

**BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Dakota State University
Dakota Prairie Playhouse Conference Room
Madison, South Dakota
April 27, 2015**

The Board of Regents convened at Dakota State University in Madison and via teleconference at 11:00 a.m. on April 27, 2015.

ROLL CALL:

Terry Baloun – PRESENT
John Bastian – PRESENT via teleconference
Harvey Jewett – PRESENT
Kathryn Johnson – PRESENT via teleconference
Jim Morgan – PRESENT via teleconference
Joe Schartz – PRESENT via teleconference
Bob Sutton – PRESENT via teleconference
Randy Schaefer – PRESENT
Kevin Schieffer – ABSENT and not voting

Also present during all or part of the meeting were Jack Warner, Executive Director and CEO; Mary Turman, BOR; and members of the DSU and Madison community.

Regent Schaefer called the public meeting of the Board of Regents to order and declared a quorum present. Regent Schaefer announced that the Board resolved into executive session at 8:00 A.M. on Wednesday, April 22, 2015, in the Regents Room at Dakota State University to discuss personnel matters, rising at 8:30 p.m. to recess for the day; reconvened in executive session at 8:00 a.m. on April 23, to continue discussing personnel and contractual matters; rising from executive session at 5:30 p.m. to recess until today.

Regent Baloun reported that while in executive session, the Board considered personnel matters, and gave directions to its executive director concerning these matters.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Baloun that the Board approve directions given to the executive director with respect to matters discussed in executive session, that it:

Defer until the completion of further remarks at this meeting approval of the appointment of a successor to Dr. Marysz Rames as Interim President of Dakota State University; and adopt the report of the Executive Session. Regent Jewett seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Terry Baloun – AYE
John Bastian – AYE via teleconference
Harvey Jewett – AYE
Kathryn Johnson – AYE via teleconference
Jim Morgan – AYE via teleconference
Joe Schartz – AYE via teleconference
Bob Sutton – AYE via teleconference
Randy Schaefer – AYE
Kevin Schieffer – ABSENT and not voting

The MOTION CARRIED

Regent Schaefer thanked the campus community for its support during the presidential selection process. And introduced and thank the Regents search committee—

Terry Baloun, Chair
John Bastian
Harvey Jewett
Randy Schaefer

He additionally thanked the Campus Search Committee--

Stacy Krusemark, Administrator
Ashley Podhradsky, Faculty
Barbara Szczerbinska, Faculty
Casey Bethke, Student
Jared Mills, Student
Marie Lohsandt, Exempt Administrator
Heather Beaner, Career Service
Mike Halverson, Alumni Association
Miles Beacom, DSU Foundation
Julie Gross, Community
James Smith, System President

Regent Schaefer explained that this has been a process that has taken considerable time and energy over the past five months. Each of the committee members made important contributions to the process and the selection of the school's next president. A special thank you to each of them for the professional manner in which they conducted the business of the committee. The results of this search are directly attributed to their dedication and commitment.

Regent Schaefer also thanked the campus community for its participation in the process. They assisted the Board in the beginning by nominating colleagues to serve on the search committee, by soliciting and making nominations of outstanding candidates, by patiently responding to the process, and by participating in the two-day campus interviews. He said he hopes they agree that the search has been conducted in a professional manner and that it has resulted in the selection of a quality leader for Dakota State University. He thanked Dr. Marysz Rames for her stellar and

passionate leadership over the past 9 months, noting that DSU is a better place because of her leadership.

Regent Schaefer noted that one of the great things about the selection process is that it allows the campuses and the Board of Regents to become better acquainted and to work together on issues concerning all of us. He added that it provides the Board with an opportunity to see first-hand the strengths that they have at the university and provides the chance to work together. Given the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, such cooperation can only be to our benefit.

Regent Schaefer said this effort has also served to remind the Board of the extremely valuable role that Dakota State University plays in the development of the region's economy and its people.

Regent Schaefer indicated that our search for excellence also demands leadership that is responsive and innovative; aware not only of the present, but also of the potential.

Regent Schaefer asked for a motion for the appointment of the new president of Dakota State University.

Regent Baloun said he was pleased to present to the Board of Regents a report from the presidential search committee. We had an outstanding field of candidates. The committee narrowed the field to an excellent pool of finalists that visited the campus last week.

It is from this group of talented and experienced leaders that he was pleased to recommend the appointment of Dr. Jose-Marie Griffiths as President of Dakota State University.

Regent Baloun said José-Marie Griffiths, has been engaged in higher education leadership roles for more than 30 years, with significant experience in academic affairs, information technology, and research. Her academic research is focused on using information technology in higher education, return-on-investment in non-profit institutions, and the contribution of technology and informatics to fostering economic development. Before joining Bryant University in 2010, she held leadership positions at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, University of Pittsburgh, University of Michigan, and University of Tennessee Knoxville. Her Ph.D. in information science and bachelor of science degree in physics both were awarded by University College London. She is joined today by her husband, Don King.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Baloun, seconded by Regent Jewett that Dr. Jose-Marie Griffiths be appointed President of Dakota State University effective on or around July 1, 2015.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Terry Baloun – AYE

John Bastian – AYE via teleconference

Harvey Jewett – AYE

Kathryn Johnson – AYE via teleconference

Jim Morgan – AYE via teleconference

Joe Schartz – AYE via teleconference
Bob Sutton – AYE via teleconference
Randy Schaefer – AYE
Kevin Schieffer – ABSENT and not voting

The MOTION CARRIED

Dr. Griffiths thanked the Board of Regents for placing their confidence in her; the Search Committee, Board of Regents staff and search consultants at Witt Kieffer for all their hard work in ensuring a smooth search process. She also thanked all who were involved in meetings last Wednesday and Thursday including the other candidates for committing the time and participating in such an intense couple of days, and all gathered here today to welcome us to the Dakota State University and Madison communities.

She said she is delighted to be joining the leadership team of DSU and moving to the Madison community. She was initially very attracted to DSU because of the university's strength in high tech and informatics programs combined with depth and breadth in business, education, liberal arts, math and the sciences. DSU is a dynamic and innovative institution, well positioned for leadership in this 21st century era of remarkable change.

Continuing, Dr. Griffiths said that very little in our society these days is changing faster than education. These changes present significant challenges to all colleges and universities. Among the issues are demographic trends and emphasis on diversity and inclusion, especially relating to student/faculty recruitment and retention; affordability, access and value proposition; new funding models and revenue sources, requiring expanded partnerships with multiple stakeholders and communities; the roles of emerging technologies, both for educational delivery and as potential careers for graduates; and an increased need for expanded visibility and positioning for institutions to maintain competitive advantage; to name but a few.

Dr. Griffiths commented that she sees it as important to respect DSU's rich heritage, while acting to propel the institution forward along a thoughtful, collegial, enhanced trajectory of success and sustainability.

Dr. Griffiths stated that she was inspired by Marie Curie to pursue her initial career in physics. She saw in her and her work the invigorating impact of tackling tough questions and persevering over difficult circumstances. It could be said that she had much in common with South Dakota. She said she was impressed to discover that the North American pole of inaccessibility is located here, which you probably all know is the most challenging place to reach owing to its remoteness from [geographical](#) features that could provide access. People had to work hard to settle and develop this State, even from the earliest times!

She added that she was stirred by Curie's commitment to find answers and make advances that change the world. And as she worked to achieve success she created multiple partnerships, formal and informal, that ensured others' progress as well as hers. She has also been told that if someone offers you assistance in a store and they don't work there, you're probably in South Dakota. She

said she values that shared sense of life and work. The experience of being part of a group of seekers far greater than the universe of my own curiosity has been the centerpiece of my career.

Dr. Griffiths added that as she has moved from physics to information science/informatics, research, teaching and administration she has continually looked for both formal and informal opportunities to include others in a wide array of endeavors. I now realize that approach is a familiar one in South Dakota.

She said she is a European by birth and upbringing but has spent most of her career in the United States. She said she believes the international connections DSU has already established are a strong statement of both the unique programs the University has to offer, and our shared belief that global understandings and experiences are now crucial to success in many if not all careers.

Dr. Griffiths indicated that she has been fortunate to work in or lead projects in over 40 countries around the world, and is looking forward to working with DSU faculty, staff and students to see how they can develop more international connections to further advance and expand DSU's impact and contribution, both here and abroad.

Dr. Griffiths said her husband Don and she were enchanted by the physical beauty of the campus and this area, and charmed by the entire Madison community. Don grew up in the Midwest, in Brookings and Ames, Iowa and she has for years enjoyed the stories of his community- and family-focused upbringing.

We have long found strong similarities in my father's stories of growing up in a mid-sized community in Wales, as well as my own childhood in an England rebuilding itself after the destruction of World War II.

Dr. Griffiths said that she and Don feel at DSU they are definitely joining both an academic and civic community they have long desired to find, where they can actively participate and contribute. She said they enjoy the performing arts and Don is especially delighted at the wide range of athletic events DSU has – you can expect to see us frequently at many of them, along with our 6 daughters and 14 grandchildren, whenever they are able to come visit.

In closing she said she would like to tell a story.

“A friend told me that he was at a party and heard 3 people arguing about which of their home states was the best, to take advantage of every moment of your day.

The man from New York City said, “We have the city that never sleeps! No other place has as much stuff open 24 hours a day!”

The man from Anchorage, Alaska said “Yeah, but you're in the dark half the time. In the summer, we get daylight for 21 hours a day.”

The man from South Dakota smiled and said, “Sorry, guys, we've got you beat. In my State I can have a job 3 miles away and get home at the end of the day an hour before I left the office. There is no doubt – technically we're better!”

Dr. Griffiths said she is definitely glad to be coming to a place that is better – and not just technically. She is eagerly looking forward to joining DSU’s faculty, staff, students, alumni and constituents. She confirmed that this is a responsibility that she does not take lightly, and is committed to serve all of you and Dakota State University with the utmost integrity, transparency, energy and enthusiasm.

Regent Schaefer announced that Dr. Griffiths and Dr. Warner would be available to the media for interviews following the meeting adjournment. Additionally, he announced that a reception would directly follow the meeting.

ADJOURN

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Jewett, seconded by Regent Baloun to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Regents at 11:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Terry Baloun – AYE
John Bastian – AYE via teleconference
Harvey Jewett – AYE
Kathryn Johnson – AYE via teleconference
Jim Morgan – AYE via teleconference
Joe Schartz – AYE via teleconference
Bob Sutton – AYE via teleconference
Randy Schaefer – AYE
Kevin Schieffer – ABSENT and not voting