

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Visitors

University of Arkansas at Monticello
Fine Arts Center, Spencer Gallery

October 18, 2012

4:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

India Holt
Roger George
Tommy Maxwell
Beverly Mihalyka
Carlton Davis

University Personnel:

Jack Lassiter, Chancellor
Bob Ware, Vice Chancellor
Linda Rushing, Vice Chancellor
Ranelle Eubanks, Interim Vice Chancellor
Clay Brown, Vice Chancellor
Jay Hughes, Vice Chancellor
Jay Jones, Vice Chancellor
Gregory Borse, Chairman of UAM Assembly

Mr. Tommy Maxwell called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

The Board approved the minutes from the July 12, 2012 meeting.

Dr. Lassiter stated that Dr. Jimmie Yeiser has been hired as the new Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and will begin October 30, 2012.

Dr. Brown introduced Julie Barnes, who was recently hired as Director of Alumni Affairs.

Dr. Eubanks provided a report of fall classes indicating that we had 86 August graduates. She noted that enrollment is up in Monticello and McGehee. She stated that there are 967 classes, 75 online classes, and 8 CIV classes. She also mentioned that pre-registration for spring is November 5-16, 2012.

Dr. Eubanks listed all the new faculty and staff we have on campus and a few that have moved to different positions. She stated that Dr. Richard Corby will be retiring in the summer 2013 and Dr. Debbie Bryant will retire November 30, 2012.

Dr. Eubanks stated that the new online degree, Master of Fine Arts, has been reviewed by the Higher Learning Commission and we are awaiting notice of final approval. She stated that the

Higher Learning Commission will be making an accreditation visit in the fall of 2014 or spring of 2015, and that we have started preparing for the visit.

Ms. Rushing reported the Crossett Practical Nursing program had a 100% pass rate on the state boards test. She also mentioned that in 14 of the last 18 years UAM College of Technology at Crossett has had a 100% pass rate, and over 90% for the last 30 years.

Mr. Ware announced that the Adult Education program in Dumas lost a nursing student in a car accident recently. He also stated that the merger for Dumas ADE was approved. He stated that UAM College of Technology at McGehee was asked to have an adult education center in Star City but he declined.

Dr. Brown discussed the community education classes that are being offered. The goal of the program is to bring people to our campus. He stated that Memory Dickson is Director of the program, and has had 567 people enroll since the start of the program this past summer. He also discussed the number of people they hope to have in the program in the future and listed the types of classes that are offered.

Dr. Brown reviewed homecoming and the dedication of our new Forestry Resources building. He stated that the class of 1962 would have their reunion that weekend along with the forestry and baseball reunion.

Dr. Brown stated that fall enrollment increased by 24 students, and that about 30% graduate in four years.

Dr. Brown mentioned the Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center report and how it tries to help small businesses succeed. He stated that we have seven centers that serve nine counties, and that Lindsey Henery is Director of the program. Dr. Brown noted that the goal of the center was to create 15 new jobs and retain 20 existing jobs. In the past year the program created 16 jobs and retained 23.

Mr. Jones discussed the financial report noting that the last three months they have been verifying reports. He stated that campus has two on going audits. The auditors are to provide exit conferences in the next few days.

Mr. Jones stated that the Quarterly Financial report indicates that we are within projected budget for fiscal year 2013.

Mr. Jones reviewed changes being made in the university health insurance. U of A campuses are self-insured and a third party vendor is employed to collect premiums and pay claims. He stated that on July 1 the campus had a 10% increase in annual premiums for employees and the institution. UAM absorbed both the employee and employer increase. He noted that since 2004, UAM has absorbed all increases for employee increases. This practice has insured that employee salaries are not declining in times when the university is unable to increase employee pay.

Mr. Jones noted that the university is currently using Qualchoice as a third party vendor but will be moving to United Health at the first of the year. The change will save the plan money and it will expand our coverage since the new program is a nationwide provider.

Mr. Hughes discussed the recently completed housing study. The first step in implementing this plan will be the renovation of Bankston and Horsfall. He stated that the renovation of Bankston will cost approximately \$8 million and will convert the hall to co-ed housing and house an additional 75 students. Horsfall will have spa style bathrooms but still will be community baths. Students will be able to lock a door in the shower area.

He announced that student activities have been set for next year, and that the Battle of the Timberlands will be at SAU. He also discussed elections, noting that this year was the first year they tried an online election for homecoming, and that 642 students voted compared to 200-250 votes in past years.

Mr. Hughes discussed the College Central Network, which is a 3 year contract, and the resource of training materials available for student use. He discussed how students can search for jobs and how area businesses can advertise their job openings.

Mr. Hughes reported that all requirements for Federal compliance have been finished for the current year.

Mr. Hughes reported that the Public Safety manual will be updated. At the same time, Public Safety will be updating the emergency procedures for the main campus. He encouraged both Colleges of Technology campuses to take the same action in regard to the individual campuses.

Mr. Ratcliff announced Homecoming dates for 2013. He reported that they will be starting on bleacher seating for baseball and softball fields as a part of the "Swing for the Fences Project."

Dr. Borse announced the new officers for the Assembly. He reported to the board that the officers meet with Dr. Lassiter twice a month to discuss common concerns and to bring forward questions from faculty.

Dr. Lassiter mentioned that the Lottery scholarship was not bringing in enough revenue to award eligible students the current award of \$4,500. This is an item that will be addressed by the legislature early in the upcoming session which begins on January 14.

Dr. Lassiter reported that the Executive Council approved initial funding for providing Wi-Fi to be installed in all academic buildings except the Music Building and the Fine Arts Center.

Chairman Maxwell adjourned the meeting at 5:52 p.m.