

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Visitors

University of Arkansas at Monticello
Fine Arts Center, Spencer Gallery

July 12, 2012

4:00 p.m.

Board members Present:

Tim Chase
Carlton Davis
Roger George
India Holt
Jeff Owyong
Beverly Rowe
Tommy Maxwell

University Personnel:

Jack Lassiter, Chancellor
Ranelle Eubanks, Interim Vice Chancellor
Clay Brown, Vice Chancellor
Melodie Colwell, Business Manager
Scott Kuttenkuler, Dean of Students
Bob Ware, Vice Chancellor
Linda Rushing, Vice Chancellor

Chairman Tommy Maxwell called the meeting to order.

The Board approved the minutes from the April 19, 2012 meeting.

Dr. Ranelle Eubanks discussed the graduation report for 2011-2012, and the new 120 hour requirements for graduation.

Dr. Eubanks discussed the Higher Learning Commission visit in June which reviewed the Master of Fine Arts as an online degree program. She noted that we should hear from HLC by September concerning the outcome. She also stated that UAM will have a campus-wide re-accreditation visit in the fall of 2014, which occurs every 10 years. The university will begin to gather evidence and data this fall for the self-study.

Dr. Eubanks announced that the Master of Physical Education and Coaching was officially approved by the HLC as UAM's first totally online degree program. The University already has 15 students in the program. She noted that this program does not lead to licensure, but provides an alternative to those who do not want the Education Leadership degree.

Dr. Eubanks discussed the following faculty research projects:

- Survey of dung beetles associated with swamp rabbits.

- Nitrate and nitrite contents changes in vegetables in storage.
- NSF—Diversity and Classification of the algal class eu-slig-rna-to-phyceae.
- Using an open source programmable microcontroller to visualize chaos.
- Formation of hydrogen gas by electromechanical methods for use as a “green” fuel source.
- Analyses of the taxonomic status of the Arkansas endemic toothwort.

Dr. Eubanks noted that there are currently three faculty vacancies, and she announced the nine new hires for the upcoming school year.

Ms. Linda Rushing stated that the Adult Education has served a total 371 students in downtown Crossett, on the Crossett campus and in Hamburg. She explained that the annual funding this year is the last year that programs will have a cap on funding. She mentioned in future years each site will be funded on available clients in the service area which will result in more money for northwest Arkansas because the number of people being served is greater than the funds available.

Mr. Bob Ware discussed the Carl Perkins grant and the budget of \$79,099.00 from last year. He noted the retention strategies implemented by retention specialist, Tara Snider Coburn during the 2011 – 2012 year.

Mr. Ware stated that they are one of three counties that have dual Adult Education programs. In Desha County there is a program on McGehee campus and one in Dumas. The Department of Workforce Development will decide whether or not to shut down one of the two programs.

Mr. Ware discussed the 217 noncredit classes that were offered on the McGehee campus and the 173 students that were attending.

Mr. Ware discussed the heavy equipment program and projects that have been completed including preparation work for the UAM baseball field dugouts and a drainage ditch for the industrial park. He stated that the Department of Highway Transportation sent a check for the amount of \$6,511 to cover project costs. He also stated that out of 24 students they had 17 graduates this year.

Dr. Clay Brown discussed the Alumni trip to Niagara Falls in June. He stated that the travel program would be as follows: on even number years a trip will be in May, and odd years a trip will be in September.

Dr. Brown also noted the drop in students during summer I and II, noting that we are down 208 in summer one and 284 students in summer two.

Dr. Brown discussed homecoming plans, noting that on Friday, October 12th, the new Forest Resources building will be dedicated. He stated that they are still working on class reunions.

Dr. Brown discussed the vacant position of Director of Alumni Affairs, stating that Colt Roan had left. He also announced that there is a new manager of the Trotter House, Rebekah Heflin.

Ms. Melodie Colwell presented the Finance report for Mr. Jay Jones. She stated that the year-end close out was on June 30 and that the Finance staff is working to adjust accounts. She also discussed changes in the bookstore, noting that it would be closed on July 18th for inventory and will reopen July 20th under the management of Follett. She said Follett will buy all inventory after the contract is signed and will give a \$5,000 a year for scholarships. UAM will receive a commission of 13.25% on all sales with a guarantee of \$190,000 per year.

Ms. Colwell discussed the renovations to the Forest Resources building and how their focus is now on the old building. She noted they are putting in new windows, have pitched the roof and believe that the project should be completed in mid-August. She discussed the 100 new parking spaces in the area where Jeter Hall used to be, noting there will also be a drive through ATM at this location.

Mr. Scott Kuttenkuler talked about the cosmetic changes that have taken place this summer in Bankston and Maxwell. He talked about the possibility of requiring students to live on campus their first year of school until they reach a certain number of hours, noting research has found that students who live on campus their first year do better in school. Mr. Kuttenkuler announced that the maximum numbers of students are now in on campus housing. He stated that UAM can house 702.

Mr. Kuttenkuler discussed the Upward Bound Program and said that one of the missions of the program is to help students believe that can be successful at college. He discussed Weevil Welcome activities, including a free bowling and movie night for the students.

Mr. Kuttenkuler mentioned that September 15, 2012 is Parent/Family Appreciation day, noting that there will be a lot of activities going on including a football game that weekend.

Mr. Kuttenkuler stated that preregistration numbers for the fall semester were 2425, not including preregistration and new college students.

Dr. Jack Lassiter gave the Athletics report for Mr. Chris Ratcliff. He discussed how they are trying to raise money to make upgrades on the baseball and softball fields. He mentioned that the football season tickets would be the same price as the past year. Dr. Lassiter announced that Matt Whiting has been employed as the Assistant AD for External Affairs. He also discussed a NCAA grant that will pay for assistant coaches for men and women basketball for two years.

Dr. Lassiter discussed professional development week, stating that the focus will be on health and wellness. He noted that there was a 10 % increase in health insurance this year, approximately \$300,000, which the University will absorb the entire increase and not increase the premium for employees.

Dr. Lassiter announced the new Board of Trustees member, Dr. Steven Broughton from Pine Bluff.

Dr. Lassiter stated that we now have to complete a background check on all personnel employed for summer camps, which costs the University about \$22 for each background check. In the future the cost of the background check will be the responsibility of each camp.

The board approved changing the date of the next board of visitors meeting from October 11, 2012 to October 18, 2012.

Mr. Maxwell requested old/continuing business. None requested

This is the last meeting that Roger George, Scotty Holderfield, and Pat Webb will attend unless they are reappointed to serve again.

Chairman Maxwell adjourned the meeting at 5:47.