

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Visitors
University of Arkansas at Monticello
Chancellor's Conference Room
April 23, 2020 - 4:00 p.m.

Board Member Present in Person: Mellie Jo Owen

Board Members Present Via Phone or Zoom: Linda Armour, Jim Daniels, Bettye Gragg, Michael Jones, Scott Saffold, Jeremy Sparks, Mike Walker

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

1. Secretary Mellie Jo Owen called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. She welcomed everyone and introduced two new Board of Visitors members, Jeremy Sparks and Linda Armour.
2. The Board approved the minutes from the January 16, 2020 meeting.
3. Chancellor's Report – Dr. Doss

Sympathy was expressed to Board Chair, Gregg Reep, in the passing of his wife, Beverly. The damage caused by two storms were discussed. No students or employees were harmed; and staff worked diligently during the storms, including those in the physical plant, university police department, residence halls and food services. The side effects of the pandemic were noted. UAM was prepared and had established a command team about three weeks prior. Faculty and some staff are working remotely or part-time, however, essential offices are staffed. Many hours have been spent trying to manage this year's budget, due to the reduction in state funding. It was noted that the southeast Arkansas legislative delegation have been very supportive of UAM during both the storms and pandemic.

4. Enrollment Projections for Summer and Fall – Ms. Halley, Dr. Goldmon

Classes were moved to remote instruction beginning March 12, 2020. Staff had to be creative in finding ways to continue with summer and fall preregistration. Students seem to be somewhat apprehensive about what to do, but staff are encouraging enrollment. The Board of Trustees voted for all summer classes to be held remotely. More details will be decided later regarding the fall semester.

Weevil Welcome was held prior to the COVID pandemic. This year, 320 student attended this event, compared to 42 attending last year. The difficulties of the pandemic were discussed, including no school visits by recruiters or on-campus visits by prospective students and families. However, technology is being used to reach students. A virtual Scholars Day was held April 21 in which 95 students participated. Mary Whiting and her team in Admissions were commended for the work they are doing.

5. FY20 Budget Status and FY21 Projections – Mr. Becker

Due to a decrease in enrollment, it was realized early on that UAM would have a deficit. A plan was created to reduce expenses and mitigate the losses. Unfortunately, due to COVID, there was also a 4.2% reduction in RSA funding. Each line of the budget was carefully reviewed, cuts were made and 12 positions were eliminated to cover the reduction. All who worked to help reduce the deficit were commended.

6. Alumni and Development Updates – Mr. Weaver

Jay Hughes has been hired as UAM's Development and Alumni Officer. Due to the delay of commencement, the selection of this year's distinguished alumnus will also be delayed to the December ceremony. New endowments/gifts were mentioned, as well as athletic donations. Two easy ways to help UAM is by making a donation to the Student Success Fund or the UAM Fund.

7. Response to COVID-19 – Dr. Doss

Faculty are to be commended for their monumental task in changing to remote instruction. The following are just a few of the ways UAM has been responding to this pandemic:

- Frequent messaging is being sent to students.
- Hot spots were set up around campus to allow students to stay in their vehicle and work from their laptop.
- The faculty assembly approved revising the grading policy.
- The executive council approved to relax the renewal criteria for institutional scholarships.
- More cleaning and sanitizing is being done on campus.

8. Proposed Meeting Dates

The following meetings dates were proposed and approved by the Board:

July 23, 2020 – Monticello campus
October 20, 2020 – McGehee campus
January 26, 2020 – Monticello campus
April 22, 2021 – Crossett campus

9. The meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.