissions, Marketing and Student Financial Services have partnered to increase Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) filing rates for admitted first-year students. We have hosted five Paying for College Workshops, two Redhawk Discovery FAFSA Overview Webinars, offered over two months of 1:1 virtual evening and weekend FAFSA Help appointments, published newspaper ads and press releases to promote Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Professionals (MASFAP) Week of Action virtual and in person events, conveyed the importance on the FAFSA on social media, scheduled 1:1 financial aid meetings as a part of families campus visit experience, and communicated directly by phone, email and SMS with our students, their parents and school counselors. These efforts are resulting in week over week improvements towards the goal.
- The Office of Marketing & Communications, SEMO Athletics, and SEMO's academic colleges partnered to spotlight the University's exceptional academic programs at home basketball games throughout February. Three academic colleges—the College of STEM, the College of Education, Health, and Human Studies, and the Dobbins Conservatory of Theatre & Dance—hosted exclusive *College Night at SEMO Basketball* events, offering an engaging experience for prospective students, current students, and alumni. Attendees enjoyed a tailgate between the women's and men's games, where hands-on activities provided an interactive showcase of SEMO's top-tier academic offerings. Hundreds attended and, faculty and current students had the opportunity to connect directly with future Redhawks, sharing insights into SEMO's programs and the opportunities available.
- The contract with ABM for custodial services has been extended for one year, effective immediately. The new contract contains greater accountability measures. This extension will continue custodial services and give ABM the opportunity to address performance concerns and meet the university's expectations.
- Brandt Hall will be taken offline effective fall 2025. The Department of Criminal Justice, Social Work, and Sociology will move to the lower level of Grauel in the space currently occupied by the Department of Mass Media. Mass Media will relocate to the main floor of Grauel in space currently occupied by Department of English graduate assistants who will be relocated to other offices on the floor. The only other remaining individuals housed in Brandt are four faculty members in the Department of History and Anthropology who will move to Rhodes Hall, providing improved proximity to lab space they will share with STEM faculty. Some Department of Music practice rooms are also located in Brandt, and we are currently assessing alternative locations that would be more convenient for students.
- SEMO Athletics partnered with Mid-America Transplant for its Donate Life basketball games on Feb. 20. The Donate Life games raise awareness for the importance of organ and tissue donation. As part of Mid-America Transplant's partnership with SEMO, the

basketball teams wore special blue and green uniforms to represent the Donate Life colors.

- Southeast Missouri Athletics held its Hall of Fame Dinner & Induction Ceremony on Friday, Feb. 14 at the Show Me Center. The five-member 2024 Hall of Fame Class included Zach Borowiak (Baseball, 2000-03), Antonius Cleveland (Men's Basketball, 2013-17), Paul Ebaugh (Football, 1962, 1964-66; Track & Field, 1963, 1965-67), Emily (Scannell) Brune (Volleyball, 2000-03) and Carroll Williams (Golf Coach, 1968-75, 1990-05; Basketball Coach, 1975-81; Director of Athletics, 1997-99). The 2010 Football Team, which was honored during the Fall 2024, was also officially part of the class.
- John Klein was hired as Southeast Missouri's Head Women's Soccer Coach. Klein, who agreed to a three-year contract through 2027, becomes just the second head coach in SEMO women's soccer history. A native of St. Louis, Klein joins the Redhawks from Columbia College where he was the head coach of the men's and women's soccer teams.
- Men's Basketball team has secured at least a share of the 2024-25 OVC regular season championship and will receive a double bye in the conference tournament, which will take place March 5-8 in Evansville, IN. The regular season title is the program's first since the 1999-2000 season.
- Earlier this week, the Women's Indoor Track & Field team won the OVC title. This is the fourth OVC title won this year, joining football, volleyball, and Men's basketball as champions this year. For the record, SEMO has now won 34 OVC titles since the 2019-20 year.
- *Transforming Lives* Campaign has raised \$51,297,200, which is 85.5% of goal. The *Transforming Lives* Campaign steering committee met on January 30. The campaign continues to run ahead of schedule for completion date.
- Drs. Pat and Janet Ruopp were announced as the Friends of the University. This will be celebrated at the March 28 President's Council dinner. Also, that evening we will celebrate President's Council and Horizon Club new members and those moving up to new levels.
- Alumni Association Board of Directors met on February 15. New board members announced were: Brandon Krauss '22, Wykeshia Atkins '13, Carly Bowles '06, Amy Carter '00, and Luke LeGrand '19.
- Marketing for the planned giving program continued with an email communication that went to over 20,000 targeted alumni in January. This communication netted 16 new planned gift leads from alumni inquiring about more information.
- Alumni Relations has a full slate of events planned for spring 2025 to meet alumni where they are and engage with them. Alumni events have taken place in St. Louis (1/30) and Dallas (2/20) so far in 2025. More events are planned for the spring in locations such as: Festus, Jackson, Sikeston, St. Louis, Chicago, Tampa and others.
- KRCU surpassed its fundraising goal of \$60,000 for the fall by raising \$60,943 during the fall membership campaign. This figure encompasses membership and KRCU Circle contributions. The station strives to continue to increase membership, circle, and underwriting revenue. KRCU's spring membership campaign will take place April 9 – 16.
- The annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Dinner took place at the Show Me Center on January 23 supported by over \$15,000 in sponsorships. This year's speaker was Zaki Ali, a 1987 graduate of SEMO. During his time at SEMO, Ali was a student-athlete,

playing football under the guidance of Bob Smith, who had previously coached him in high school. Ali began his career as a pharmaceutical representative for Eli Lilly and Company. He worked for six years before his career was halted by tragedy when his mother was wrongfully indicted, tried, convicted, and sentenced to federal prison. This ignited a new determination, and Ali made the decision to return to school once again and is an attorney.

- The Southeast Missouri University Foundation has approved funding in the amount of \$250,000 for the University to purchase a state-of-the-art air traffic control (ATC) simulator. The simulator will be installed this semester in a room in the Seabaugh Polytechnic building. The simulator will be incorporated into the professional pilot classes as it is needed or relevant. The aviation faculty will also utilize it in ground classes to help illustrate air traffic control's role in the National Airspace System. The simulator will also play an important role in the air traffic control program that faculty are developing.

STUDENT PRESENTATION

University President Vargas introduced Ms. Hannah Lynch. Dr. Vargas shared that Hannah is from Pacific, MO and is a graduate student pursuing a Master of Science in Criminal Justice with a certificate in Trauma & Resiliency Studies. He stated that she received her Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and Psychology in May 2023 from Southeast, and that she will graduate with her Masters in May.

Following the introduction, Ms. Lynch was asked to talk about her experience at Southeast.

Ms. Lynch thanked University President Vargas for the invitation and said she was honored to address the Board. She stated she was a first-generation college student and that her high school guidance counselor influenced her decision to attend Southeast. Once at Southeast, she shared that faculty influenced her to stay for her graduate degree. Ms. Lynch commented that while in college, Cape Girardeau has become her home away from home, and she described different activities and causes she was involved in such as Greek Life and volunteering. She complimented the resources available to students in Kent Library and stated that her time at the university had been amazing. Upon graduation, Ms. Lynch shared she plans to work for the St. Louis County Police Department.

Throughout Ms. Lynch's remarks, the Board asked various questions about her volunteer work, her interest in law enforcement, the benefits of pursuing a graduate degree, and other topics. The board thanked Ms. Lynch for her remarks and wished her well in her future endeavors.

REPORT FROM STUDENT GOVERNMENT

University President Vargas introduced Ms. Lydia Pobst, President of the Student Government Association (SGA) to provide an update to the Board.

In her report, Ms. Pobst started by thanking board members for the opportunity to participate as a member of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee. She also congratulated University

President Vargas and stated that students have appreciated his dedication to their success. Next, Ms. Pobst highlighted various activities that she or SGA had participated in throughout the semester such, but not limited to, the Governor's Student Leadership Forum, Dinner with the Deans, and partnering with various nonprofits. She shared that SGA elections will be held in April and that she looks forward to introducing new student leaders to the board at the May meeting.

REPORT FROM FACULTY SENATE

University President Vargas introduced Dr. Jenny Cropp, the 2024-2025 Chair, to provide a report to the Board.

Dr. Cropp shared that Faculty Senate has focused on various legislative items such as a bill that would allow alternative modes of delivery if a faculty member had to be out for just a couple of days, as well as items focusing on the academic calendar and the posting of syllabi on the learning management system. Dr. Cropp noted that committee continues to meet and that the leadership of Faculty Senate continues to enhance the relationship with the other employee groups. Like, SGA President Pobst, Dr. Cropp thanked the Board for the opportunity to participate in the presidential search and to have had the opportunity to represent faculty.

DIVISION UPDATE – FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

University President Vargas introduced Ms. Diana Harley, Interim Vice President for Finance and Administration to provide a division overview to the Board.

Ms. Harley began by providing some brief biographical information and then shared an overview of the units within the division. She stated that the division has worked hard to address personnel vacancies and reported that the budget office is fully staffed, and that good progress is being made in terms of hiring accountants although some hiring challenges remain. Ms. Harley also briefly spoke about the partnership with Protiviti to assist in finance-related operations, and the importance of communication and software implementation to improve operations.

The Board thanked Ms. Harley for her report and encouraged her to continue focusing on personnel and identifying efficiencies.

ACADEMIC & STUDENT ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE ITEMS

Academic Program Changes

Board President Limbaugh called upon Dr. Doug Koch, Interim Provost to present the following academic programs changes for consideration [Attachment D]:

- Approve the deletion of the Minor in Criminal Justice.
- Approve a title change in the Minor in Criminology and Criminal Justice.

A motion was made by Governor Smith and seconded by Governor Robinson to approve the academic program changes [Attachment D]. The motion carried unanimously.

Enrollment Presentation

Board President Limbaugh called on Dr. Debbie Below, Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Success to provide an update on enrollment.

During her presentation, Dr. Below provided a Spring 2025 Census Report and shared an update on Strategic Enrollment Planning Initiatives.

Following the presentation, the Board and Dr. Below engaged in discussion on topics including high school recruitment and recruitment strategies, training for admissions staff, transfer student enrollment, and marketing for academic programs, among other topics.

FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE ITEMS

FY2026 Room and Board Rates

Board President Limbaugh called on Dr. Debbie Below, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Success to present a motion to approve the proposed fiscal year (FY) 2026 Residence Life room and board rates, effective fall 2025. [Attachment E].

Dr. Below referred members to information in the board packet and shared that an average room and board rate increase of 3.3 percent is requested for FY26. She then provided insights into occupancy rates, campus dining, and upcoming changes to various facilities and dining venues on campus.

During discussion, Governor Smith asked Dr. Below to address the concerns of students that reached out to the board regarding meal plans. In response, Dr. Below said that when compared to other institutions, Southeast's costs are affordable and that ultimately the contractual requirements in the agreement between Southeast and Chartwells guides the institution's decisions. Prior to moving on, Student Representative Eftink opined that students will not like the increase and encouraged Dr. Below and University leaders to continue to be transparent with students so they understand the changes and increased costs.

A motion was made by Governor Clancy-May and seconded by Governor Smith to approve the proposed fiscal year (FY) 2026 Residence Life room and board rates, effective fall 2025 [Attachment E]. The motion carried unanimously.

University Banking Services

Board President Limbaugh called on Ms. Diana Harley, Interim Vice President for Finance and Administration to present a motion to approve the award of a contract for University banking services to Commerce Bank for the period July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2029. [Attachment F].

Ms. Harley referred to the materials in the board packet and invited questions. Hearing none, Board President Limbaugh called for a motion.

A motion was made by Governor Robinson and seconded by Governor Klocke to approve the award of a contract for University banking services to Commerce Bank for the period July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2029 [Attachment F]. The motion carried unanimously.

Report Items

Following the action items, the Board heard a progress report on contracts and facilities management from Ms. Angela Meyer, Director of Facilities Management; a Budget to Actual report from Ms. Diana Harley, Interim Vice President for Finance and Administration; and a report on personnel actions for November and December from University President Vargas and Ms. Holly Bauwens, Director of Human Resources.

CONSIDERATION OF MOTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Governor Klocke and seconded by Governor Smith to recess the Open Session and convene Closed Session pursuant to Sections 610.021(1), (2), (3), (13), (19), and (22) of the Revised Statutes of Missouri.

A roll call vote was taken. Voting in favor were Governors Limbaugh, Smith, Clancy-May, Klocke, Martin, Moore, and Robinson. The motion carried.

The Open Session was recessed at approximately 11:59 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACTIONS TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

Upon reconvening the Open Session at approximately 3:00 p.m. Board President Limbaugh called on Secretary Martin to make the following announcements regarding the Board's Closed Session:

During Closed Session the Board of Governors conducted the following business:

- By a vote of 7 to 0 the Board approved the minutes of the Board's December 13, 2024 Closed Session meeting. Governors Limbaugh, Smith, Clancy-May, Klocke, Martin, Moore, and Robinson voted to approve.
- The Board had conversations with legal counsel per RSMo 610.021(1) pertaining to legal matters. No action was taken.
- Pursuant to RSMo 610.021(2) the Board heard a report on a potential development opportunity involving university real estate, the conversation taking place in Closed Session due to the sensitive nature of the topic. No action was taken.

- Pursuant to RSMo 610.021(19) and (22) the Board heard a report on university computer infrastructure and information technology security matters. No action was taken.
- By a vote of 6 to 1 the Board voted to convene Closed Executive Session for relevant considerations pertaining to RSMo 610.021(3) and (13). Governors Limbaugh, Smith, Clancy-May, Klocke, Martin, and Moore voted to approve. Governor Robinson voted in opposition.

During Closed Executive Session the Board of Governors conducted the following business:

- By a vote of 7 to 0 the Board approved the minutes of the Board's December 12, 2024 closed executive session. Governors Limbaugh, Smith, Clancy-May, Klocke, Martin, Moore, and Robinson voted to approve.
- The Board had discussions regarding personnel pursuant to RSMo 610.021(3) and (13). No action was taken.
- By a vote of 6 to 0 the Board adjourned the Closed Executive Session and reconvened the Open Session. Governors Limbaugh, Smith, Clancy-May, Klocke, Martin, and Robinson voted to approve. Governor Moore had to excuse himself from the meeting early due to professional obligations and was not present for the vote.

CONSIDERATION OF MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Governor Smith and seconded by Governor Clancy-May to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:01 p.m.

Christopher R. Martin
Secretary, Board of Governors

APPROVED:

James P. Limbaugh, President
Board of Governors
Southeast Missouri State University



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BOARD OF GOVERNORS

MOTION CONSIDERATION FORM

April 4, 2025

Open Session

I. Motion to be Considered:

Authorize the demolition of Dearmont Complex and the construction of the Roy Blunt Health Professions Hall to be built at 360 Dearmont Circle/916 Normal Ave., Cape Girardeau, MO 63701.


II. Background:

Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) proposes to construct a 3-story, approximate 55,000-sf health sciences building on an existing site, owned by the University, on its main campus in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The existing site currently includes Dearmont Complex (Dearmont). Dearmont is off-line and no longer utilized by the University. Dearmont will be demolished to make way for the Roy Blunt Health Professions Hall. When complete, Blunt Hall will include classrooms, laboratories, gymnasium, offices, and meeting venues to support STEM, health, life, and allied health sciences research and academic programs.

The Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) projects that many of the programs that will be served by Blunt Hall will experience employment growth in Missouri between now and 2030. For example, dietitians and nutritionists (8.72% growth), food scientists and technologists (14.01%), physical therapists (16.62%), athletic trainers (23.63%), and exercise physiologists (11.07%), among other fields and areas of study. Overall, MERIC data project that Healthcare Support Occupations will grow by 11.60% and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupation by 8.70% between now and 2030. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects similar growth at the national level. The Roy Blunt Health Professions Hall will allow SEMO to help meet these workforce needs. In addition, it will ensure students learn in modern

Recommended By:

Student Government _____
Faculty Senate _____
Administrative Council _____
VP, Enroll. Man. & Stu. Suc. _____
VP, Finance & Admin. _____
VP, University Advancement _____

Chairperson _____
Dean _____
Academic Council _____
Provost _____
President  _____

Board Action on: _____
Motion By: _____
Second By: _____
Vote: Yeas: _____ Nays: _____
Abstentions: _____

Postpone: _____
Amend: _____
Disapprove: _____
Approve: _____
Secretary: _____

environments, and provide adequate facilities to expand the University's healthcare and allied health offerings in the years ahead.

The estimated total cost for the Roy Blunt Health Professions Hall project is \$28,478,400, which will be funded by a mix of federal and state funds. Specifically, the project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$10,000,000 with 65 percent (\$18.4 million) financed with non-federal governmental sources. The balance of \$18,478,400 will be paid utilizing capital funds appropriated to SEMO by the State of Missouri for components of the University's Modern Campus Transformational Project.

Beneficiaries of the new Roy Blunt Health Professions Hall will include, but not be limited to: (1) students attending SEMO seeking to pursue a career in a STEM, health and life sciences, or allied health field; (2) practicing professionals seeking continuing education and professional development or opportunities to engage with faculty or students in academic and/or research endeavors; and (3) members of the community that will benefit from a trained healthcare workforce.

If approved, site preparation will begin later this year with demolition of Dearmont to follow, and then construction. It is estimated that construction will be complete by late 2027.