

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Visitors  
University of Arkansas at Monticello  
Fine Arts Center  
Spencer Gallery  
October 11, 2007  
3:00 p.m.

Board members present: Jimmy Barrett  
Reginald Glover  
Rhonda Mullikin  
Tommy Poole  
Bennie Ryburn, III  
Frank Wilson

University Administrators: Chancellor Jack Lassiter  
Provost David Ray  
Vice Chancellor Jay Jones  
Vice Chancellor Clay Brown  
Vice Chancellor Linda Yeiser  
Vice Chancellor Linda Rushing  
Vice Chancellor Bob Ware

Vice Chairman Jimmy Barrett welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m.

Provost David Ray distributed a copy of the New York Times. He stated there are 300 copies delivered to campus each morning. Distribution of the paper provides an opportunity for students to become better informed about national and international news events. He noted that students are picking up the papers and teachers are utilizing them in classrooms for various assignments. The cost for the entire year is \$15,000.

Mr. Ray reported on Fall classes. There are 57 classes offered at Crossett, 75 at McGehee, and 707 at Monticello, including ECHS. Mr. Ray gave quick facts about the semester that included state, county, gender, and age of the student population. Mr. Ray announced that there are 92 afternoon/evening classes being offered, with 952 students enrolled.

Mr. Ray announced the hiring of 11 new faculty:

- in the School of Arts and Humanities, Lesly Jean-Francois and Eric Buswell
- in the School of Business, Becky Phillips
- in the School of Forest Resources, Todd Fearer
- in the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences, Glenn Manning, Jinming Huang and Martha Baskett
- in the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Trey Berry, Kyle Day, Andre Lewis, and Pearle Morrison

Mr. Ray noted that there are 4 positions that remain unfilled.

Mr. Ray discussed Early College High School/Concurrent Enrollment. He stated that it is a viable program in bringing college courses to high schools. The schools participating are Star City, Warren,

Crossett, Monticello, Hamburg, Lake Village, Dermott, Drew Central, Hermitage, Woodlawn, and McGehee. Mr. Ray stated there are 13 different courses being offered, with more to be added in the Spring.

Mr. Ray reported on a new program being considered, the Bachelor of Liberal Arts. He noted that this will allow students to have a breadth of knowledge in several different areas. A report on this program will be given at a later time.

Mr. Ray reported on the Higher Learning Commission. In 2004, UAM was accredited by North Central and asked to make reports on Assessment and Planning. These reports are being finalized and will be mailed to the Commission before the December 1 deadline.

Vice Chancellor Clay Brown reported on the emergency notification system. He stated that the ACIC has a mass emergency notification system called Alert Express, which UAM is considering for all three campuses.

Dr. Brown reported on a sex offender notification policy. Sex offenders are required to register with the state, which in turn notifies the University. Dr. Brown noted that because of the required distance between sex offenders and elementary schools, anyone classified at a level 3 or 4 cannot live on this campus.

Dr. Brown gave a report on the Arkansas Economic Development Commission. He stated that UAM hosted the AEDC on September 5 and 6. They toured War Eagle Boats, Seark Boats, and Price Lumber Company. On campus, they held executive committee meetings and gave presentations concerning economic growth in Southeast Arkansas.

Dr. Brown discussed the recycling program. He stated that this program has been put in place at football games this year and will eventually expand to include academic buildings and residence halls.

Dr. Brown distributed a report that showed the headcount data from Summer II 2003 to Fall 2007.

Chancellor Jack Lassiter announced the donation of a custom made UAM Boll Weevil boat that was received from War Eagle Boats. Tickets are \$10 and will be available at the homecoming dinners and ballgame. Student groups will also be selling them. At the last home game on November 10, there will be a drawing. Dr. Lassiter stated that he appreciated the Ward family for their donation. All proceeds will go to the Campaign for Athletics.

Vice Chancellor Linda Yeiser reported on the Centennial Circle. She noted that this campaign seeks 100 people pledging \$10,000 each to form a \$1,000,000 endowment for the centennial celebration. There are 31 pledges now.

Ms. Yeiser reported that the Campaign for Athletics has pledges totaling \$473,700.

Ms. Yeiser discussed the Centennial Slogan Contest. Those eligible to submit an entry for the contest are full-time faculty, staff, and students, dues-paying alumni, and emeriti. The prize will be:

- for a student, one-year free tuition, or
- for faculty, staff, emeritus, or alumnus, a permanent marker on campus.

Ms. Yeiser reported that the Foundation has grown from \$9.4 million in June 2006, to \$11.1 million in 2007.

Ms. Yeiser reported on the following Alumni activities:

- The Arkansas Travelers event on August 5 was well attended.
- Ms. Yeiser, along with Dr. and Mrs. Lassiter, traveled to northwest Arkansas, visiting several alumni.
- Ms. Yeiser thanked Mr. Glover for the letter to the editor concerning the UAM license plate.

Ms. Yeiser referred to the Alumni magazine that was distributed and discussed the Rockies Rail Highlights trip. She noted that there will be a preview of this trip on Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the University Center Capitol Room.

Ms. Yeiser announced that there are 5 achievement and merit winners at Homecoming.

Ms. Yeiser announced the homecoming events, referring to the schedule in the Alumni magazine:

- Thursday, October 11
  - o 3-5 p.m. Jimmy "Red" Parker book signing at the Library
  - o 5:30 p.m. Sports Hall of Fame Reception at the Chancellor's Home
  - o 6:30 p.m. Sports Hall of Fame Banquet at the University Center
  
- Friday, October 12
  - o 4:30 p.m. Weevil Walk Dedication at the victory bell
  - o 6:00 p.m. Alumni Reception at the Chancellor's Home
  - o 7:00 p.m. Alumni Dinner at the University Center
  
- Saturday, October 13
  - o Homecoming 2007
  
- Tuesday, October 16
  - o 6:00 p.m. Rockies Rail Highlights Preview at the University Center

Vice Chancellor Jay Jones distributed a handout and discussed the financial statements for the 06-07 fiscal year.

Mr. Jones gave an update on campus construction:

- the Wells/Sorrells project is scheduled to be completed October 2008.
- the Practice Facility is scheduled to begin December 2007.
- the Crossett building is scheduled to be completed January 2008.
- the McGehee building is scheduled to be completed May 2008.
- the Agriculture building is substantially complete.
- the Trotter House renovations have been completed.

Mr. Jones discussed the energy savings performance contract. An update will be given at the next meeting.

Vice Chancellor Linda Rushing distributed a report for the Crossett campus. She gave an update on the master plan, stating that it is 42% completed. Additional projects being considered are remodeling for additional office space and making lab alterations to provide a kitchen for the hospitality service program.

Ms. Rushing gave an update on new personnel. There have been 5 new hires. There are 3 positions that remain unfilled.

Vice Chancellor Bob Ware gave an update on the construction project on the McGehee campus. He stated that the new bookstore is almost complete and is being used at this time. The front entrance of the building is about 50% complete. A new roof is being put on the nursing and allied science building. He noted that the total project is about 45% complete.

Mr. Ware reported on enrollment on the Warren campus. He stated that there are 40 FTE's, so the total class size has increased.

Mr. Ware announced that the McGehee Advisory Board Dinner will be Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Ware invited the Board members to attend. He stated that the hospitality class will cater this dinner.

Mr. Ware reported that they have 1 position that has not been filled, an Auto Technology Instructor.

Dr. Lassiter introduced the new Assembly Chair, Marsha Clayton.

Dr. Clayton announced that the new Vice Chair of the Assembly is Stephen Trana. She reported that the assembly has met once this year, on September 27. All standing committees have met at least once and have selected officers.

Dr. Clayton reported on the salary study. She stated that the study showed 52 out of 113 faculty were recommended for parity raises. She noted that the colleges of technology and the staff salary studies are still being finalized.

Dr. Lassiter discussed the new Board of Visitor appointments. Four members drew a 1 year term. Three of those four members have indicated an interest in continuing on the board. A copy of a letter written by Dr. Lassiter to Governor Mike Beebe was distributed, along with a copy of a response letter from Governor Beebe. Dr. Lassiter noted that no appointments have been made at this time. Those whose term expired in August will continue to serve until re-appointments or new appointments have been made.

Dr. Lassiter discussed the Master Plan Phase II. The Forest Resources building will be the primary project. There are also 3 academic buildings which must be addressed, the Babin Business Center, the Music Building, and the Science Center. He stated that another consideration is building an additional residence hall.

Dr. Lassiter announced that Provost Ray is on a special legislative study committee that is reviewing higher education and remediation, retention, and graduation rates. He noted that this is very critical to the campus and will require new programs directed at increasing the graduation and retention rates of UAM. More information will be available at the January meeting.

Vice Chairman Barrett adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.