

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 13, 2006
4:00 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Ian Beer, Jimmy Barrett, Herbert Hutchinson, Judy Kirkley, Tommy Poole, Bennie Ryburn, III, Judy Kirkley, Frank Wilson, Reginald Glover, Marilyn Johnson

University Administrators: Chancellor Jack Lassiter, Vice Chancellor David Ray, Vice Chancellor Clay Brown, Vice Chancellor Bob Ware, Vice Chancellor Linda Rushing, Vice Chancellor Linda Yeiser, Vice Chancellor Mark Davis

Ian Beer welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

The Board approved minutes from the January 12, 2006 meeting.

David Ray updated the board on the eight semester rule and informed them that it has been finalized for implementation in the fall. The program only affects first time incoming freshmen and several degree programs are exempt due to the number of required hours, internships, summer workshops, etc.

David Ray informed the board of UAM's compliance with ACT 502 which was amended in 2005 by adding a section that asks higher education to address and respond to the changing economic needs to the state and the new economy. UAM has submitted a draft proposal to ADHE for approval.

David Ray reviewed pre-registration figures for both summer sessions and fall 2006. The current figures are close to those of last year and are expected to improve as pre-registration continues.

David Ray stated that there are 13 faculty positions open for the fall semester on the Monticello campus. Six have been filled and seven remain open. This number is lower than usual.

David Ray presented information on the enhancement of our Assessment Program which was requested by the Higher Learning Commission evaluators from the North Central Association. More specific data is being requested from each unit as well as plans of action based on the analysis of data that will be more useful for the program and University planning and accreditation reports to North Central. Unit assessment reports

are August 1 and will be available from each unit's webpage. Current information is available on the Academic Affairs webpage.

Linda Yeiser informed the board of the new online bill pay available on the Advancement website.

Linda Yeiser updated the board on the new UAM license plate that will be available in Drew and surrounding counties. The cost will be about \$36.00 over the price of a regular license plate with \$25.00 of that being tax deductible. The Alumni Association is paying for publicity to promote the sale of the plates.

Linda Yeiser reviewed the status of several scholarships and gave details on several that will reach endowed status in the near future. She also stated the online contributions will be available on the website very soon.

Linda Yeiser reviewed the plans and activities that are being made for Fall 2006 homecoming and will give further details at a later date.

Mark Davis reviewed FY 2007 preparations stating that there will be an undergraduate tuition increase. A raise of 3% for classified employees and a similar raise for non-classified has been included in the planning. There have been regular meetings with each unit during the budget process.

Mark Davis updated the board on the master plan progress, stating that architects have been hired. Renovations will be started on Wells Hall, Sorrells Hall, Babin Business Center, Math and Science Center and athletic facilities. The bids for Weevil Pond came back higher than anticipated so there has been some redesigning and it will go back out for bid. Renovations and classroom additions will begin on the Crossett campus also. Willard Hall renovations will be completed in May and the School of Education will move back in.

Linda Rushing updated the Board on the merger of the Crossett Adult Education program with the Ashley County Adult Education program. The program has been approved and the transition is being made.

Linda Rushing informed the board of the new Welding program being opened in the fall on the Crossett campus. There will also be an Early Childhood program that will be starting in the fall.

Bob Ware updated the board on the timber portion of the Heavy Equipment program. The curriculum has been developed and will hopefully be in place by June. He also informed the board of the equipment donations that have been made to the program.

Bob Ware informed the board that the Department of Labor came to Warren for a site visit for the Heavy Equipment program. The final report will be received at a later date.

Bob Ware stated that an Occupational Survey has been conducted which will evaluate the job opportunities in SE Arkansas. An evaluation will be made comparing the available training and courses with the job opportunities in the state.

Clay Brown introduced Mary Whiting who informed the board of the activities conducted by Admissions to increase enrollment. She stated that the admissions staff travels around to area high schools, conducts follow-up calls as well as mailing information to potential students. Efforts are also made to assist the students with sourcing funds to pay for the education.

Clay Brown reviewed activities held by Student Affairs and invited all interested board members to participate. Student Family Appreciation Day will be held Saturday, September 16. The MLK Day celebration was attended by over 150 community members and students; participation was larger this year and plans are underway to make it larger next year. Other events reviewed were Greek Week and Who's Who Dinner.

Kate Stewart updated the board on the activities of the salary study committee and informed the board that she feels that this has helped faculty morale. This is a realistic comparison based on information relevant to UAM not just based on national figures.

Kate Stewart informed the board of a new catastrophic leave policy which has been created for faculty. There has been a policy in place for staff but was not available to faculty. Faculty can donate leave time to be used by others if needed. The requests for time will be reviewed by a committee.

Jack Lassiter informed the board of the March 26 Board of Trustees meeting. Agenda items on there for UAM include budget approval and the property lease agreement between UAM and Drew Central.

Jack Lassiter announced that Commencement will take place on May 12 at 10:00 a.m. and invited all interested board members to participate.

Jack Lassiter updated the board on the Arkansas Supreme court visit to UAM which will take place on April 12. He also covered the proposed Board of Visitor meeting schedule for 2006 - 2007.

Reginald Glover made a motion to accept the calendar and a second was made by Herb Hutchison.

Jack Lassiter recognized Bennie Ryburn for recent award made by Time Magazine as Outstanding Dealer.

Jack Lassiter announced Teresa Flaggert leaving the university and expressed appreciation of services provided.

Ian Beer stated that he wanted the announcement reflected in the minutes.

Herb Hutchison reviewed his experience from attending the ADHE Trustee Conference. He reviewed the key presentation made by South Carolina personnel which covered the creation of one standard application to cover all public institutions.

Jack Lassiter briefed the board on the process being followed for reappointment to the Board of Visitors. A letter has been received stating that new appointments will be made by the Governor and there will be no automatic reappointment. A request has been made for current members to be reappointed.

Jack Lassiter invited board members to attend a retirement reception in honor of Eric Sundell, Glynda Nixon and Rick O'Connor on April 26 at 1:30 p.m. in the Library Art Gallery.

Reginald Glover encouraged everyone to attend the Tailgate party which will begin at 4:30 p.m. on April 29 and will be followed by the Green and White game.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.