

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 23, 2002

President McPherson called the special meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 10:04 a.m. on Monday, December 23, 2002 in the Board Room of the Administration Building.

Trustees present by teleconference: Dolores M. Cook, Joel I. Ferguson, Dorothy V. Gonzales, Colleen M. McNamara, Donald W. Nugent, Randall L. Pittman, David L. Porteous, and G. Scott Romney.

University officers present: President McPherson, Provost Simon, Vice President Poston, Secretary Carter, Vice President and General Counsel Noto, and Vice President Denbow. Faculty Liaisons present: Jonathon Hall, James Potchen, and Steven Spees. Student Liaison present: Jim Ciszewski.

All actions taken were by unanimous vote of the Trustees present, unless otherwise noted.

1. On a motion by Mr. Porteous, supported by Mr. Romney, **THE BOARD VOTED to approve** the proposed agenda.

2. Public Participation

There were no requests to address the Board of Trustees on issues germane to the agenda or on other issues.

3. Personnel Action

Smith, John L., AN-Head Football Coach, Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, subject to contract with effective dates of January 1, 2003 through January 14, 2009.

Trustee Nugent commented that at the men's basketball game on December 21, John L. Smith received a wonderful introduction and an enthusiastic welcome from Spartan fans.

Trustee Cook noted that during the basketball game, Coach Smith was greeted by a steady stream of well-wishers who encouraged and welcomed him to Michigan State University.

Trustee Romney asked whether the administration had checked Mr. Smith's background to ensure that entries on his resume were accurate. Athletic Director Ron Mason responded that everything had been verified. Trustee

Pittman added that references were checked several different ways, and everything checked out.

Trustee Pittman said that he had spoken with former Broad Business Dean Don Bowersox, who had received very good input from the faculty regarding the coach's appointment, and commented on the positive way in which the appointment was orchestrated.

Trustee Ferguson remarked that he had met with John L. Smith the preceding Friday. He said that he and Coach Smith were setting up a meeting when recruiting is complete to link to Detroit. Trustee Ferguson added that there were two people he would have preferred that MSU hire first – Pat Shurmur and Jimmy Raye, but the University will move forward and win with Coach Smith.

Trustee Porteous thanked Director of Athletics Ron Mason, Trustee Randall Pittman, President McPherson, Vice President Poston, and Provost Simon for the time and effort that they put into the search for a new coach. He said that the net was cast wide, and everyone thoroughly deliberated in making the right choice. Mr. Porteous added that Coach Smith will bring a philosophy, commitment and dedication that will be different from the past, but the difference will be good for the football program and for the University.

Trustee Ferguson said that Trustee Randall Pittman represented the Board very well in the search process for a new coach.

President McPherson indicated that Coach Smith's contract would be released to the public that afternoon. Vice President Denbow added that a press release would be issued indicating that the appointment was unanimously approved.

On a motion by Mr. Ferguson, supported by Ms. Cook, **THE BOARD VOTED to approve** the appointment.

4. An Executive Session was not requested.
5. On a motion by Mr. Romney, supported by Mr. Ferguson, the Board voted to adjourn at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

L. Susan Carter, J.D.  
Secretary of the Board of Trustees