

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Visitors

University of Arkansas at Monticello
Fine Arts Center, Spencer Gallery

January 9, 2014

4:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Fred Denton
Roger George
Bettye Gragg
George Harris
India Holt
Michael Jones
Tommy Maxwell
Gregg Reep
Lynn Rodgers

University Personnel:

Jack Lassiter, Chancellor
Jimmie Yeiser, Provost/Vice Chancellor
Linda Yeiser, Vice Chancellor
Jay Hughes, Vice Chancellor
Jay Jones, Vice Chancellor
Linda Rushing, Vice Chancellor
Bob Ware, Vice Chancellor
Scott Kuttenkuler, Dean of Students
Mary Whiting, Director of Admissions
Matt Whiting, Assistant Athletic Director for External Affairs

Mr. Tommy Maxwell called the meeting to order at 4:13 p.m.

The Board approved the minutes from October's meeting.

Dr. Lassiter welcomed the new board members Lynn Rodgers, Gregg Reep, Fred Denton, and Linda Rowe.

Dr. Yeiser mentioned that as of January 8th spring enrollment was at 3,497 students.

Dr. Yeiser gave an update on the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Program, stating that there are currently 16 graduate students in the program from 9 different states.

Dr. Yeiser reported on "Credit When It Is Due" and stated that Arkansas ranks in the top three states whose residents start a degree but do not finish. He said that in this spring semester alone UAM has conferred 269 associate of arts degrees.

Dr. Yeiser informed the board on recruiting commercials and the new website home page. He mentioned that UAM advertises through KATV, radio, movie theaters, and billboards. He also stated that UAM students created three videos for advertising, which he presented to the board.

Dr. Yeiser went over the First Year Experience plan and explained that first year students must live on campus for their first 24 hours of classes starting in the fall of 2014. He said that this policy is in efforts to try to increase retention rate on campus.

Ms. Whiting stated that 89% of students who received a scholarship in the fall returned this spring semester.

Ms. Rushing reported that every year since 2001 the Crossett Campus has received a grant for the UAM College of Technology at Crossett Electrical Apprenticeship Program. She stated that last year's grant was \$13,159.00 and the 2013-2014 grant is \$13,440.

Ms. Rushing reported that during 2012-2013 the number of students taking non-credit continuing education courses were 673 which resulted in 11,916 clock hours of training. She mentioned that the Electrical Apprenticeship is a 4 year program and the College of Technology at Crossett's program is approved by the Federal Bureau of Apprenticeship Training and eligible for state grant funding. She stated that the program's 2012-2013 ending enrollment was 26 apprentices.

Mr. Ware reported on their nursing program and mentioned that nine nursing students graduated, all have jobs and three plan to continue their education at UAM. He also stated that they just started a new class of 25 nursing students.

Mr. Ware informed the board that Lucky's Automotive donated a 2009 Traverse along with about three other vehicles to the automotive program at UAM-TM.

Ms. Yeiser reported to the board 21 of the gifts that have reached the endowment status. Some of the more recent to reach the endowment status were as followed:

- Susie Hargis Nursing Scholarship
- Montre E. Bulloch "Angel" Endowed Nursing Scholarship
- C. H. Barnes, Jr., Football Scholarship
- Troy and Betty Davis Endowed Scholarship
- Pattie Phenton Moffatt Vocal Music Scholarship
- Baker Family Natural Resources Scholarship
- Donnie D. King Endowed Scholarship

Ms. Yeiser went over the status of the end of the year fund raising campaigns. She stated that the Nursing SimLab is about to open.

Ms. Yeiser reported that the university did receive the works of art it was expecting, and it consisted of 11 pieces of art worth \$275,000.

Ms. Yeiser went over the following future plans:

- Executive Director of UA Foundation Board will be visiting the campus to speak on February 25th
- Alvy Early will be recognized at the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame February 28th
- UAM baseball team will play at Minute Maid Park in Houston, TX February 1st – 3rd
- Arkansas Travelers Game will be held June 9th in Little Rock

Ms. Yeiser discussed updated procedures called Account Procedures for Expenditures.

Mr. Jones reported on the 2nd quarter financial report for fiscal year 2014.

Mr. Jones went over the operating budget timeline and stated that the budget must be complete and all exhibits sent to the system office by April 29th.

Mr. Jones reported on the student loan default rate. He stated that we have not reached the 30% mark yet on our default rate, but we are very close. He mentioned that they are making a concerted effort to better track these students and their progress and to encourage them to keep their loans current.

Mr. Jones stated that he had positive news regarding the projected 2011 cohort, which will consist of students entering repayment between 10-1-10 to 9-30-11 who defaulted in the time period of 10-1-10 to 9-30-13. He mentioned that the official rate will be released in September of 2014 and believes the 2011 cohort rate will decrease.

Mr. Jones discussed the three audits that took place in 2013. On the audits listed below that ended on June 30, 2013, no audit findings were found.

- Legislative Audit
- NCAA on the Intercollegiate Athletics Program
- A-133 federal compliance audit

Mr. Jones talked about different facility projects including the HVAC systems that have been replaced and upgraded, the wellness initiative, the two week challenge, 5K walks, and biometric screenings.

Mr. Hughes discussed in more detail the new residential policy. He stated that when comparing housing numbers from the last academic year, there has been a rise in retention.

Mr. Hughes mentioned that Guy Joubert has resigned, and that he has hired Rebecca Smith, a graduate assistant as an interim. He also went over the following student activities:

- Black History Month Celebration
- International Student Celebration
- Wellness Center (42% increase in use, biggest increase in student use)
- National Survey of Student Engagement
- African American Male Initiative Consortium Conference

Matt Whiting discussed grade reports for all the athletic groups. He also reported on the statistics for both the men's and women's basketball teams.

Dr. Lassiter noted that of the three audits that Mr. Jones discussed earlier, two were normal audits that take place and the third was a requested audit by the university.

Dr. Lassiter stated that the university will begin discussing tuition and fees with the President and Board of Trustees.

Dr. Lassiter reported on the general improvement funds stating that the following amounts have been given to the university:

- Senator Eddie Cheatham - \$300,000
- Representative Shelia Lampkin - \$50,000
- Representative Mark McElroy - \$21,400
- Mike Holcomb - \$20,000
- General Assembly - \$1,000,000

Dr. Lassiter mentioned the Heritage Trail for Southeast Arkansas and the three UAM properties that are included:

- Taylor House – Winchester
- Pindall Law Office – Arkansas City
- Prisoner of War Camp

Mr. Tommy Maxwell adjourned the meeting at 5:52 p.m.