

Minutes of the Meeting of the
University of Arkansas at Monticello Board of Visitors
University of Arkansas at Monticello College of Technology – McGehee
Meeting Room
January 12, 2006
4:00 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Reginald Glover, Jimmy Barrett, Marilyn Johnson,
Judy Kirkley, Rhonda Mullikin, Tommy Poole,
Bennie Ryburn, III, Frank Wilson, Cynthia
Montgomery

University Administrators: Chancellor Jack Lassiter, Vice Chancellor David
Ray, Vice Chancellor Mark Davis, Vice Chancellor
Bob Ware, Vice Chancellor Linda Rushing, Vice
Chancellor Linda Yeiser, Assembly Representative
Dr. Kate Stewart

Jimmy Barrett welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

The Board approved the minutes of the October 6, 2005 meeting.

Jack Lassiter introduced the newest member of the Board of Visitors, Reginald Glover, who will serve as an At-Large member.

Herbert Hutchison did attend the Board of Trustees meeting, but will not be with us at this meeting. He will make his report at the next meeting.

Jack Lassiter introduced Linda Yeiser as Vice Chancellor for Advancement as of November 14, 2005.

Linda Yeiser informed the board that her office is working to update the Alumni records. Many of the items mailed to our alumni are returned undelivered.

Linda Yeiser briefed the board on planned campaigns for fund raising for Phase 1 of the Master Plan she is also working with Vice Chancellor David Ray and the Academic Unit heads on priorities for each department.

Linda Yeiser stated that the 2005 Phone-A-Thon was not conducted as a result of not having a person in the position of Vice Chancellor for Advancement. Dr. Lassiter thought it best to delay the Phone-A-Thon until this position was filled.

Linda Yeiser reported that UAM's 100th Anniversary is approaching. The act which established UAM was passed in 1909, but the doors opened in 1910. We want to begin work on this Anniversary celebration now and begin the campaigning.

Linda Yeiser announced that during Homecoming, we would be recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Alpha Chi. Also, we have discussed the possibility of having an All Sports celebration inviting the Alumni who were named All Americans in all sports at the homecoming.

Bennie Ryburn, III reported that he has received some comments that were not very positive about the previous phone-a-thon. Some suggestions were to have a theme for the Phone-A-Thon, or to recognize a donor for a previous gift.

David Ray gave a report on the eight semester rule, which was Act 1014 to help the colleges better advise students. This Act requires the University to offer students a plan where they can graduate in eight semesters. There is a waiver that can be signed by the students to exclude them from the eight semester rule.

David Ray provided a handout with a complete listing of programs offered through UAM at all three campuses.

David Ray stated that the new Military Science Minor has been approved and is now in place with two instructors and a full-time secretary. The office is Room 314 of Harris Hall.

David Ray provided a handout on the Educational Renewal Zone. This is a partnership between UAM, area schools and the Southeast Arkansas Educational Cooperative. Our faculty in the School of Education have the opportunity to get into all 14 area schools to help provide specialized needs of the schools.

David Ray reported on the academic progress of our students. UAM has a Chancellor's list, which is made of students that maintain a 4.00 GPA for the semester. The Dean's List is for students with GPA of 3.50 to 3.99 for the semester. The Dean's List had 217 students listed for the Fall 2005. The probation list was down about 1%. We were down 22% for the students being placed on one semester suspension, but we had 52 students being placed on one year suspension. We now have a maximum suspension of one year, instead of the previous 3 year suspension.

David Ray announced that the Debate Team has been invited to go abroad for a competition. There will be 4 students and a coach going to Great Britain and Scotland to compete for the Montgomery Cup. Our Spanish Students have an opportunity to go to Costa Rica this summer.

David Ray gave a report on the number of courses being offered for Spring 2006. Crossett campus has 35 technical courses and 13 general education courses, McGehee has 45 technical and 21 general education courses, and Monticello has 31 online courses, 44 CIV courses, 19 concurrent credit courses with a total of 530 courses to be scheduled and 34 night classes.

Bennie Ryburn, III asked about faculty vacancies. David Ray reported that there are some vacancies, two in education, and one in Accounting, which was just filled.

Clay Brown gave an Enrollment Report and provided a comparison graph. Enrollment is currently up about 82 students over last spring.

Clay Brown reviewed the Football schedule and pointed out two specific dates of importance, Parent's day, and Homecoming. Jack Lassiter explained the rotation of conference games.

Bennie Ryburn, III asked if UAM had a target enrollment.

Jack Lassiter reported that UAM would like to reach a goal of 3,000 students. Jack Lassiter also reported that David Ray is working on a Bachelors Degree in General Technology so students could advance from a Technical Certificate to an Association of Applied Science in General Technology and on to a Bachelors Degree in General Technology.

Mark Davis presented a handout on the Second Quarter Report and stated that the budget is in good shape. Investment income is up and sales and services are up.

Mark Davis reported on Phase I of the Master Plan. We are working on the first three projects with the architects in place. We are in the process of obtaining architects for projects four through seven. He stated that projects eight, nine and ten, we are looking at using the architects we have retained. Crossett and McGehee are in the process of reviewing applications of architects.

Mark Davis reported that Willard Hall renovations are scheduled for completion by February 1. The School of Education will be moving back into Willard Hall at the end of the Spring Semester and Wells Hall will begin its renovations with the Nursing staff moving into the Red Barn when the renovations of Wells Hall begin.

Mark Davis briefed the board on the planned renovations to the Athletic Facilities.

Jack Lassiter reported on the possibility of building a retirement center on the campus.

Mark Davis informed the board that UAM issued \$9 million worth of Bonds. After paying \$500,000 loan with the state and origination fees, the university realized about \$8,350,000. We are earning 4.51% on the bonds. Actual work on Phase I should begin as early as April or May. Jack Lassiter briefed the board on the budget process for the three campuses.

Mark Davis briefed the board on the process for selecting architects. We issued request for qualifications for architects before Christmas and have received ten responses for the requests. Some bid on all projects and some on just one or two. We have a committee made up of people across the campuses to review the proposals and narrow the number down to five to bring on campus for interviews. We will make a recommendation to go to the Board of Trustees within the next six to eight weeks.

Mark Davis gave an overview of the Strategic Planning process. We have a facilitator to determine the drivers for the mission of our campus. By the end of the semester we should have a draft of the Strategic Plan to present to the board.

Linda Rushing reviewed the enrollment of non-credit courses for the Crossett campus. She reported an enrollment of over 400 students served in non-credit courses from July to present with 159 students being served in Adult Education.

Linda Rushing reported that the Crossett Advisory Board made the recommendation to appoint James Murphy and Dr. Dewayne Haynes to the board.

Linda Rushing gave a report that Mr. George French from the State Adult Education program has discussed with Dr. Lassiter the possibility of combining the two Ashley County Adult Education programs to streamline the administration of the programs. The Crossett campus would house the administration of the program.

Bob Ware reported the enrollment of the non-credit courses for the McGehee campus as being 550 students served.

Bob Ware reported that McGehee had hired a welding instructor and that there are 7 students enrolled in the program.

Bob Ware updated the board on the status of the Heavy Equipment Program and the addition of the Timber Producers portion of the Heavy Equipment. McGehee has received an award letter for \$1.62 million for the addition of the Timber portion.

Kate Stewart reported on the Salary Study Committee study. Data being looked at is years of service, gender, and areas of study. In the future the campus will compare the data to other institutions.

Kate Stewart stated that a committee was formed to study the faculty evaluation process. The committee is asking for input from the department heads and all faculty.

Jack Lassiter provided the board with a number of dates that could be of interest to the members.

- January 14, 2006, 6:30 p.m. – Dream Team Banquet in the Green Room
- January 23, 2006 – Congressman Mike Ross student lecture
- February 2, 2006 – Hosting dinner for Coordinating Board, Presidents and Staff
- February 3, 2006 - Coordinating Board Meeting in the Fine Arts
- February 27 & 28, 2006 – Legislative Committee at Country Club
- March 6-9 – Monticello Delegation to meet with legislators in Washington
- April 20, 2006 – Supreme Court will be trying case in Fine Arts Center

Jack Lassiter discussed a 357 acre tract of land in the WRP Program (Bob White Memorial) which would provide a graduate assistantship of \$25,000 per year for a total of \$750,000 gift. This land will also give our students the availability to study wet lands.

Jack Lassiter talked about the recent College Savings Bond issue that did not pass. He stated that Southeast Arkansas actually had a good turn out at the polls and carried both issues.

Jack Lassiter reported that Southeast Arkansas was getting recognition through Potlatch and three of our Forestry Researchers for the work done on Bio Fuel.

Jack Lassiter reviewed the Catastrophic Leave Bank Policy and the creation of the new Catastrophic Leave Bank for faculty.

Jack Lassiter discussed the terms for the Board of Visitors and informed the board that all would come up for reappointment in July. At this time Charlene Cavaness' position would be filled. He asked all Board members to let him know if they would like to be reappointed and if they had a preference of one, two or three year terms.

Jack Lassiter informed the Board that the UAM Foundation Board would like for one or two of the board members to serve on the Foundation Board. Interested Board of Visitor members should inform Dr. Lassiter of their interest.

Jack Lassiter discussed the athletic department's request to have all athletes drug tested in the Fall of 2005. All were tested, six failed the test. All six are in school but not participating in athletics at the present time in accordance with UAM policy.

Reginald Glover stated that he believed that an Alumni Ambassador, a high profile person, should be selected to go into the area schools to recruit and be a liaison for UAM.

There was no additional business, the Board adjourned at 6:15 p.m.