

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Visitors

University of Arkansas at Monticello
Fine Arts Center, Spencer Gallery

July 11, 2013

4:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Carlton Davis
Bettye Gragg
George Harris
Michael Jones
Tommy Maxwell

University Personnel:

Jack Lassiter, Chancellor
Jimmie Yeiser, Provost/Vice Chancellor
Jay Hughes, Vice Chancellor
Jay Jones, Vice Chancellor
Linda Rushing, Vice Chancellor
Bob Ware, Vice Chancellor
Scott Kuttenkuller, Dean of Students
Chris Ratcliff, Athletic Director

Mr. Tommy Maxwell called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

The Board approved the minutes from April's meeting.

Dr. Yeiser discussed the Reverse Credit Transfer and stated that Arkansas ranks fifth in the nation for the portion of people that have hours toward a degree but do not have that degree. Dr. Yeiser explained how it works for a student who wants to move to a different institution but does not have enough hours to get an associate's degree at the current institution.

Dr. Yeiser stated that the Higher Learning Commission Reaccreditation visit will be on campus in October 2014 and in August 2014 will be when we start on online prep-work.

Dr. Yeiser mentioned that in April we had received a letter from the Higher Learning Commission stating that we were approved for the expansion of distance education up to 20% of total degree programs. He stated that in the last year we have doubled the number of online courses. The following are some of the new online degrees Dr. Yeiser brought to the boards attention:

- Master of Physical Education Coaching
- Master of Education
- Master of Arts and Teaching
- Master of Education in Education Leadership
- Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing
- Master of Fine Arts in jazz studies (in preparation)

Ms. Rushing stated that the Career Pathways Program has been very successful state wide however this past year it was determined that there would be some reduced funding for the upcoming fiscal 2014 year. All programs state wide were cut 32%. She mentioned that they had to cut down the number of staff members. The budget last year was \$213,575 and they received around \$8,600 in incentive funds. The 2014 budget Crossett CPI will be \$145,444.

Ms. Rushing reported about their graduate placement rates. She stated that at six months 87% of their students had been placed in their skilled area, and at twelve months 100% of their students were placed. Mr. Ware stated that the McGehee campus has gone from 3 to 20 megs which will improve bandwidth speed for the students in the fall.

Mr. Ware mentioned that they had the same budget cuts as Crossett campus in the Adult Education program but did not have to lay anyone off.

Mr. Ware mentioned that College of Technology at McGehee has had 110 non-credit health care classes and 716 students enrolled in these classes.

Mr. Ware reported on the Perkins grant. Last year they were told by the state that there would be a cut in the program but instead they received a raise in their budget, last year the budget was \$97,000 and this year it was \$110,000.

Mr. Ware mentioned the merging of Adult Education programs under the supervision of College of Technology at McGehee in southeast Arkansas except for Chicot County, Drew County and Bradley County took place July 1, 2013. Total funding for the program is \$890,000.

Dr. Lassiter spoke for Dr. Brown and first reported on the Travelers Baseball game. He stated that the number of people grows every year and this year there were over 100 alumni that attended.

Dr. Lassiter briefly mentioned homecoming plans for this year.

Dr. Lassiter stated that the alumni and friends trip to Italy is in November 2013, and they currently have eleven people attending.

Dr. Lassiter mentioned that the Tommy Barnes endowment is fully endowed and is currently at \$20,000. He also reported on a scholarship pledge from the Monticello Rotary club.

Dr. Lassiter stated that summer II enrollment had increased from last summer and that 738 students were enrolled.

Dr. Lassiter reported that Dr. Brown has submitted his resignation and his last day will be July 31, 2013. There have been a total of 11 applicants for his position at this time. A search committee has been appointed and will provide initial recommendation by September 1.

Mr. Jones stated that the Fiscal Year 2013 End of Year Close out was June 28, 2013.

Mr. Jones mentioned the Legislative audit should start in mid-August and said that he will report on end of year numbers in the October meeting.

Mr. Jones reported that the Board of Trustees had approved the Fiscal Year 2014 budget, they did not approve a 5.4% tuition increase but they did allow a 4.2% increase.

Mr. Jones updated the board on the Bankston Hall construction project. He mentioned that they started work on the inside on the first of May and that they are expected to be completely done by August 1, 2013.

Mr. Kuttenkuller talked about the stages taking place at Bankston Hall. Some of the new features that will be available follow:

- only one entrance for better security
- a TV room and gaming room
- carpeted hallways
- will have study rooms in middle of "H" on each floor
- 48 camera security system
- laundry rooms - free to students across campus
- new cable lines for TV provided by Cable Vision
- only purchased new furniture for extra rooms

Mr. Kuttenkuller stated that the football team will all be placed on second floor of Royer Hall.

Mr. Hughes reported on the progress of the wellness center. He mentioned that they are waiting on windows, and once the windows are in the Information Technology department can put in their equipment in and then the nurse can move in to the building. Mr. Hughes reported that the use of wellness center will only be for students, faculty, staff, and spouses. He stated that they will have a game room and aerobic room in the University Center where the workout center was located.

Mr. Hughes mentioned that the Student Government Association put together a letter and form asking local businesses if they would offer discounts to UAM students. He stated that 18 local businesses had agreed to participate. This number should grow before the start of the fall semester.

Mr. Hughes reported some tailgating updates such as the walk of champions. He also stated that each of the 10 organizations on campus were given a 10 X 10 pop up tent with their colors and letters on them to help encourage more student tailgating.

Mr. Hughes reported on the 2013 summer camps that took place. He mentioned that seven were residential camps and seven were commuter camps. He stated that there were a total of 1,600 camp participants by the end of summer.

Mr. Hughes discussed the Violence against women reauthorization act of 2013.

Mr. Ratcliff reported to the board on the Tommy Barnes Scholarship which was started in April 2013 and is presently at \$6,000.

Mr. Ratcliff reported on the annual fundraising drive for the UAM Sports Association had raised \$16,000.

Mr. Ratcliff reported on the spring GPA for student athletes.

Mr. Ratcliff stated that the bleachers for both the baseball and softball fields are to be here in September.

Dr. Lassiter mentioned the article in USA today about school default rates, and how it purified us parents a red flag institution; Dr. Lassiter believes that the article is misleading to the public.

Dr. Lassiter stated that the Jazz band performed in Chicago for a national conference last year and has now been invited to go to China for two weeks.

Dr. Lassiter stated the Mr. Cliff Gibson was recently appointed to the Board of Trustees and has been doing a very proactive job.

Dr. Lassiter reported that we have Wi-Fi capability in all academic buildings on the Monticello campus.

Chairman Maxwell adjourned the meeting at 5:37