

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Visitors

University of Arkansas at Monticello
Fine Arts Center, Spencer Gallery

January 15, 2015

4:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Bettye Gragg
George Harris
Michael Jones
Mellie Jo Owen
Gregg Reep
Linda Rowe

University Personnel Present:

Jay Jones, Interim Chancellor
Jimmie Yeiser, Provost/Vice Chancellor
Linda Yeiser, Vice Chancellor
Jay Hughes, Vice Chancellor
Bob Ware, Vice Chancellor
Linda Rushing, Vice Chancellor
Donna Hunnicutt, Assembly Chair Leader
Mary Whiting, Director of Admissions
Matt Whiting, Assistant Athletic Director for External Affairs

Mr. Gregg Reep called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Mr. Reep made the following change to the minutes from the October meeting: Mr. Reep was elected for Vice Chair of the Board not Roger George.

Mr. Jones informed the Board on Fred Denton's health.

Mr. Whiting informed the Board on the following new hires in the Athletics Department:

- Quad Sanders – Defensive Line
- Drew Hall - Receiver Graduate Assistant
- Davis Stephens - Defensive Graduate Assistant
- Alexandra Graves - Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance and Academic Services

Mr. Whiting also stated that Becky Phillips was recently appointed as Faculty Athletic Representative.

Mr. Whiting reported on the department's fall 2014 GPA average and went over each sports GPA scores.

Mr. Whiting informed the Board that the UAM Sport Association is on pace to exceed what was raised last year and will increase membership as well. He also stated the Swing for the Fences

project only lacks \$100,000 in fundraising before the softball and baseball projects are completed.

Mr. Whiting reported to the Board that the construction of the new indoor golf facility is complete.

Dr. Yeiser informed the Board that the unofficial headcount for the spring semester is 3,414 as of today.

Dr. Yeiser stated that he has five committees in place to look at different aspects of how to raise retention rates and discussed each:

- e-mentoring
- first year experience
- first four weeks
- retention through student services
- recommendations

Dr. Yeiser mentioned that at this time last year they took phone surveys and found out students don't know who their advisors are and almost half of scholarships are lost after the first semester.

Dr. Yeiser informed the Board that the unofficial concurrent enrollment is 698 this semester and stated that 37 different high schools are being represented by those students.

Dr. Yeiser also reported to the Board that the Higher Learning Commission will meet on January 26th -27th to decide on the official report.

Ms. Rushing informed the Board of a donation made by Georgia Pacific Cooperation of \$6,000 to the Electromechanical Technology Program.

Ms. Rushing gave an update on three faculty positions that were filled around the holidays.

Mr. Ware reported that the McGehee campus was able to raise \$11,500 which was matched by the Arkansas Contractor Association Board for a new CAT Simulator and Keith Riggs also donated \$2,000 to go toward the purchase.

Mr. Ware stated that the CDL Training program is paid for by the Arkansas Human Development Corporation.

Ms. Yeiser reported to the Board on the following recent gifts and new endowments:

New endowments:

- Lesa Cathey Handly Trust Endowment for Business Excellence – by Brooks and Lesa Cathey Handly – initially \$15,000
- Bennie F. Ryburn, Jr. and Marion Burge Ryburn Endowed Scholarship – by Mr. and Mrs. Ryburn, the Bank of Star City, First State Bank of Warren, and Commercial Bank and Trust Company of Monticello – a total of \$100,000

Other recent gifts:

- \$50,000 anonymous gift to the UAM Sports Association
- We are named as one of three charitable remainder beneficiaries of a \$1 million charitable remainder trust from an anonymous donor

Ms. Yeiser also informed the Board on the following fundraising efforts:

- New Science and Mathematics Center. A campus committee comprised largely of faculty has worked with an architect to develop a concept and to identify space needs. We are now awaiting the architectural rendering so that we can present it to legislators and potential donors, and publicize it in UAM Magazine. This project will be about 77,000 square feet with an estimated cost of \$25 million.

Ms. Yeiser also stated that the annual Travelers baseball game in Little Rock will be on June 23rd.

Mr. Kuttenkuler went over the housing report with the Board. He stated that 622 students are in the in halls this semester. He mentioned that his department is currently working on a housing management software that would allow students to fill out their application and pay their deposit online.

Mr. Hughes informed the Board on the following student activities that took place before Christmas break:

- Christmas tree lighting ceremony
- canned Christmas tree contest
- ice skating rink
- late night breakfast

Mr. Hughes stated that 78 student activities are planned for this spring semester.

Mr. Hughes stated that UAM officially became a Storm Ready Campus on December 8, 2014 and that a siren will be put on the roof of the MCB building.

Mr. Hughes updated the Board on the process of the Fine Arts Center. He stated that the first phase of the project would consist of the following upgrades:

- auditorium seats – padding, fabric, and arms
- step lighting system being replaced
- carpet in hallway and auditorium
- stage lighting update

Ms. Hunnicutt reported to the Board that the faculty is excited about the new semester and that the Department of Education is getting ready for the NCATE.

Ms. Whiting updated the Board on the progress of the Chancellor search.

Mr. Jones gave a financial report for December 31, 2014 noting the following updates:

- overall revenues are about 54% of budget

- overall expenditures are about 48%

Mr. Jones informed the Board of an Executive Council retreat that will take place on February 4th for the purpose of discussing the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, setting goals for the process and identifying the challenges the university faces in the upcoming year.

Mr. Jones reported on a few efficiency measures that are being considered and stated that the budget process would include a dedicated session for seeking efficiencies in certain areas of the budget. One specific example he mentioned was that the university is currently in discussions with RICOH regarding the area of print management.

The meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.