

Minutes of the Meeting of the
University of Arkansas at Monticello Board of Visitors
University of Arkansas at Monticello
Spencer Gallery
Fine Arts Center
April 14, 2005
4:00 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Ian Beer, Jimmy Barrett, Charlene Cavaness, Herbert Hutchison, Marilyn Johnson, Judy Kirkley, Rhonda Mullikin, Tommy Poole, Bennie Ryburn, III, Frank Wilson

University Administrators: Chancellor Jack Lassiter, Vice Chancellor David Ray, Vice Chancellor Mark Davis, Vice Chancellor Peggy Doss, Vice Chancellor Bob Ware, Vice Chancellor Linda Rushing

Ian Beer welcomed everyone and called meeting to order.

The Board approved minutes from the January 13, 2005 meeting.

David Ray reported that the Committee on Summer Salary, Adjunct Salary, Class Limits and Overloads has completed their work regarding recommendations on adjunct faculty, overloads for existing faculty and summer school salaries. Items for consideration/approval will be presented to the Executive Council.

David Ray briefed the board on the Information Technology Committee that was established on February 24 consisting of nineteen faculty/staff members representing all three campuses. The purpose is to review current IT and distance education technology policies, review peer institutions; make recommendation for revision and implementation of policies for UAM; develop a plan to replace the current POISE system and review proposed systems.

David Ray informed the board that the problem in the School of Education has been resolved. Education students completing their program of study in May and December 2004 were allowed by ADE an either/or option on the Praxis exam to complete Early Childhood or Special Education.

David Ray stated that UAM was reaccredited by the North Central Association's Higher Learning Commission for 10 Years. The next comprehensive visit is scheduled for the 2014-2015 academic year. The Higher Learning Commission will require a progress report on December 1, 2007 in two areas: assessment of student learning and institutional planning. Work on these two areas will begin shortly.

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David Ray announced that there are currently eleven faculty positions open and that three of them are new positions. He also stated that there have already been two faculty members hired for Fall 2005.

David Ray gave a report on summer and fall pre-registration figures and activities. Currently there are 1209 students pre-registered for the fall and there are several more pre-registration opportunities this summer.

Peggy Doss provided a handout on the UAM Foundation Fund which reflected the fund having a total market value of \$8,801,428.47. She stated that there were 158 endowed scholarship accounts and that there were 875 total scholarships awarded during the 04/05 academic year.

Mark Davis updated the board on the status of the Campus Master Plan which includes facilities, roads and landscaping. Preliminary report will be given by the architects at the June Board Meeting and upon its completion a meeting between the Architects and the board of visitors will be arranged.

Mark Davis stated that Willard Hall renovations will begin when after the semester ends and will include installing central heating and air, installing an elevator, renovating classrooms, adding 1 classroom and bring the HVAC system up to code.

Ian Beer wanted to know how many bids were received on the renovation project.

Mark Davis said that there were 6 bids received and that Wilkins was the lowest bidder. This is the same contractor that did the Harris Hall renovations.

Linda Rushing provided handouts and reviewed the report and the institutional response on the recent Occupational Education Unit Accreditation Team Visit to the Crossett campus.

Linda Rushing Reviewed the January 17 meeting of the Pulp and Paper Science Program Advisory Board. The main topic of discussion at the advisory meeting was about the decline in program enrollment, the discussion was tabled to be continued at the next meeting.

Bob Ware reviewed the programs on the McGehee campus and provided a handout with detailed information on all technical programs and courses being offered. He also reviewed the activities of the Small Business Administration and their activities in the community.

Jack Lassiter provided the board with a hand out showing legislative actions that were taken during the session and stated that many of them had a large impact on UAM. He reviewed each of the acts and the funding that will be received. He reviewed the funding formula for 2 year and 4 year institutions that will make it more equal than methods used in the past.

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Jack Lassiter discussed the 8 semester guarantee and the implications it will have. Most students now take 5 – 6 years instead of 4 and if the student has to take developmental courses it will be impossible to finish in 8 semesters. There is a lot of work still being done to try to resolve some of the problems and concerns.

Jack Lassiter reviewed the changes that were made to the Board of Visitor legislation. The changes include adding 1 more member as of July 1 and clarifying the terms. This is still the only Board of Visitors to be appointed by the governor and a change was not pursued.

Jack Lassiter reviewed the proposed tuition and fees increases that will be presented at the April 22 Board of Trustees meeting for approval. He stressed that it is only a proposal and has not been approved. Dr. Lassiter provided a handout showing tuition costs at several other institutions. If the increase is approved UAM will still be among the lowest tuition costs in the state.

Jack Lassiter informed the Board of the commencement activities that will take place on May 13 and showed them a picture of the regalia that has been purchased for them to wear. The Distinguished Alumnus is Albert Ethridge who will be honored during the commencement ceremony. The Commencement Ceremony is May 13 at 11:00 a.m. with a luncheon to follow. Dr. Sugg and approximately five UA Board of Trustee members will be present for commencement. A member of the Board of Visitors will participate in the ceremony.

Jack Lassiter announced that the UA Board of Trustees have been invited to meet on our campus for the June 3 Board meeting. Dr. Lassiter states it will probably be approved but it will not official until after the April 22 UA Board of Trustees meeting. If it is approved there will more information sent to the Board of Visitors informing them of the schedule.

Jack Lassiter reviewed the proposed meeting schedule for the Board of Visitors for the coming year. The dates were set according to the by-laws as the second Thursday of January, April, July and October. The schedule included the July meeting to be held on the Crossett Campus and the January meeting to be held on the McGehee Campus.

The schedule was approved.

Information technology has everything in place to automatically forward all netlist emails to the Board of Visitors who would like to get the communications. They will not be a part of the network but will receive all communications unless they request not to.

Jack Lassiter introduced the new football coach Gwaine Matthews.

Gwaine Matthews greeted the board and told a little bit about himself and his background.

The meeting was adjourned.