

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Visitors**  
University of Arkansas at Monticello  
**Main Administrative Building, McGehee Campus**

**July 9, 2015**  
**4:00 p.m.**

Board Members Present:

Michael Jones  
Mellie Jo Owen  
Gregg Reep  
Lynn Rodgers  
Bettye Gragg  
Linda Rowe

University Personnel Present:

Jay Jones, Interim Chancellor  
Jimmie Yeiser, Provost  
Linda Yeiser, Vice Chancellor  
Jay Hughes, Vice Chancellor  
Bob Ware, Vice Chancellor  
Linda Rushing, Vice Chancellor  
Scott Kuttenkuler, Dean of Students  
Chris Ratcliff, Director of Athletics

Mr. Reep called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

The Board approved the minutes from April's meeting.

Mr. Jones gave a report for Mary Whiting on the Chancellor Search. He stated that the committee will meet on July 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss new candidates.

Dr. Yeiser reported to the Board on enrollment and the number of degrees and certificates awarded by UAM for all programs offered. He stated that summer enrollment is down and predicts that the fall numbers will be down as well. He also mentioned that Higher Education is under a mandate from the Governor to double the number of graduates by 2025. He gave a summary of summer enrollments number of face-to-face and online students and stated that an online Master of Music and Jazz Studies will start this fall semester.

Mr. Hughes updated the Board on 19 out of 25 camps that took place during the summer and stated that 6 camps still remain. He mentioned at the end of summer about 1,500 campers will have been on campus.

Mr. Hughes reported to the Board on housing numbers stating that they currently have 687 students in the residence halls, and that they have a max capacity of 800.

Mr. Kuttenkuler discussed the following projects taking place this semester:

- software to handle housing applications
- new laundry vendor
- partnered with a gift basket group – parents can send a basket of goodies to students
- replacing half of the living room furniture in apartments
- hiring three people to manage housing's social media, marketing and academic improvement

Mr. Hughes informed the Board of updates that have taken place in food services such as the dish room has been gutted, a new synthetic floor has been installed and water-proofed, a new carousel dish system has been installed, and also new seating for the cafeteria has been purchased. He also mentioned wanting to get back to the Horsfall renovation project.

Mr. Hughes stated that in the Fine Arts Center auditorium all seats have been refinished, and on July 27<sup>th</sup> new carpet will be installed in Spencer Gallery, the hallway, and auditorium areas. He also mentioned new step lighting in the auditorium will be installed.

Mr. Hughes reported to the Board on the following upcoming events:

- August 3<sup>rd</sup> - early arrivals, resident directors and assistants
- August 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> – athletes will be on campus
- August 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> – Welcome Week
- September 19<sup>th</sup> – Parent-Family Appreciation Day
- October 5<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> - Homecoming Week

Ms. Rushing reported to the Board on the following personnel changes:

- Jake Talley, Director of Student Services has resigned effective July 31, 2015. Interviews are being conducted now to fill the position.
- Janie Carter, Assistant Vice Chancellor was leaving as of June 30<sup>th</sup> and moving to part-time but has agreed to stay on until her position is filled.
- Susan Ballard has been hired as the Administrative Office Technology instructor.

Ms. Rushing stated that the FY16 Career Pathways grant award to the Crossett campus was \$195,397. This is approximately \$20,000 less than FY15 funding. Since the targeted populations to be served by this grant are limited and performance goals are difficult to achieve, she is pleased to get the grant.

Ms. Rushing reported on the following campus activities:

- Job Fair in June was very successful
- National Technical Honor Society Induction was held in June, 27 students were inducted
- Commencement Exercises were held June 25<sup>th</sup> at the Crossett City Auditorium
- 40th Anniversary event is being planned for the Crossett campus

Mr. Ware introduced Sharon Cantrell and Amanda Kuttenkuler. He also informed the Board about the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the McGehee campus, and activities that will take place. He stated that on October 24<sup>th</sup> they will have a celebration at the Delta Resort and Spa.

Mr. Ware discussed a new budget for grant programs. He also stated that one of their plans this semester is short-term training with a goal of 70 students. He stated that enrollment went down from 579 to 460 but they had the highest retention rate in the state. He also noted that funding for the Carl Perkins fund went down slightly this year to \$89,734.

Ms. Yeiser discussed the following recent gifts:

- Endowed Award - Lloyd and Peggy Crossley Family Education Award (former faculty, now in Hot Springs)
- Future Endowments - Louis Dunlap Mathematics Scholarship (from African American Alumni Association – this is their 4<sup>th</sup> endowment. Previous ones honored Al Peer, Shay Gillespie, and Classie Jones-Green)
- Allen Wilson Maxwell, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Ms. Yeiser reported on the following fundraising efforts:

- Louis Raymond Doyle, Jr. Memorial Award – played football in early 80's
- Working with the McGehee campus for their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration – goal to raise \$40,000 by Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> event
- Anticipate 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary event for Crossett campus as well

Ms. Yeiser informed the Board on recent and upcoming events:

- UAM Family Night at the Arkansas Travelers – June 23<sup>rd</sup>. She stated 181 attended alumni attended, that's about twice the number who has attended in previous years. She noted UAM has been doing alumni/friends events at pro baseball games since 2007.
- Homecoming events:
  - Sports Hall of Fame – Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Alumni party – Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>
  - Tailgating and football game – Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>
- Saturday, Oct 24<sup>th</sup> – McGehee 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration

Ms. Yeiser informed the Board on the hiring of Lisa Jo Ross as the new Alumni & Development Officer. She will begin work August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Ratcliff gave a spring sports and academic report to the Board.

Mr. Ratcliff informed the Board of the launching of the Athletic Department's new website. He also stated that new flooring was about to be installed in the gym.

Mr. Ratcliff reported that Peter Cruz, the volleyball coach, just resigned and he has started the interview process to fill the position.

Mr. Ratcliff stated that the first football game will be on September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. against Northwestern Oklahoma. He also mentioned on October 24<sup>th</sup> they will be hosting a college cross country meet.

Mr. Jones reported to the Board on the Fiscal Year 2016 budget. He stated that a 6% increase in tuition and fees was approved by the Board of Trustees, which would generate an increase in tuition and fees revenues of around \$665,000. He stated that a 9.8% increase in tuition and fees on the Crossett and McGehee campus was approved. He mentioned that despite these increases the University's rates were still at the lower end of all public universities in the state. The tuition and fees increases will primarily fund salary and compensation initiatives for university employees. He mentioned that generally UAM would increase all employees' salaries by 1% and that additionally, there was \$250,000 set aside for merit increases that would be directed to faculty based on performance evaluations.

Mr. Jones informed the Board that he is serving on a committee formed by the UA System to study the design of the University's retirement plan. The intent of the committee is to increase employee participation in and contributions to the retirement plan. Ultimately, the goal is to improve the retirement readiness of all University of Arkansas employees. He said that as a result of the committee's work, he expects that there be a modified plan recommended to the board of trustees at its November 2015 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.