

MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY POLICY

Policy #:		Effective:	July 2012	Category:	All University Employee Policies
Name:	UNIVERSITY HISTORY				

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of the policy is to provide guidance to University employees regarding the policy below in order to comply with the standards set forth by the University. This policy is necessary in order to maintain an effective and compliant workforce that meets the University mission.

2.0 SCOPE

University Employee Policy

3.0 POLICY

The citizens of Joplin, who in the late 1930s asked the public school district to offer college classes, could not have envisioned the sprawling campus and multidiscipline curriculum that today is Missouri Southern State University. From that initial request came Joplin Junior College, founded in 1937 as part of the Joplin school system. Nine faculty members and 114 students began classes under the auspices of the Extension Division of the University of Missouri in the new high school building.

In the spring of 1938, voters approved almost five-to-one a bond proposal that would assure the continuation of the junior college. During the next 25 years Joplin Junior College established a national reputation for outstanding academic strength, a strong foundation for what was to come. By the mid-1960s, area citizens again recognized the need for expanded educational opportunities.

In 1964, the citizens voted eight to one to create the Junior College District of Jasper County with a Board of Trustees to govern the newly named Jasper County Junior College. The following year, the Missouri General Assembly established a two-year senior college to be funded by the state when facilities of the junior college became available. The district would continue to fund the freshman and sophomore years.

The area again responded with enthusiastic and generous support to fund the building of a new campus on the site of the Mission Hills Farm to house the growing college. Administration and faculty, working with other college educators around the state, began developing the new curriculum. In August 1967, students gathered for the first time on the new campus of Missouri Southern State College.

The dual funding arrangement with the state continued until 1977 when on July 1 the State of Missouri officially took on the responsibility of funding the entire college. The next major milestone occurred August 28, 2003 when the college officially became Missouri Southern State University–Joplin. The Joplin reference was later dropped by legislation. With this latest change the institution took on a broader state mission and expanded its programs. Partnering with other universities in Missouri, joint graduate degree programs were offered. Today Missouri Southern State University remains a proud member of the state's higher education family while continuing to serve the region that is an integral part of its past and beyond.

4.0 HISTORY

This policy may be revised, edited, changed or removed at any time with or without notice to applicable individuals.

5.0 RELATED DOCUMENTS