

Minutes of the Meeting of the
University of Arkansas at Monticello Board of Visitors
UAM College of Technology – Crossett
McGoogan Building
Room 14
July 14, 2005
4:00 p.m.

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

University Administrators: Chancellor Jack Lassiter, Vice Chancellor Mark Davis, Vice Chancellor Bob Ware, Vice Chancellor Linda Rushing

Ian Beer welcomed everyone and offered condolences in the loss of board member, Charlene Cavaness. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

The Board approved the minutes from the April 14, 2005, meeting as presented.

Tom Fennell, Fennell/Purifoy/Hammock Architects, gave a PowerPoint presentation showing the Master Plan Updates for all three campuses. Upon finalization, these plans will be posted on the UAM website. Mr. Fennell requested that Board members call or e-mail him, Jack Lassiter, or Mark Davis for any suggestions/recommendations they might have. Mr. Fennell should have the final plans to present to the Board by their October meeting.

Jack Lassiter reported that the fall pre-registration enrollment appears to be consistent with last year. Bob Ware and Linda Rushing are working toward offering some new programs which may help their enrollment.

Jack Lassiter informed the Board that they are in the “recruitment season” in trying to replace faculty/staff members who had resigned, retired, or passed away. He told the Board that a long-time faculty member, Richard Wallace, had passed away recently. Twelve new positions have been added to the Monticello campus. The Crossett campus has restructured two positions and the McGehee campus has restructured one. New faculty/staff members will be introduced to the Board at the October meeting.

Jack Lassiter reported that students had been notified effective this summer term that grades would no longer be mailed out unless requested in writing. Students may access grades at any time on Campus Connect.

Jack Lassiter reported that Peggy Doss had been appointed as Dean of the School of Education. He discussed the problems surrounding the MAT Program and actions taken to resolve the certification issues that have surfaced over the last few months. He indicated that the University

is doing everything possible to continue to have quality programs in the School of Education and to meet the standards and guidelines required by the Arkansas Department of Education.

He told the Board that they are in the process of hiring a new Vice Chancellor for Advancement and that Dr. Clay Brown, who has served as Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, has been named Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

Mark Davis reported that the Board members had received a letter with an unrevised budget summary sheet. The revised budget summary sheet has been placed in the Board members' notebooks. He reported that they are working on year-end close which is going smoothly. Auditors will be on campus soon doing a new Information Technology audit. The audit findings will be brought to the Board when completed.

Mark Davis told the Board that construction has begun on Willard Hall. Construction is going very smoothly and faster than anticipated. Renovations on the building should be completed by next summer.

Bennie Ryburn asked about the employee costs of healthcare. Mark Davis said the University has been able to absorb most of the costs to the employee by paying 76% of the cost and employees paying 24%. He stated further that the employees had received salary increases this year and that the additional cost of health benefits had been absorbed by the university which helped to offset the impact to the employees.

Linda Rushing handed out UAM-CTC's Advisory Board Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2005. She reported that Eddie Cheatham retired June 30 and would be coming back part-time in August. Janie Carter has been appointed Supervisor of Instruction. New program offerings are being considered for the Crossett campus. A new (grant-funded) apprenticeship program for Georgia-Pacific Plywood is scheduled to begin in August. Linda Rushing is working with Mary Whiting on recruitment efforts. Jack Lassiter added that both Crossett and McGehee will be expanding their curriculum and taking full responsibility for General Education courses on their campuses which will support the Associate of Applied Science in General Technology degree program. This provides an avenue for students to start their college education at Crossett or McGehee.

Jack Lassiter reported that one of the new additions to the budget is that they will replace recruitment brochures for departments and services every two years. The brochures will be cycled—six this year and six next year. The new recruitment CD will go in a mailer to send to perspective students. A lot of research is going into finding out what area prospective students read, what they listen to on the radio, what TV programs they watch, etc. Results of this survey will be used to determine future recruitment programs.

Bob Ware handed out the proposed meeting schedule for the McGehee Advisory Board. He also presented information on the non-credit classes offered on their campus. Carl Perkins funds may be available to fund personnel for recruitment on all three campuses. Mary Whiting is also helping him with recruitment efforts. He reported that several students have expressed interest in the new Heavy Equipment Program. The program is the only one in the state, is located in Warren, and administered by the McGehee campus. At this time, it is set up for a Certificate of Proficiency, Technical Certificate, or Associate of Applied Science Degree. An instructor is

being sought to teach science courses at McGehee and Crossett. Mr. Ware presented the Board with an abstract for the Arkansas Heavy Equipment Operator Training Academy (AHEOTA) that was submitted as a WIA grant proposal with shared costs.

Jack Lassiter announced that the Boll Weevil Sports Association reception will be on July 18, 2005, starting at 5 p.m. The new coaching staff will be introduced at that time.

Jack Lassiter also announced that the pre-season tailgate party will be on August 16, 2005, to introduce the new players. The family picnic (potluck) will be on August 18, 2005, at his home.

Jack Lassiter discussed the special equipment needs on the Monticello campus and his concern for aging equipment. He reported that a replacement cycle will be started to ensure that no instructional computer lab is equipped with computers over three years old. Almost \$500,000 was funded in special equipment needs for the campus for classroom needs that included carpet, seating, technology equipment, etc. He also informed the Board that a contingency of \$350,000 has been built into the budget.

Jack Lassiter informed the Board that on February 2 and 3, 2006, the Higher Education Coordinating Board will be on the Monticello campus for their meeting.

Jack Lassiter reported that the College Savings Bond Program (created in 1991) will be discussed at a future meeting. He wants the Board to be aware that with this program, the governor can call a special election for the voters to vote on no new tax, no additional money but extending the payment period. It has been projected that \$150,000,000 could come to higher education for facility needs.

Jack Lassiter stated that some of the Board members are now getting e-mail distributions. If any member would like to be added or taken off, please contact him or Dr. Davis.

Jack Lassiter asked the Board to reschedule the next meeting which was to be held on October 13, 2005. He will be attending the wedding of his daughter and will be unable to attend this meeting. The Board decided to move the meeting to October 6, 2005.

Jack Lassiter reported that he had visited the family of Charlene Cavaness and commented on her influence and significance in the community, public education, the UAM Board of Visitors, and the Crossett campus. He also noted that the Governor's office is looking for a replacement for Mrs. Cavaness. One additional member will also be added to the Board making a total of 12 members.

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.