

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Visitors
University of Arkansas at Monticello
Fine Arts Center
Spencer Gallery
July 10, 2008
4:00 p.m.

Board members present: Jimmy Barrett
Ian Beer
Carlton Davis
Reginald Glover
Marilyn Johnson
Rhonda Mullikin
Jeff Owyong
Tommy Poole
Bennie Ryburn, III
Frank Wilson

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

Chairman Ian Beer welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

The Board approved the minutes from the April 10, 2008 meeting.

Chancellor Jack Lassiter introduced Athletic Director Alvy Early. Mr. Early presented Board member, Bennie Ryburn, with framed uniforms.

Vice Chancellor Clay Brown provided a handout on summer enrollment. He stated that the headcount is increasing for summer terms, when compared to the previous two years.

Dr. Brown gave an update on the search for a Director of Student Programs and Activities. He noted that this is a very critical position which handles 60 organizations, homecoming, etc. So far, three applications have been received.

Dr. Brown listed all of the summer camps that have taken place this summer. He pointed out that our facilities are readily used during the summer, which is a great recruiting tool.

Dr. Brown stated that Scholars Day took place on April 24, in which 148 students with a GPA of 3.0 or higher, participated.

Dr. Brown reported that a security system has been installed in the Library.

Dr. Brown stated that summer pre-registration will take place next week. There are approximately 75 students registered for each of the two days.

Dr. Brown reported that UAM is in the process of getting a new contract with Aramark, our current food vendor.

Dr. Brown reported that in April and May, 21 students were selected for Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities.

Provost David Ray reported on faculty vacancies and new hires. There are two positions that have not been filled, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice and Assistant Professor of Social Work. However, interviews for both positions have been scheduled. The following are new faculty:

- in the School of Arts and Humanities, Gregory Borse
- in the Division of Music, John Webb
- in the School of Education, Albert Snow
- in the School of Forest Resources, Alexandra Felix
- in the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences, Victoria Ryburn and Mary Stewart
- in the Division of Nursing, Laura Evans
- in the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Benjamin Brown

Mr. Ray reported on summer and fall pre-registration. There are 486 first-time freshmen and 98 transfer students pre-registered for the fall semester. However, there are two additional registration sessions in July and also in August. In all, there are 2386 students pre-registered for the fall semester.

Mr. Ray reported on concurrent enrollment. There are 221 students pre-registered for Early College High School from 11 area high schools.

Mr. Ray informed the Board of an ADHE committee he is on, that is discussing proposed program review procedures and measures of program viability based upon graduation numbers.

Mr. Ray discussed the legislative task force on remediation, retention, and graduation rates. Eight multiple item recommendations will be made to the Governor and Arkansas Legislators. The K-16 recommendation areas will involve: strengthening the Arkansas education pipeline, preparation, remediation, financial aid, retention and graduation, funding and governance, data needs, and recommendation of economic development.

Vice Chancellor Kathy Berry provided handouts pertaining to the Advancement office. She discussed the following year-to-date gifts to UAM:

- Centennial Circle - 52 commitments have been pledged. She stated that Linda Yeiser is working exclusively on this project.
- Campaign for Athletics - Dr. Berry announced that Mr. Heflin, who worked on this campaign, will be coaching at Woodlawn High School. She reminded everyone about the lunch reception on Thursday in honor of Mr. Heflin.
- New Scholarship Endowments, which are fully funded at \$15,000 - Chair of the Division Scholarship in Nursing and the Juanita Louise Moss Scholarship.
- Future Endowment, which has been established but not yet fully funded - Dr. Ed Bacon Scholarship/Ms. Isabel Bacon.
- New Non-Scholarship Endowment - Phi Sigma Chi Memorial Award.
- Phonathon - Dr. Berry stated that within eight weeks all pledges were in and the goal was exceeded.
- Transactions in office, license plates, and alumni dues.

Dr. Berry stated that another project the Advancement office is working on is support for the addition of the Forest Resources building.

Dr. Berry discussed the longitudinal/trend data sets for the UAM Foundation Fund.

Dr. Berry reported on involvement of campus constituents. She noted that faculty and staff will be involved with the Campaign for Forest Resources and students were involved with the phonathon.

Dr. Berry stated that the UAM Foundation Fund Board will have their role expanded that will include a merger with the Alumni Board to create one advisory board for the institution.

Vice Chancellor Jay Jones discussed the fiscal year 2008 financial report. He noted that our fiscal year ended on June 30 and by 10:00 a.m. on July 1, all systems were functioning and everyone had access to their new year funds. Mr. Jones stated that on July 25, there would be a final year-end close and the auditors would be here on July 28.

Mr. Jones gave an update on campus construction. He reported that the stadium press box is substantially complete, with only a few window installations to be made; the indoor practice facility has all of the footing and concrete work completed, and has a completion date of January 2009; and the Wells/Sorrells renovation is about 85% complete, with a completion date of October/November 2008.

Mr. Jones gave an update on information technology. He reported that the fiber optic project is about 96% complete, and the final specifications are still being worked on for the purchase of new administrative software.

Mr. Jones reported on the energy savings performance contract. Tour Andover Controls did a study of the energy systems on campus and made recommendations. However, UAM decided not to proceed with the contract. Mr. Jones stated that UAM has paid T. A. C. for their findings and will look at alternative ways of getting the work completed.

Vice Chancellor Linda Rushing provided a handout and discussed the Career Pathways Program. For the 2008-09 year, \$255,616 will be received for this program. Ms. Rushing noted that last year, 149 students were served, with 63 completing some type of certificate, and four of those completing an associate degree. Out of the total funding last year, \$91,610 was awarded to the career pathways students in the form of financial support for child care, gas, tuition, fees, books, etc.

Ms. Rushing reported on the Adult Education Program. For the 2008-09 year, \$525,449 will be awarded.

Ms. Rushing gave an update on personnel. The following are new employees:

Thomas Swan – Instructor, Electromechanical Technology

Brandi Maxwell – Clinical Instructor, Practical Nursing

Tonya Smith – Instructor, Health Information Technology

Vice Chancellor Bob Ware discussed the Career Pathways Program. He stated that \$235,151 has been awarded for the 2008-09 year. Last year, 125 were served, with 29 students being employed, and 84 being awarded some type of degree. Mr. Ware provided a handout on FY 08 incentive funds for performance. The McGehee campus received a total of \$22,869, which was based on enrollment and certificates and degrees. Mr. Ware discussed the Adult Education Program. He stated that adult education would be integrated into career pathways, and will work together to get students ready for employment.

Mr. Ware gave an update on the childcare center. This is used for training of early childcare students, but the money that is generated does not pay for the center. They are currently working on an agreement with a licensing agency.

Mr. Ware discussed the AHEOTA grant extension. The grant end date was October 2008. An extension was requested and approved until September 2009.

Dr. Marsha Clayton gave a report on the Assembly. She noted that the UAM Assembly met twice in the spring semester, March 13 and April 29. During the April 29 meeting, the Committee on Committees announced appointments for the coming academic year. The assembly officers were also elected:

Chair: Marsha Clayton, School of Business

Vice Chair: Scott Lykens, School of Arts and Humanities

Secretary: Donna Hunnicutt, School of Education

Parliamentarian: Rick Clubb, School of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Dr. Clayton stated that an Ad Hoc Committee was appointed to revise the operating procedures of the UAM Assembly constitution, to incorporate the colleges of technology and update the constitution. The members of this committee are: Steve Trana in Music, Bob Stark in Agriculture, Rick Clubb in Social and Behavioral Sciences, Vickey Haycox from McGehee, and Sherry Harris from Crossett.

Dr. Lassiter discussed the FY 09 budget. He stated that due to reduced revenue projections from the state, the budget had to be revised two weeks prior to the date for submission to the Board of Trustees. He referred to the executive summary and pointed out the following priorities:

- A tuition increase was decided before the state gave new revenue projections.
- Salary increases for faculty and non-classified staff have been delayed; however, a 2% increase was given to classified staff. An increase was also given for employees in the salary study, which brought them up to 75% of identified need.
- Scholarships have been increased at the same rate of tuition/fees with minor additional funds for institutional scholarships allocated.
- Minimum wage will be increased to \$6.55 for work study students, even though higher education is exempt from increasing to this level.
- UAM absorbed the total increase of medical insurance, which increased July 1. The institution has absorbed the increases to the employee premium since 2004.
- A revised funding projection of 76.58% will allow an increase in salaries for faculty and non-classified staff, and a projection of 80.69% will allow an increase for administrative personnel. The current projection is 53%.
- Some money was allocated for critical equipment needs for maintenance, smart rooms and science labs.

Dr. Lassiter complimented faculty and staff for their understanding of the current economy and the restrictions on the FY 09 budget.

Dr. Lassiter discussed the sale of property to Drew Central. Last year a proposal was made to lease land adjacent to the Drew Central campus for a football practice field. Drew Central has asked to purchase that land plus ten acres that was in a prior lease. They currently own 20 acres adjacent to the leased property. An agreement has been made and will be presented to the Board of Trustees to sell 14 acres of land to Drew Central.

Dr. Lassiter discussed the biennial budget requests. He stated that UAM has been asked to prepare the requests on three scenarios: 1) no new funding, 2) a modest increase, and 3) a 7% decrease. This information will be sent to the Department of Finance and Administration and will be utilized in the budget process that will start in January with the legislature.

Dr. Lassiter stated that at the July 24-25 meeting, the state Coordinating Board will consider a funding formula recommendation which adds a new component called end of course funding. The issue is whether universities should be paid for the beginning enrollment or for the number that has completed the coursework at the end of the semester.

Dr. Lassiter stated that in the past, the Colleges of Technology have been funded on a non-formula basis, but effective with the next biennium, both will be funded on a formula that recognizes their production of credit hours, student enrollment, and eventually, their end of course funding.

Dr. Lassiter stated that on Monday, July 14, there will be a campus planning session for the executive council, academic council and other key leaders. This meeting will encourage conversations, questions, and good thoughts and plans for the future.

Dr. Lassiter gave a report on the June 6 Board of Trustees meeting.

- The operating budget was approved.
- Early retirement was approved for Boris Zeide in the School of Forest Resources, effective in September. Four faculty members retired in May 2008: Joe Guenter in Physics, Russell Nordeen in Biology, Elizabeth Zeide in Mathematics, and David Koskoski in Music.
- Approval was granted to offer a Health Information Technology Technical Certificate.
- A proposal was approved to offer a Certificate of Proficiency in several different programs.
- The existing Master of Arts in Teaching through distance education program with minor revisions was approved.

Mr. Beer requested old/continuing business. None requested.

Mr. Beer requested new business. Mr. Beer stated that an officer nomination committee needed to be appointed. The Board agreed that the four members whose term will expire July 31, 2008 will serve as the nominating committee.

Mr. Beer adjourned the meeting at 5:49 p.m.