

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Visitors
University of Arkansas at Monticello
Fine Arts Center
Spencer Gallery
January 15, 2009
4:00 p.m.

Board members present: Jimmy Barrett
Carlton Davis
Reginald Glover
Marilyn Johnson
Tommy Maxwell
Lorraine McCullough
Jeff Owyong
Tommy Poole
Bennie Ryburn, III
Frank Wilson

University Personnel: Chancellor Jack Lassiter
Provost David Ray
Vice Chancellor Linda Yeiser
Vice Chancellor Jay Jones
Vice Chancellor Linda Rushing
Vice Chancellor Bob Ware
Marsha Clayton, Chair of the Assembly
Ranelle Eubanks, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Louis James, Dean of the School of Business
James Edson, Professor in the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences

Mr. Jimmy Barrett welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m.

The Board approved the minutes from the October 2, 2008 meeting.

Chancellor Jack Lassiter introduced new board member, Tommy Maxwell.

Provost David Ray gave a report on the spring schedule of classes. The unofficial headcount is 3260 students. Compared to last spring, the headcount was 3063. He stated that a total of 855 classes being offered this spring, including 48 on-line, 81 early college high school, 8 CIV, and 73 late afternoon/evening classes.

Mr. Ray discussed the new Bachelor of General Studies degree. It has been approved by the campus governance and is being sent to the UA Board of Trustees and the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The BGS degree will require candidates to complete the standard 44 hours of general education as well as three blocks from one or more emphasis areas. This degree will provide opportunities for not only current students, but former students as well.

Mr. Ray stated that as of January 14, a total of 244 awards had been posted for December graduates. These awards range from Certificates of Proficiency to Master's degrees.

Mr. Ray discussed accreditation. The School of Education will undergo accreditation March 7-11 by NCATE. The Division of Music will undergo accreditation by NASM in September. Mr. Ray reported that UAM was recently accredited for concurrent enrollment of high school students by NASEP.

Mr. Ray discussed ERZ (Educational Renewal Zone)/High School Redesign. The ERZ is housed in the School of Education and brings together high school instructors and university faculty. Tracie Jones is the new director, following the retirement of Mary Jo Barnett.

Mr. Ray discussed retention. In the fall semester, there were 666 first-time full-time freshmen. A total of 532 of the 666 are currently registered for the spring term. This represents a very preliminary retention rate of 80%. Mr. Ray noted that this is consistent with past rates.

Vice Chancellor Jay Jones discussed the 2nd quarter financial report for FY09. He noted that they do not have the official reports at this time. As of December 31, tuition and fees revenue is up from last year by about 7.6% and the state general revenue is coming in as projected. On the expenditure side, the salary and fringe benefits category is slightly under projection and the maintenance operations is at about 44% of the budget.

Mr. Jones discussed the preparation of the FY 2010 budget. UAM has already begun to look at state revenue projections. In March, unit heads will present budget needs to the Executive Council and tuition and fees will be proposed. Budget exhibits will be submitted to the University in May. And on June 5, the budget will be presented to the Board of Trustees for consideration and approval.

Mr. Jones gave an update on campus construction. Wells Hall and Sorrells Hall have been completed and are being occupied. They are pleased with the offices and classrooms. Mr. Jones reported that most of the exterior work has been completed on the Athletic Practice Facility. The field turf is scheduled to be installed in mid-February.

Mr. Jones gave an update on information technology initiatives. He noted that Collegiate Project Services is helping with the specifications for the administrative software package. They hope to have a decision made by the end of June, as to how to proceed.

Vice Chancellor Linda Yeiser noted that Homecoming 2008 was a success, with really good turnouts at the different functions that took place.

Ms. Yeiser discussed Centennial activities:

- A reception was held at the Governor's Mansion on January 13.
- The ceremonial reenactment of the signing of Act 100 of 1909 was on January 14.
- See you at the centennial clock tower will take place on April 1.
- The Board of Trustees Meeting will be on the UAM campus on April 17.
- Throughout the year, UAM will partner with various communities at festivals.
- In October, UAM will kick-off Homecoming week with a "paint the town green" parade.
- A formal dedication of the clock tower and burial of a time capsule will be September 14, 2010.

Ms. Yeiser stated that she did not have the year-end report from the UA Foundation at this time. She noted that 29 employees gave \$21,739 through payroll deduction in 2008.

Ms. Yeiser stated that UAM will soon be launched on facebook. She also reported that there are currently 66 members of the Centennial Circle. She noted that the requirements have changed and are more flexible.

Dr. Lassiter reported on the construction of the centennial clock tower. He stated it will be 30 feet high. It will have four bases and four clocks that will chime on the hour. All four of the bids were very close; the successful bidder was Davis Construction.

Ms. Yeiser reported on recently endowed scholarships:

- Dr. James Roiger endowed the Raymond and Loretta Roiger Chi Iota Sigma Scholarship.
- Mr. D. John Nichols added another \$100,000 to the Peggy Doss Endowed Education Scholarship.
- Ms. Minnie May Moffat and Ms. Pattie Moffatt established the Dr. Walter Moffatt, Jr. Scholarship.
- Senators Gene and Jimmy Jeffress endowed the John Dougherty Choral Scholarship.

Vice Chancellor Linda Rushing reported on the position of Associate Vice Chancellor for Technical Education for the Crossett and McGehee campuses. Misty Paschall will fill that position, starting January 16, 2009.

Ms. Rushing discussed the Practical Nursing Program. The program received 100% pass rate on the State Board. They hosted a LifeShare Blood Drive on the Crossett campus and set a county record of 203 units for a one-day drive. Shela Upshaw, Instructor/Chair, was recognized as Volunteer of the Year by LifeShare Blood Centers.

Ms. Rushing gave a report on the Adult Education Program. As of December 2008, the program has served 254 students, with 170 attending 12 or more hours, and 42 students earning a GED. The program received an Effective and Efficient rating of 98% from DWE Adult Education.

Ms. Rushing gave an update on the Career Pathways Program. There were 137 active students enrolled from July-December. Of those enrolled, 37 students have earned an Employability Certificate.

Ms. Rushing stated that UAM-CTC worked with the Rapid Response Team to assist the 480 employees affected by the closing of International Paper in Bastrop, LA.

Vice Chancellor Bob Ware discussed the Adult Education Program at McGehee and Dumas. The program received an Effective and Efficient rating of 112% from DWE Adult Education. Mr. Ware announced some of the community classes that are offered through this program: Get and Maintain Good Credit, Self Defense, Facebook, Fitness, Basic Computers for Senior Citizens, Learn to Use your Digital Camera, and Defensive Driving.

Mr. Ware gave an update on Career Pathways. As of January 15, the program has served 151 students, with 88 students receiving awards.

Mr. Ware gave a report on the Perkins Grant. This year, they received \$90,477. As of January 12, they received an evaluation with no deficiencies in the areas checked: accounting, purchase orders, travel, payroll, and inventory. With the Perkins Grant, the campus purchased a computerized patient mannequin, SimMan.

Mr. Ware reported on the Practical Nursing Program. They have had 21 graduates and a pass rate of 93%.

Mr. Ware provided a handout on Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center.

Dr. Lassiter announced that Vice Chancellor Clay Brown was in Nashville planning for a meeting. Dr. Lassiter provided Dr. Brown's report. He stated that student activities are being well attended.

Dr. Lassiter discussed summer camps. Each summer, one residence hall will be excluded from participation in summer camps. This will allow maintenance work to be completed on each residence hall.

Dr. Lassiter discussed the food service vendor contract. A contract with a vendor can only be maintained for a certain period of time. A request for proposals is being prepared for a new contract, since it is a bid process.

Dr. Lassiter stated that the Vice Chancellor for Advancement search is still in progress.

Dr. Lassiter announced that Dr. Brown has been asked to chair the Arkansas Association of Public Universities Conference this fall. He commended all faculty and staff for being active and staying involved professionally and with organizations.

Assembly Chairperson, Marsha Clayton announced that the UAM Assembly met on October 22 and December 4. The Assembly meeting dates for this semester are February 12 and April 7. Dr. Clayton stated that the first stage of the UAM Salary Study had been completed and the second stage will begin this semester, with the appointment of an ad hoc committee to examine salaries at comparable institutions.

Dr. Lassiter gave an update on the State Legislative, which started January 12. He stated that there is a very active and strong delegation. He announced some key committees that our delegation will chair:

- Senator Jimmy Jeffress will chair the Senate Education Committee.
- Representative Robert Moore will chair the Rules Committee.
- Representative Gregg Reep will chair the Health and Insurance Committee.
- Representative Alan Maxwell will chair the Legislative Council.

Dr. Lassiter reported on the Economic Stimulus Proposal. UAM proposed 15 projects that could be considered as economic stimulus programs or activities.

Dr. Lassiter discussed the School of Forest Resources Annex Campaign. A brochure was provided for all members. He stated that \$4.7 million has been received. They hope to have \$6 – \$7 million before the project starts.

Dr. Lassiter stated that the Hamburg School District has offered to give a building to the University. This item will be presented at the Board of Trustees meeting tomorrow, January 16. Other items for the Board of Trustees meeting include the final approval of the Bachelor of General Studies and the deletion of the Music Theater program.

Mr. Barrett requested old/continuing business. Officers for the Board of Visitors were elected as follows:

Chairman:	Bennie Ryburn, III
Vice Chair:	Reginald Glover
Secretary:	Marilyn Johnson

Mr. Barrett requested new business. Dr. Lassiter provided information for a Trustee Day Conference in Little Rock, held on February 18. He encouraged board members to attend.

Mr. Barrett adjourned the meeting at 5:56 p.m.