MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF ADVISORS MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, November 17, 2020 AT 5:00 PM
USMSM, TELECONFERENCE

In Attendance By WebEx Video or Phone: Eileen Abel, Joe Anderson, Denise Barnes, Betsy Beise for Mary Ann Rankin, Alan Easterling, Larry Egbert, Rich Fleming, Anthony Foster, Maria Icaza, George Hurlburt, Glen Ives, Tuajuanda Jordan, Chris Kaselemis, Jack Keane, Gary Kessler, Maureen Murphy, Matt Scassero, Mike Schroeder, and Ben Latigo (Ex Officio).

Not in Attendance: JoAnn Boughman, Ellen Herbst (Ex Officio), and Becca Salsbury

Call to Order: The Board was called to order at 5:01 pm by Joe Anderson. Welcome to Eileen Abel, the new USMSM Executive Director. Many thanks to Ben during the interim period. Eileen stated she met with Ben yesterday, who was extremely helpful. In the upcoming weeks, Eileen has asked Jean to set up half hour meetings with each of the BOA members.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the October 20, 2020 meeting were distributed for approval. A motion was made by Jack Keane to approve the minutes and seconded by Maureen Murphy. The motion carried.

BOA Nominating Committee: The nominating committee have met. The committee is comprised of Matt, Mike, Gary, Ben, Jack, and Joe. Jack stated the BOA will be limited to 25 members. The committee reviewed the other regional centers’ board composition and discussed different organizations and possible point of contacts in our region.

A document has been produced that identifies these organizations and potential names that are being considered. Please send names and/or organizations to Joe, Jean, or Ben to be discussed at the next nominating committee meeting.

Update on Strategic Planning Committee:
George reported we had several meetings concerning the development of the strategic plan. Eventually subcommittee reports were being received, so then tasks were subdivided to make it more manageable. The strategic plan has been making progress. Alan is integrating each report into one overall plan. The plan will be released very soon for everybody to review. George would like to schedule a BOA meeting for November 24th, to further discuss the plan with the intent to have it approved before Eileen’s start date.

New Building Construction Project:
Ben reported as of last week the completion rate is gaining momentum since the steel fabrication issues have been resolved. Time consumed was at 58%, with job completion at 45%, that gap will now narrow as they move forward.

Executive Director’s Report: The Executive Director presented his report which was distributed earlier. The following items were highlighted:

Ben discussed the recent weekly USM COVID-19 conferences with the Chancellor, USMO Officials, and University and RHEC Presidents and Directors to address issues regarding plans for the end of fall 2020 and spring 2021. Due to the evolving COVID-19 issues, many institutions have
gone in different planning phases. Many institutions are going online after Thanksgiving. Students who will return to campus after Thanksgiving, will be required to be tested before they leave the campus, and will have to be tested before they return.

Ben reported the APAC committee met, they reviewed a LOI from BSU, BS in Computer Science. That LOI was approved. Currently the LOI is circulating to all USM institutions. If no comments are received, we will move forward and request to submit a proposal to APAC to consider. This will be a 2 + 2 program. BSU already has an articulation agreement with CSM in Computer Science.

**New Business:** Joe stated in respect to new BOA members, be conscious of the need of philanthropic members. For this Regional Center to mature, raising funds plays a huge role.

**Next Meeting:** The “Strategic Plan” BOA meeting is scheduled for November 24, 2020.

**Adjournment:** There being no other business, Matt moved a motion to adjourn and Betsy seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.