

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 12, 2007
4:00 p.m.

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

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

Jimmy Barrett welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

The Board approved the minutes from the January 11, 2007 meeting.

Jimmy Barrett introduced Dr. Jack Lassiter.

Jack Lassiter recognized Mary Whiting, Director of Admissions, and the UAM Ambassadors who were in attendance at the meeting. Ms. Whiting gave an overview of the Ambassadors program.

Linda Rushing to introduced Mitch Powell, the new Student Services Coordinator at the UAM COT – Crossett.

Jack Lassiter introduced Hugh Heflin, the new Director for the Campaign for Athletics. Mr. Heflin explained that there were three projects in progress under the Campaign for Athletics: 1) the stadium renovation, 2) a new indoor practice facility, and 3) the fieldhouse renovation. He said that so far, the commitments are over \$200,000. Mr. Heflin stated that his two objectives are to raise money for the Campaign for Athletics and to leave a structure for raising funds, so it can continue.

David Ray informed the Board of the repeal of the requirement that college juniors take the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency exam (the rising junior exam) known as the C.A.A.P. exam.

David Ray updated the Board on the catalog for 2007-2009 for all three campuses. He stated that it is now being prepared by UAM Media Services and that all items for inclusion have been approved by the Curriculum and Standards Committee and the UAM Assembly.

David Ray reported on Summer/Fall pre-registration. He stated that as of Wednesday, April 11, 750 students had registered for Summer I; 483 had registered for Summer II; and 1,273 had registered for Fall. These numbers are fairly consistent with the past numbers.

David Ray updated the Board on the faculty vacancies and new hires. He noted the following retirements: Dr. John Annulis in Mathematics and Natural Sciences (Dean), Dr. Walt Godwin in Chemistry, and Dr. Ed Bacon in Biology. Dr. Lassiter announced a retirement reception honoring the three retiring faculty members that will be at 3 p.m. on May 3 in Spencer Gallery.

David Ray informed the Board on some highlights of the summer and fall schedules. He stated that 179 classes are being offered in Summer I. Also, he mentioned 10 intersession courses that would be offered between the dates of May 14 and May 25. During Summer I, the Crossett and McGehee locations are each offering 8 general education classes that support the Associate of Applied Science and the Bachelor of Applied Science degrees. Also, during Summer I, two field trip courses are being offered. Mr. Ray then stated that 81 classes are being offered in Summer II. Of those, 18 are online classes. Mr. Ray stated that 919 classes are being offered in the Fall. Of those, 39 are online classes. He informed the Board of the variety of times and locations that classes are being offered in an attempt to accommodate students with diverse interests and diverse scheduling needs.

David Ray reported that the 2006-2007 Program Evaluations were completed for English, Art, Speech, and Journalism. All programs were given a positive evaluation, and several recommendations for improvements were made. He stated that the 2007-2008 Program Evaluations will be done for the following programs: Associate of Applied Science, Associate of Arts, and Associate of Applied Science in General Technology.

David Ray informed the Board about commencement on May 11 at 10:00 a.m. He stated that this year, 457 students have met the requirements in August 2006, December 2006, and May 2007 to participate in commencement.

David Ray informed the Board of the New York Times Reading Program. This program is being considered to enhance and broaden the scope of student understanding in a variety of areas.

David Ray updated the Board on the Bachelor of Applied Science degree program. He stated that it has been approved by the U of A Board of Trustees and the Coordinating Board of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education and will become effective July 1, 2007.

Clay Brown updated the Board on renovations in the cafeteria/dining hall. He stated that the renovations are complete.

Clay Brown reported on the spring 2007 enrollment. He distributed an enrollment report to the Board which includes the following data as of April 12, 2007. For all campuses, the spring 2006 number of students enrolled in non-technical courses was 2,660. This spring 2007 number is 2,773, which reflects an increase of 113 students enrolled in non-technical courses at all campuses. The spring 2006 number of students enrolled in technical courses at Crossett and McGehee was 160, and now the spring 2007 number is 226. That reflects an increase of 66 students enrolled in technical courses at the Crossett and McGehee campuses. The number of students enrolled in a combination of technical and non-technical courses in spring 2006 was 78, and now the spring 2007 number is 113, which reflects an increase of 35 students. The total number of students enrolled on all campuses in spring 2006 was 2,898, and now the spring 2007 number of students enrolled is 3,112, which reflects an increase of 214 students.

Clay Brown informed the Board that UAM purchased The Trotter House on March 8. UAM plans to continue to use The Trotter House as a bed and breakfast for the community, visitors to the community, and university personnel. He stated that the plan is to do some refurbishing, including repairs to the porch, replacing some furniture, replacing the comforters, etc. Dr.

Lassiter also mentioned that the bed and breakfast will be used as a training site for student interns in the Hospitality Management program.

Clay Brown updated the Board on the following recent student activities:

- Black History Month
- Greek Week
- Spring Fling Week
- Crawfish Boil

Clay Brown reported on student organization use of off-campus facilities. He stated that he plans to meet with the Fairground Board to resolve any problems between the university and community.

Jay Jones presented to the Board the 3rd Quarter Financial Reports. He stated that the overall budget for current unrestricted funds is about \$33.5 million. As of March 31, 2007, the revenue is nearly \$27.9 million. The total budget allocations or expenses are about \$24.8 million. He noted that state appropriations, salaries and wages, and fringe benefits are all close to where they should be (about 75%). Mr. Jones explained that the utilities were at about 85%, but the number is actually about 70%.

Jay Jones updated the Board on the Master Plan. Mr. Jones stated that Division of Agriculture and the School of Forest Resources will have metal buildings for things such as cattle working and storage. There is also a forestry work center under construction and another storage building that will be about a 2,000 square foot structure. He said that project will be completed soon. Mr. Jones then updated the Board on the Wells/Sorrells project and said that a bid opening is planned to be on May 24. The construction should begin in early June. A few modular buildings will be brought onto campus in late April to temporarily house some of the people from these buildings.

Jay Jones updated the Board on the plans for the funds from the higher education bond issue. The overall amount for UAM to receive was about \$4.1 million. About \$900,000 of that was dedicated to the e-corridor project, which has been pulled out of our jurisdiction. They plan to centrally coordinate it under one supervision. He explained that the e-corridor is a huge fiber-optic network, and that UAM is hoping to connect to the leg that runs from Little Rock to Monroe at Highway 425. He stated that it would increase the speed at which we compute and will enhance our research ability. The other \$3.2 million that remains is dedicated for administrative software upgrades and for some infrastructure technology needs.

Jay Jones informed the Board of the Campus Technology Initiative. He discussed a handout that he had distributed about the Information Technology Committee. They're in the process of creating subcommittees under the Information Technology Committee to address the following areas: educational technology, institutional database, administrative software, infrastructure planning, and campus communications. He stated that the next 12 to 18 months will be very busy on campus with construction and technology upgrades.

Jay Jones updated the Board on the FY08 budget. He stated that the Board of Trustees meeting is about 3 weeks away where the tuition structure will be proposed for the upcoming fiscal year. Dr. Lassiter mentioned that budget hearings have been held with each academic unit, department, etc. where they had a chance to present their budget needs.

Linda Yeiser gave a report on the successful alumni reception recently held in Baltimore.

Linda Yeiser updated the Board on the Centennial Circle. The Office of Advancement is looking for 100 friends to make a pledge of \$10,000 between now and 2010 to form an unrestricted endowment of \$1 million. This amount will lay the foundation of funds to be used in the next century. She stated that the funds will be invested and the earnings will be available for the

priority of that particular year. The only restriction is the funds cannot be used for salaries, and it will always be a joint decision between the administration, the faculty, and the students. The funds will not be used for the clock tower.

Linda Yeiser updated the Board on the Athletic Campaign.

Linda Yeiser gave an update on Weevil Walk. Currently, 446 bricks have been installed along with 36 stones. Also, an order for 192 more bricks should arrive in May. Ms. Yeiser said that the next order will be placed after commencement, just in case anyone wants give a brick for a graduation gift. She also stated that there are 9 benches on campus with sponsors.

Linda Yeiser provided the Board with a Foundation Report. Bradley County Memorial Hospital has endowed a scholarship with a \$25,000 gift for Nursing. Mrs. Clippert from Camden has endowed a scholarship for Forest Resources. Ms. Faye Chandler, wife of the late Tony Chandler, has finished endowing a scholarship that she and her husband began before his death; it's to be divided between Nursing and someone who wants to teach math. The late Dr. Eugene Dillard's family is endowing a scholarship currently. Also, she informed the Board that several Foundation Board members' terms had expired. The by-laws state that those members will serve until new ones are appointed. She stated that 5 new ones have been appointed, and they'll begin serving in May. The new members include: Dr. Ed Bacon (retiring faculty), Ms. Lisa Cathey-Handley (Alumna and Executive Vice President of Alltel), Mr. Clarence Holley (State Farm Agent in Fordyce and former UAM coach), Mr. Jeff Weaver (Chief of Staff for Congressman Mike Ross), and Mr. Kenneth Mann (Accounting Alumnus, Controller at Deltic Timber, but in May will be Chief Financial Officer at Deltic Timber). Ms. Yeiser stated that Mr. Mann will be UAM's representative to the University of Arkansas Foundation.

Linda Yeiser informed the Board that the Ambassadors and the Alpha Sigma Tau sorority recently helped with a mini-telethon to raise funds. The Foundation received \$2,800 in pledges, and information was sent to 35 people who promised to make a gift. Ms. Yeiser gave an update on the license plate sales.

Linda Yeiser informed the Board that UAM recently signed a contract with iTunes. She stated that this will enable recruiting videos to be downloaded to potential students' computers and phones. She also stated that UAM has been invited to put a large flag under the big American flag at the main intersection in Monticello. There are also 5 smaller ones around town, such as in front of City Hall and the Drew County Courthouse.

Linda Rushing informed the Board that the Hospitality Management Program was approved by the Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Board of Trustees. She stated that they are in the process of looking for an instructor, and once that person is hired, they will be developing the program further.

Linda Rushing thanked Dr. Lassiter for his efforts, along with the Southeast Arkansas Legislative Delegation, in seeking funding for southeast Arkansas two-year institutions for Career Pathways. Ms. Rushing explained to the Board that Career Pathways is a program that provides financial and educational assistance for people to pursue their career goals, whether it's obtaining a high school diploma all the way up to a bachelor's degree. The requirements are that the student must be at least 19, have a dependent, and be receiving public assistance, or they must fall within 200% of the poverty level.

Linda Rushing updated the Board on the Crossett Master Plan. She stated that the bid opening was on April 11 and the lowest bid was \$1,208,000, which is under the planned amount.

Linda Rushing commended Ms. Whiting and her staff for all the wonderful recruiting they do. She also said that Mitch Powell, the new Student Services Coordinator, was working with that staff to increase enrollment.

Linda Rushing informed the Board about a large amount of electrical equipment donated to the school by Robert Jones.

Bob Ware thanked the Board and Mr. Ryburn for assisting in getting Chrysler and Toyota to donate a couple of vehicles to the UAM – COT McGehee. They are to be used for training purposes only and must be totally destroyed after they've been "used up."

Bob Ware thanked Dr. Lassiter for his efforts, along with the Southeast Arkansas Legislative Delegation, in seeking funding for UAM – COT McGehee's AHEOTA program. In the past, this program has been operated under general improvement funds, thanks to the senators that provided those funds over the last several years. This time, the institution was able to get state appropriations for the program.

Bob Ware informed the Board that the grant program for timber was funded through the fall semester of 2008, and now it's funded through the spring semester as well.

Bob Ware updated the Board on the McGehee Master Plan. He stated that the bid opening was on March 26. Out of five bidders, the lowest bid was \$1,122,000 which was just under the limit of \$1,125,000. The facility will be a Nursing and Allied Health building to bring the students from Dermott all to one campus. Also, a bookstore will be built and some renovations will be done to the main building.

Jack Lassiter took a moment to recognize Susan Brewer, Director of Financial Aid, and Becky Hammett, Assistant Director of Financial Aid.

Kate Stewart announced that this would be her last Board of Visitor's meeting to attend as the UAM Assembly Chair. She stated that her two-year term ends on May 15. She's happy with the things that have been accomplished in her two years. Dr. Stewart stated that the Salary Study Committee has completed its work and will be making a report to the Assembly on salaries. The Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Standards has come up with a list of recommendations that will be presented to the Assembly at the meeting on April 25. Dr. Lassiter also commended Dr. Stewart on a job well done as the Chair of the UAM Assembly for the last two years. He stated that she restored vitality to the faculty governance system and got more people interested and involved.

Jack Lassiter informed the Board that a group from Monticello has been attending individual meetings for the last two years with the Congressional Delegation in Washington, D.C. He mentioned that he was pleased to have an opportunity to go with that group recently. This group, established through Twenty for the Future and MEDC, came up with a list of priorities for this community. There were six priorities identified and the number one priority on that list was UAM and what the school is trying to do with the Forest Resource Center.

Jack Lassiter reported on his meeting with Governor Beebe on March 12. He stated that this meeting was centered on the priorities of UAM in terms of the capitol requests for this campus, which is the Forest Resource Center. Dr. Lassiter invited Mr. Frank Wilson to give a report of that meeting. Mr. Wilson reported that the Governor did express interest, and that some money was made available for the Forest Resource Center by the legislators that allocated part of their funds to the project. Mr. Benjie Ryburn also made a few comments on the meeting.

Jack Lassiter updated the Board on the 86th Legislative Session. He announced that a luncheon will be held on May 16 for the Cornerstone Coalition where the Southeast Arkansas Legislative Delegation will be recognized. He stated that each senator had \$571,000 to distribute to different projects statewide, and thirteen senators gave to the Forest Resource Center project. Dr. Lassiter mentioned that Senator Jimmy Jeffress allocated \$491,000 of his funds and was very instrumental in getting 12 other senators to help with this statewide project.

Jack Lassiter discussed the Board of Visitors appointment process with the Board. He stated that he would be meeting with 4 members that were under 1 year terms to see if they are interested in being reappointed. Dr. Lassiter said that the Governor will be responsible for reappointment of any person that would like to be reappointed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.