

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Visitors

University of Arkansas at Monticello
McGoogan Building, Crossett Campus

October 2, 2014

4:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Fred Denton
Roger George
Michael Jones
Mellie Jo Owen
Gregg Reep
Lynn Rogers
Pat Webb

University Personnel Present:

Jack Lassiter, Chancellor
Jimmie Yeiser, Provost/Vice Chancellor
Linda Yeiser, Vice Chancellor
Jay Jones, Vice Chancellor
Linda Rushing, Vice Chancellor
Bob Ware, Vice Chancellor
Scott Kuttenkuler, Dean of Students
Chris Ratcliff, Director of Athletics
Melodie Colwell, Associate Vice Chancellor
Debbie Gassaway, Associate Vice Chancellor

Dr. Lassiter called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

Dr. Lassiter introduced Mellie Jo Owen as the newest member of the Board.

The Board approved the minutes from July's meeting.

Dr. Yeiser reported to the Board that Fall 15 enrollment is 3,854 students.

Dr. Yeiser discussed the following ways UAM can improve the retention rate:

- E-Mentoring - program that freshmen are encouraged to take that teaches them basic computer skills needed to use blackboard and email. This year 74 students participated in the program.
- First-Four-Weeks Initiative – a committee will decide what can be done in the classroom to keep students engaged and on track for the first four weeks of class
- First-Year Experience - freshman are required to live on campus for the first
- UAM Retention Plan – committee will be put together to work on improving retention

Dr. Yeiser reported on concurrent enrollment. He stated that high schools come to UAM and ask for us to offer classes to their students. In Fall 2013, 666 students from 35 high school's participated in concurrent enrollment and 734 students from 42 high school in Fall 2014 participated in the program.

Ms. Rushing stated that the Crossett campus just started the National Technology Honor Society, and a Bass Fishing Club.

Ms. Rushing reported on the practical nursing program and stated that all the graduates passed the NCLX their first time taking the test and that it is the second highest pass rate in the state.

Ms. Rushing informed the Board that the parking lot project has been completed and that the floors in the front lobby have been replaced.

Mr. Ware updated the Board that the Arkansas Heavy Equipment Operating Training Academy program added a CDL training class, 90 percent of the class passed and got their commercial driving license.

Mr. Ware reported on the truck driving course offered on the McGehee campus stating that three out of four passed the class and career pathways funded the class. He stated that it cost \$20,000 for a five week program.

Ms. Yeiser reported on the following endowments:

New:

- Gilliam Family Farm Scholarship - \$15,000 endowment for Agriculture students – established by Barbie Gilliam Johnson and Lou Ann Gilliam Sales to honor the legacy of their parents
- D. Anita Murphree Beta Sigma Phi Scholarship - \$15,000 for any major – established by her son, Samuel Light
- E.R. “Bob” and Sara Wall Scholarship – \$15,000 for men’s basketball - established by Sara Wall and family to honor the memory of Mr. E. R. ‘Bob’ Wall

Future endowments that have now been endowed (all below \$15,000):

- Gene Brown Memorial Baseball Scholarship – established by family and friends upon the death of UAM senior Gene Brown who was a baseball player
- Krevack Athletic Discretionary – for athletics
- Charles G. Hawkins Memorial Scholarship - Mr. Hawkins was vice president of the Forestry Department of Anthony Timberlands and died in 1990. He was a UAM alumnus. At the time, UAM received many memorial donations. The scholarship is for undergraduate students of any major in the School of Forest Resources.

Endowed scholarship transferred to UAM Foundation Fund:

- Larry Willett Endowed Scholarship – this scholarship was established by memorials for long-time forestry faculty member Dr. Larry Willett in the 1990s. It is for UAM forestry students, but has been held by the Ag Development Council within the UA Foundation. This has now been transferred to UAM within the UA Foundation

Ms. Yeiser also updated the Board on the following recent gifts:

- Technology equipment from Baptist Health in Little Rock for the UAM College of Technology – Crossett

- We have been notified that we are the beneficiary of the estate and trust of LaVerne Grover. She attended school here in Fall 1941 and Spring 1942. She was born in Arkansas and passed away at age 91. We anticipate to receive about \$295,000.

Ms. Yeiser stated that Homecoming is on October 11th and a lawn party will be held in the chancellor's yard from 6p.m.-8p.m. Friday. She also informed the Board of the Lassiter Farewell Party 2:30-5:30p.m. Thursday, November 20th.

Ms. Yeiser updated the Board on the progress of the Science Center campaign

Ms. Yeiser reported that UAM is going from using a regular billboard to a digital billboard in Little Rock.

Jay Jones stated that the fiscal year 2014 cycle has been completed. He gave a report on the following of what takes place 75 days following is an intense period of close-out work and financial reporting:

- The first 30 days is consumed with closing adjustments and proving accounts and we do our final close around the end of that month.
- The most complex and time most complex and time-consuming of our reporting period is the work we do in compiling our audited financial statements. These statements are due to the System office at the end of August.
- The next 15 days (September 1 – September 15) are spent producing another 20-25 reports that are due to ADHE and other reporting agencies, and in addition, the state Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) that combines UAM's financial information with the hundreds of other state agencies and produces one large financial statement for the State of Arkansas.

For FY14 we were able to replenish over half of these losses that occurred in those two fiscal years. As a result, the financial ratios that describe our financial health were improved significantly as a result of our FY2014 operations.

Mr. Jones introduced the following people to the Board and went over each individual's job responsibilities:

- Melodie Colwell - Associate Vice Chancellor for Administration
- Alex Becker - reporting specialist
- Debbie Gasaway - Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance

Mr. Jones reported the Board that our 2011 cohort default rate dropped to 22.6%

To give you some perspective, the state average is 15.8% which is a little above the national average of 13.7%. While not totally satisfied with our position, we are certainly pleased with the progress that we have made.

Fall semester 2014

- Students Pell Grants Fall: 1809 Award/Disb over \$4.3M
- Students Loans Fall: 2001 Award \$7.1M/Disb 1611 \$5.7M
- Nearly \$10M in awarded financial aid, just in those two categories.

Mr. Jones updated the Board on the Microwave Tower Project stating that it will connect the McGehee and Crossett campuses to Monticello by providing the colleges of technology with fiber internet access available in Monticello as well as internal networking connections between all three locations. He mentioned that this would significantly increase the bandwidth of the colleges of technology and involves having towers at all three locations. The Board of Trustees has approved the project. He stated that the funding for this project of \$635,000 was provided with General Improvement Funds given to the University by the Governor.

Mr. Kuttenkuler reported to the Board on the freshmen residency policy, and stated that 731 students are living on campus which is a 15% increase for last year. He also mentioned that Wi-Fi was installed in all the residence halls this summer. He stated that 3,000 people involved in the first week events.

Mr. Kuttenkuler reported that all documents have been turned in for the Federal Compliance report.

Mr. Kuttenkuler updated the Board on the storm ready system and the ceremony that would take place in the near future.

Mr. Ratcliff informed the Board on Fall grade reports. He also mentioned that a new cheerleading coach was hired and stated that over 80 kids at cheer camp this year.

Mr. Ratcliff stated that the Sports Association went for 80 to 110 members from last year. He informed the Board that the Hall of Fame banquet will take place on Thursday, October 9th.

Mr. Ratcliff stated that there will be a track and field reunion this year during homecoming.

Mr. Ratcliff also reported that 250 tickets were sold for the McGehee fundraiser and raised over \$26,000.

Dr. Lassiter reported to the Board on the Legislative Summit, he stated that UAM is getting 79% of what we need.

Dr. Lassiter mentioned the Trotter House and the change in management that has taken place and is now ran by Lisa Kelly.

Dr. Lassiter stated that the leaks in music building have been fixed, the bees have been taken care of, and all the windows have been replaced.

Dr. Lassiter over saw the appointment of the follow board chair members:

- Mr. Denton - Chairperson
- Mr. George - Vice Chairperson
- Ms. Mellie Jo Owen - Secretary

Dr. Lassiter adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.