

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Visitors**

University of Arkansas at Monticello

Student Success Center, Room 208

September 9, 2019 - 4:00 p.m.

**Board Members Present:** Jim Daniels, Dr. Bettye Gragg, George Harris Michael Jones, Mellie Jo Owen, Gregg Reep, Scott Saffold, Mike Walker

**University Personnel Present:** Dr. Karla Hughes, Alex Becker, Dr. Peggy Doss, Dr. Moses Goldmon, Linda Rushing, Bob Ware, Jeff Weaver, Christy Pace

1. Chairman Gregg Reep called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
2. The Board approved the minutes from the April 25, 2019 meeting.
3. Chancellor's Comments

This meeting is more of a working session to discuss different topics with board members. During the year, a lot of changes have been made, areas have been strengthened, but there are still challenges that UAM is being faced with. We were very conservative during the budget process on undergraduate enrollment, and anticipated an 8% reduction in students. Since enrollment is a high priority, it will be the first topic of discussion.

4. Topics
  - a. Enrollment:

October 16 is the due date to submit our enrollment numbers to ADHE. The preliminary enrollment is 2855. We are currently down in budget a little over 13% in undergraduate student semester credit hours. While undergraduate is down, graduate enrollment is up, and Crossett and McGehee are close to their budget.
  - b. Strategic Decisions:

The Executive Council has been discussing ways to alleviate the impact of the lower enrollment. With lower enrollment, there will be fewer scholarships awarded, as well as fewer class sections, adjuncts, and overload payments. We are looking at things to put a freeze on and then will make a decision case-by-case, such as out-of-state travel and vacant positions. Our goal is to not lay off employees or sacrifice services for students. Other areas that will help in the future include the migration to Workday which will allow us to have information in a timelier manner and eliminate the amount of manual work that has to be done, especially in financial aid. We are also working to have more things automated, outsourcing the verification process and creating on a robust enrollment plan.

- c. Nature of Today's Students:  
The students who come to UAM are very different from most of us running this campus. They come from a digital, fast-paced, rapid changing environment, where our world is more analog, slow, and face-to-face. We realize we need to transform the University so that it meets the needs of where the students come from. There is also a smaller pool of high school students and most come to us less prepared for the rigor of higher education.
- d. Recruitment Plan:  
A folder of information was provided to board members which included updated scholarship and admissions brochures, a view book, as well as recruitment information. An enrollment services IT and communication specialist was hired who is helping enhance our abilities to be more data informed. We are also taking a close look at scholarship policies, and have developed two new scholarships. The scholarship deadline was changed to June 1, with priority deadline of March 1.
- e. Degree Pathways:  
This fall was the first time to enforce the degree pathways policy. As a reminder about this policy, a student with a 15 ACT composite or below would be redirected into a pathway other than a four year degree program. Some students either appealed or took accuplacer tests and were approved to enroll in an associate degree program or a higher level technical program. There were 55 students redirected into a new entry point.
- f. Academic Alerts  
Academic alerts is a way of someone reaching out to students when there is an indication that the student has a problem that will prevent them from being successful in the classroom. Faculty are able to submit an alert through EAB to professional advisors letting them know there are issues. In the fall of 2018, there were 1736 alerts, with 79% of those related to poor attendance/performance. In the spring of 2019, there were 1234 alerts, with 54% related to poor attendance/performance.
- g. Appropriations Act  
A copy of UAM's appropriations bill was provided and explained in detail, including the maximum salary and the positions available. Board members were reminded that just because we have a position available, does not mean we have the money to fund the position.
- h. UA Foundation  
Our foundation at UAM is an account within the University of Arkansas Foundation. Almost all of our endowments have restrictions and most go toward student scholarships. There are set amounts for scholarship, lectureships, professorships, chairmanships, etc. There is a good representation from southeast Arkansas on the UA Foundation Board. We have three new endowments since May and a number of pending fundraising.

5. The meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.