

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Visitors

University of Arkansas at Monticello
McGoogan Building, Crossett Campus

October 15, 2015

4:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Gregg Reep, Chairman
India Holt
Michael Jones

Executive Council Members Present:

Jay Jones, Interim Chancellor
Debbie Gasaway, Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration
Jay Hughes, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Linda Rushing, Vice Chancellor for College of Technology – Crossett
Bob Ware, Vice Chancellor for College of Technology – McGehee
Jimmie Yeiser, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Linda Yeiser, Vice Chancellor for Advancement and University Relations

University Personnel Present:

Janie Carter, Assistant Vice Chancellor
Amanda Kuttenkuler, Special Projects Coordinator
Scott Kuttenkuler, Dean of Students
Chris Ratcliff, Director of Athletics
Dawn Reed, Director of Career Pathways
David Streeter, Director of Student Services
Mary Whiting, Dean of Admissions

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

The Board approved the minutes from July's meeting.

Mr. Jay Jones thanked Ms. Rushing for the hospitality at the Crossett campus. Ms. Rushing stated that this meeting will also count as a quarterly advisory board meeting. She introduced members present who serve on the Crossett Advisory Board, Judy Kirkley, Don Hartley and his wife Katy, and Herb Hutchinson.

Dr. Jimmie Yeiser discussed fall enrollment, noting there are 3644 students this semester, which is about a 5% decrease from last year. He noted that concurrent enrollment has increased to 849 students, compared to 734 last year. Dr. Yeiser commended Dr. Ranelle Eubanks for her leadership in this program. He also announced that Dr. Eubanks has retired, and a search is in progress for her replacement.

Dr. Yeiser gave an update on retention, stating that a campus-wide retention program was developed last fall. He noted that one phase, first four weeks, there were 45 more students attending this semester at the 5th week of classes than there were last fall. He also noted as of

week eight, there is 90% retention in remedial freshman composition, as compared to 60% last fall.

Dr. Yeiser discussed the following upcoming accreditations visits:

- NCATE (National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education) will be on campus October 18 – 20, 2015
- ACEN (Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing) will have a focused visit on October 20, 2015

Dr. Yeiser announced that NCTQ (National Council on Teacher Quality) has ranked UAM's secondary education program #20 in the Top 25 U.S. 'Best Value' Colleges and Programs of Education.

Mr. Jay Hughes reported on residence life, noting a small decrease in housing with 708 students this fall, compared to 732 last year. He stated that they are considering making renovations to Horsfall Hall. He also noted that the laundry alert discussed at a previous meeting has been a huge success with our students.

Mr. Hughes discussed food services, noting the desire to bring a national brand to campus. Surveys will be distributed to students from Aramark to help narrow down the preferred cuisine.

Mr. Hughes gave a report on student activities, noting numerous events that have been provided for students to help get them involved. He also mentioned workshops offered to help students with studying, stress management, etc.

Mr. Hughes stated that Parent/Family Appreciation Day was very well attended. He also discussed Homecoming, noting they had a 28% participation rate in the election of the homecoming queen, which is double last year's rate. He mentioned that the winner was ill and not able to attend, but will be crowned at a later date.

Mr. Hughes discussed federal compliance, noting that all required notifications and disclosures have been distributed.

Ms. Mary Whiting gave an update on the Chancellor Search. She announced that Dr. Karla Hughes has been named Chancellor and will begin in January, 2016. She noted that Dr. Hughes is currently the Executive Vice President and Provost at the University of Louisiana System, and brings a long history of experience. Ms. Whiting stated this search has been a 16 month process.

Mr. Reep thanked Ms. Whiting and the search committee for their hard work and dedication while serving in this capacity.

Ms. Linda Rushing introduced Dawn Reed, the new Director of Career Pathways. Ms. Reed gave a brief overview of the eligibility requirements to receive assistance from the program.

Ms. Rushing reported that the Georgia Pacific Paper Operations presented the Crossett campus with a \$7500 check, to be used for instructional enhancement.

Ms. Rushing discussed the 40th Anniversary Project and provided an article to the Board that was featured in a local promotional magazine that included statements from graduates and current students at the Crossett campus. She noted that a fundraiser is being planned to construct a fountain at the front, east side of campus and will also include a walkway and seating.

Mr. Bob Ware gave an update on the 40 year celebration at the McGehee campus, noting a party to be held October 24th at Delta Resort and Spa. He also announced that a generous donation has been made to the McGehee campus.

Mr. Ware discussed a new diesel training program, which is on the agenda for the November Board of Trustees meeting. He stated he had received requests from businesses, schools, and farmers for this much needed training. He hopes to have everything approved for the program to begin in the fall of 2016.

Ms. Linda Yeiser announced two new endowed scholarships to UAM, the Tommy Barnes Memorial Scholarship and the Wesley United Methodist Church of McGehee Founders' Scholarship. She also reported on two future endowments, Louis Raymond Doyle, Jr. Endowed Award, and the Lionell Moss Omega Psi Phi Scholarship.

Ms. Yeiser discussed the annual phonathon, noting that she is working with a company that would require a three year contract. She stated she is putting that on hold until our new Chancellor arrives and gives approval. Ms. Yeiser discussed another contract being considered that would allow donations to be made on mobile devices. She hopes it will be functional by Giving Tuesday, which is December 1st.

Ms. Yeiser stated that Homecoming was well attended, and discussed the following upcoming events:

- October 24, 2015 – McGehee 40th Anniversary Celebration
- February 20, 2016 – UAM Day at Oaklawn in Hot Springs
- March 11, 2016 – Memphis Grizzlies NBA game
- June 2, 2016 – UAM Family Night at the Arkansas Travelers

Ms. Yeiser discussed the Centennial Opportunity Fund, noting proposals were submitted and \$50,000 was distributed as follows:

- \$24,000 – equip University Center Green Room with multimedia technology
- \$9,000 – convert the Sandra Campbell Conference Room into a digitally-equipped conference room
- \$4,000 – earmarked for students' expenses to present their research at professional meetings/conferences (only students who appear on the program will be considered for funding)
- \$10,000 – upgrade equipment for environmental studies and student research projects, and establish a research and education center (supports STEM initiatives)
- \$3,000 – renovate the large meeting room on the UAM College of Technology-McGehee campus

Ms. Debbie Gasaway stated that UAM recently closed fiscal year 2015 and as usual had an audit by the Division of Legislative Audit in which we had no audit findings. She discussed financial statements, noting that due to a new requirement from GASB (Governmental Accounting

Standards Board), all state agencies were required to record liabilities related to the unfunded portion of APERS and ATRS participants' future benefits, which caused a net decrease.

Ms. Gasaway gave a report on the first quarter of fiscal year 2016. She also discussed the student loan default rate, noting this year's rate is 24.9%. She stated this is a slight increase from last year's rate of 22.6%, however, it is still a decrease from previous years of 27% and 28.1%. She noted that this rate is very important because there is a risk of losing Title IV funds if the rate gets to 30%.

Mr. Chris Ratcliff gave a report on athletics, announcing that Kelly Burdeau has been hired as the volleyball coach. He also mentioned that they have advertised and began the interview process for a compliance officer.

Mr. Ratcliff stated that golf is doing great, noting that golf coach, Heather Wall was named Golfer of the Year by the Arkansas State Golf Association, and was recently inducted into Florida Southern Hall of Fame.

Mr. Ratcliff announced that UAM will host the GAC cross country conference championship on October 24, 2015. He also discussed improvements that have been made to the gym which include painting the floor green and the walls white, hanging a new banner, and ordering a new score table.

Mr. Jay Jones discussed the need for an Institutional Research position, noting that interviews will be held next week.

Mr. Jones discussed the community center project, stating it has been scaled back from the original design. He reported that the city has passed a resolution for a 0.25 cent initiative to be placed on the December 8th ballot. He noted the University would not be out any money because it would donate 35 acres of land for the project. The terms of an agreement are being worked out.

Mr. Jones provided the Board with proposed meeting dates for 2016, noting he would like to move the first meeting back one week to allow Dr. Hughes to attend. The proposed dates are January 21, April 14, July 14, and October 13.

Mr. Jones informed the Board of the Annual Trustees Conference to be held December 7, 2015. Detailed information will be mailed to Board members in November.

Mr. Jones announced that UAM has received a Regional Workforce Planning Grant in the amount of \$84,810 for the Workforce Alliance of Southeast Arkansas project.

Mr. Michael Jones and the Board thanked Mr. Jay Jones for his time serving as Interim Chancellor, noting their appreciation for the work he has done.

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.