

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Visitors
University of Arkansas at Monticello
Fine Arts Center, Spencer Gallery
October 13, 2011
4:00 p.m.

Board members present:

Jimmy Barrett
Tim Chase
Carlton Davis
Roger George
Scotty Holderfield
Tommy Maxwell
Lorraine McCullough
Jeff Owyong
Bennie Ryburn, Chairperson
Pat Webb

University Personnel:

Jack Lassiter, Chancellor
Clay Brown, Vice Chancellor
Jay Hughes, Vice Chancellor
Jay Jones, Vice Chancellor
David Ray, Vice Chancellor
Linda Rushing, Vice Chancellor
Bob Ware, Vice Chancellor
Ranelle Eubanks, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Chris Ratcliff, Athletic Director
Scott Kuttenkuler, Dean of Students

Mr. Bennie Ryburn called the meeting to order.

The Board approved the minutes from the July 14, 2011 meeting.

Dr. Lassiter began with the announcement of the newly appointed board members who will officially start in January. The new board members are as follows: George Harris of Monticello, India Holt of Crossett, and Michael Jones of Dumas; Tommy Maxwell was reappointed for a second term.

Provost Ray presented his report for the Office of Academic Affairs. The report included information on fall classes, concurrent enrollment, faculty and staff updates, and Program Reviews.

1. Mr. Ray stated that a total of 939 classes have one or more students enrolled. Of these, 62 are online classes, 98 are Early College High-school classes, and 12 are CIV classes.
 - 482 students from 30 high-schools are concurrently enrolled in Early College High-School classes which offer subjects such as: math, history, composition, art, and public speaking.
2. The final stage of schedule preparation for the spring term is underway. Preregistration for spring 2012 will be held November 7-18.
3. Newly hired faculty/staff are:
 - Ms. Jacqueline Bryant, Assistant Professor of Nursing
 - Mr. C.E. Askew, Visiting Instructor of Music
 - Dr. Phil Tappe, Dean of the School for Forest Resources and Director of the Forest Resource Center

4. Provost Ray stated that UAM has established the months of October and February as the time to consider inquiries regarding early retirement for tenured faculty. Tenured faculty may submit a letter of inquiry to the Provost through their unit head, before November 1, and before March 1. All inquiries will be reviewed by the Executive Council.
5. Mr. Ray talked about the 2011-12 Program Reviews. He stated that this year, Forestry, Spatial Information Systems, Wildlife Management, and the AASN will be reviewed.
 - Forestry and the AASN in Nursing have recently completed accreditation visits; therefore will not be subject to Program Reviews at this time.
6. Future projects of the Academic Affairs office will consist of modifying baccalaureate degrees from 124 hours to 120 hours, modifying associate degrees to 60 hours, and adding an all on-line MFA degree.

Ms. Linda Rushing, Crossett Vice Chancellor, presented her information which included updates on personnel and the New Adult Education Initiative.

1. Ms. Rushing announced that all positions on the Crossett campus are filled; newly hired personnel are:
 - William Hines, Public Safety Officer
 - Ashley Bryant, Administrative Assistant for Career Pathways
2. Vice Chancellor, Rushing discussed the Adult Education Initiative. She stated that there are thirty-two 16 – 17 year old students in the program who are court ordered to attend. The newly implemented initiative is to require monthly mandatory meetings of the parents or guardians of these students to accompany the student at school and attend workshops.
3. Ms. Rushing mentioned that there will be a movement of the restructure of the delivery of adult education services. She stated that she will present the information at a later date as she learns the details.
 - Mr. Maxwell questioned what kind of move it would be. Ms. Rushing responded that they may see the consolidation of programs if funding is limited.

McGehee Vice Chancellor, Mr. Bob Ware presented information on personnel updates.

1. Vice Chancellor Ware announced that the recent hires for the McGehee campus are:
 - Luke Leighton, Public Safety Officer
 - Joy Holmes, General Education Workforce Ed Instructor

Mr. Ware stated that they are still having difficulty trying to fill the open automotive position.

Dr. Clay Brown, Vice Chancellor for the Office of Advancement, presented his agenda items which included Centennial Circle, Homecoming events, endowments, enrollment reports, marketing, and the UAM fight song.

1. Dr. Brown began his presentation citing a flyer detailing Homecoming week's schedule of activities which include the Hall of Fame Reception and Banquet, Book Signing, Alumni Reception and Awards dinner, and class reunions.
 - a. The Alumni Awards banquet will be held October 28; the Achievement and Merit Award recipients are Ginny Chambliss, Dale Burton, Randy Risher, Larry Proctor, and Bud Bulloch. The Continuing the Connection award will be given to P. Q. Gardner of Monticello.
 - b. This year, the university will also recognize Rob Leonard for his 25 plus years of service.
2. Dr. Brown announced that eight scholarships have reached endowment levels, they are as follows:
 - Bill and Marilyn Webb Forest Resources Endowed Scholarship
 - Arkansas Seed Dealers Association Agriculture Endowed Scholarship
 - James S. Hancock Memorial Nursing Endowed Scholarship
 - Susan Phillips Echols General Endowed Scholarship
 - Monticello High Class of 1965 Endowed Scholarship
 - Monticello Association Life of Underwriters General Endowed Scholarship
 - Al Peer Kappa Alpha Psi General Endowed Scholarship
 - Minnie May Moffatt Business Endowed Scholarship

3. Dr. Brown discussed the enrollment report handout: The handout represented a 5 year history of the fall semester. He commented that total headcount had increased in all categories.
4. Vice Chancellor Brown talked about the new Marketing Committee. He stated that a committee was appointed by Dr. Lassiter to come up with effective ways to market the university.
 - a. At present, UAM has a movie trailer running in theaters in Little Rock and Monticello, and a new billboard on I-40.
 - b. Ms. Whiting and members of a subcommittee are also working on the production of new commercials for UAM.
5. Dr. Brown announced that the UAM Fight Song has never had lyrics. Lee Hickmott, a 2008 UAM graduate penned some lyrics for the song which was presented to and approved by the Executive Council. Mr. Hickmott's wife will debut the song at Homecoming.

Mr. Jay Jones, Finance and Administration Vice Chancellor presented his information which included the FY11 Financial Report, 3rd Party Information Requests, Financial Aid, and Forest Resources Building and Physical Plant Projects.

1. Mr. Jones mentioned that he just finished an exit interview with auditors on the FY11 Financial Report. He stated that information from the report shows UAM net assets at about \$58,000,000 with \$18,000,000 in current assets as cash, and investments and receivables; and around \$40,000,000 in building and infrastructure. Mr. Jones reported that total net assets are at \$41,000,000 which is an increase of about \$3,000,000 for the year.
 - Due to the increase in enrollments, Mr. Jones stated that tuition and fees have increased by \$1,000,000.
2. The Forest Resources building project is ongoing. Mr. Jones stated that the 1986 building and new annex are both currently being worked on at the same time. The 1986 building is now 50% complete; the new annex is one third complete.
 - a. Dr. Lassiter asked if the project was on schedule. Mr. Jones commented that they were just a bit behind schedule and hoping by December the 1986 building and annex will be completed. The 1956 building should be done by fall 2012.
 - b. The project, which will cost about \$6,000,000 when completed, is being funded by legislature and private donations.
3. Mr. Jones discussed Information Requests from 3rd parties. He stated that the university has received 15 - 20 information requests since the last meeting of the Board of Visitors and that most of these requests had come from news agencies and the legislature.
4. Vice Chancellor Jones reported on Federal Financial Aid developments. He stated that 699 students have received Academic Challenge Scholarship awards for the fall semester. The total amount awarded to these students for this scholarship is \$1.6 million.
 - a. Mr. Jones stated that there are changes and new administrative regulations that have been announced for federal financial aid. The federal government is enacting these new rules and regulations in part to reduce spending in this area of the budget and to require universities to be more accountable.
 - b. The Gainful Employment Rule is one of the new reporting measures that the federal government has implemented. All universities must now disclose information on employment potential for students to assist them in making their decision as to what programs to enter; this report can be found on the UAM website.
5. Mr. Jones commented that the Physical Plant is always busy. He stated that the crews have completed a great deal of work on residence halls while making a concerted effort to maximize energy.

Mr. Jay Hughes, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, presented his information on residence halls, Welcome Week and Parent/Family Day activities, and various Campus Security systems.

1. Mr. Hughes discussed the residence halls. He stated that the custodial workers and maintenance staff have done a great job getting new furniture into Bankston Hall. Mr. Hughes commended Dean Kuttenkuler and his staff on this accomplishment.
 - At present, 701 students are living on campus which equates to 97% occupancy.
2. Vice Chancellor Hughes spoke about Welcome Week activities which were held at the beginning of the academic year. He stated that the events were a success as well as the Parent Family Appreciation Day activities which were held September 10.
3. Vice Chancellor Hughes discussed a variety of security measures available to the campus which UAM has implemented.
 - a. UAMALERT is a new student campus security system which each student is automatically enrolled into. Mr. Hughes stated that the system delivers messages via email, text and voicemail to all three campuses. 4500 people were registered into the system; on the first test of the system, 3089 text messages were delivered in 17 seconds.
 - b. Vice Chancellor Hughes discussed Campus Security Authorities: The requirement that came out of the Clery Act designates individuals on campus other than the police that students can report crime related issues to.
 - c. Mr. Hughes spoke about the University Behavior Prevention Team. This is a proactive measure that the university has implemented to intervene on behalf of a student who is in need of guidance and support. A Person of Concern Report is completed to alert the team so they may address issues before they become problematic.
 - d. Safe Walk is an escort service and accompaniment policy for any students in the evening. This refers to those individuals who do not want to walk alone at night. The individual can call the office of Public Safety for assistance or an escort.
 - e. The Eyewitness Program is an anonymous text-based system to text crime tips or safety concerns to Public Safety.
 - f. The Jeanne Clery Act requires all universities to report their crime information and safety policies to the government annually.

Athletic Director, Chris Ratcliff presented his information on the new Letterman's Breakfast, Golf Tournament, Season Tickets, and the Hall of Fame Banquet.

1. The first annual Letterman's breakfast will be held on the Saturday of Homecoming. Mr. Ratcliff stated that this is a way to reconnect with athletes who were formally with the university. All former A&M and UAM student-athletes will be invited to the event.
2. The annual golf tournament raised \$2,200 for the golf teams; 13 teams participated in this year's event.
3. Mr. Ratcliff discussed season tickets: Because of success in selling the chair back seats; an additional 3 rows have been added for sale. General admission chair back seats are \$15.
4. The Hall of Fame Banquet will be held on October 27. Corey Allred, Becky Brown, Greg Culp, Harold Steelman, Russell Bulloch, and Tommy Scifres will be inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame. Buddy Carson will receive the Spirit Award.
5. Mr. Ratcliff spoke about "100 for 100". Athletics will ask 100 people per year to give \$100 to raise money to fund scholarships. The \$1,000 scholarships will be given to athletes in all 10 sports.
6. Mr. Ratcliff mentioned that within a few weeks, brochures advertising the "Swing for the Fences" campaign will be passed out. This campaign is to raise money to fund various project construction and renovations for the facilities of the baseball and softball teams.
7. Mr. Ratcliff announced that student-athletes, Daniel Loya and Becky Johnson will accompany him to the NCAA Leadership Academy.
8. A new Cotton Blossom logo campaign is currently underway. The previous logo depicted a picture of a cotton boll. The university would like to change the logo to incorporate an actual cotton blossom. A contest for a new design is in process.

9. The Student Athlete Advisory Committee will host "Trunk or Treat" on October 26 along with Halloween Havoc. On November 12, they will sponsor a 5k race in town for the Make a Wish Foundation.

Mr. Scott Lykens was not present to report on the Assembly. Dr. Lassiter mentioned that the committee has been meeting every 2 weeks. He stated that the meetings have helped with communication between the faculty and administration.

Chancellor Jack Lassiter discussed Election of Officers, new UA System President, Dr. Donald Bobbitt, the SEARK Delegation Meeting, Performance Funding, and the Student Loan Default Rate.

1. Dr. Lassiter thanked retiring Board members Bennie Ryburn, Jimmy Barrett, and Cynthia Montgomery for their years of service on the Board.
2. Dr. Lassiter discussed the election of new officers, the Board voted as follows:
 - Tommy Maxwell, Chairperson
 - Roger George, Vice Chairperson
 - Jeff Owyong, Secretary
3. President Donald Bobbitt will be on campus November 15 and 16. A schedule of events which will include the November 16 SEARK Delegation meeting will be forthcoming.
4. Chancellor Lassiter mentioned that they are close to having the performance funding items completed. This report will be reviewed by the governor and legislature and will determine the percent of funding the university will receive back based on measures such as baccalaureate degrees awarded and retention. Dr. Lassiter will discuss this further at the January meeting.
5. Dr. Lassiter discussed the Student Loan Default Rate. He stated that under the new Direct Student Loan Program, repayments of loans by students are collected directly by the university which is becoming an increasing problem. Dr. Lassiter stated that each university has to keep their loan default rate under 25% or may risk a chance of losing its Title 4 funding if the loan default rate is over 25% for three years in a row.

Mr. Ryburn requested old/continuing business: None requested.

Mr. Ryburn requested new business: None requested.

Remarks:

- Mr. Ryburn stated that he has had a great time serving the Board under Dr. Lassiter and appreciates Dr. and Mrs. Jack Lassiter for bringing the campus back up to speed.
- Ms. Rushing mentioned the Open House for the Hamburg Center; the event will take place Monday, October 24 at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Ryburn adjourned the meeting at 5:53.