

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Visitors

University of Arkansas at Monticello

Chancellor's Conference Room

July 14, 2020 - 4:00 p.m.

Board Member Present in Person: Mellie Jo Owen, Gregg Reep, Scott Saffold, Mike Walker

Board Members Present Via Zoom: Linda Armour, Jim Daniels, Michael Jones, Jeremy Sparks

University Personnel Present or Via Zoom: Dr. Peggy Doss, Dr. Moses Goldmon, Crystal Halley, Linda Rushing, Bob Ware, Jeff Weaver, Debbie Gasaway, Padraic McMeel, Christy Pace

1. Chair Gregg Reep called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
2. The Board approved the minutes from the April 23, 2020 meeting.
3. Chancellor's Report – Dr. Doss

Summer enrollment had a slight increase from last year. It was all online with the exception of labs at the colleges of technology, such as welding, which cannot be virtual.

Two new UA System task forces will include representatives from UAM. Dr. Doss was selected to serve on the task force that will identify next steps toward reopening campuses to faculty, staff and students. Dr. Moses Goldmon has been appointed to the task force on racial equity that will consider issues at the campuses, divisions and units within the UA System. UAM has also formed a focus group for racial equity, diversity and inclusion in which Mr. Bob Ware will chair.

A retreat was held in July at the Taylor House with Executive Council and Deans. Items discussed included: UAM's vision, fall planning, future growth, facilities, the master plan, the strategic plan, historical properties, and preparations for the fall reopening.

4. Crossett Campus Report – Ms. Rushing

The Hospitality program has moved to the Monticello campus, and will be housed in the old bookstore. Renovations totaled \$40,000, in which \$17,000 was awarded from Centennial Opportunity Funds, and the remainder was paid from contingency. Mrs. Alice Lindsey is the instructor for this program.

Effective June 30, 2020, the Crossett campus has closed their bookstore and merged with UAM Follett. Students can order online and have books delivered to their home. This closure will result in a savings of approximately \$65,000 annually.

5. McGehee Campus Report – Mr. Ware

An update for the McGehee campus included the following details:

- the LPN program is #1 in the state;

- all students who were in the welding program graduated and have been certified;
- there are 13 centers where adult education is offered and last year 380 students were served, with over 100 of those students passing their GED tests; and
- two locations at the McGehee campus have been identified as Zoom rooms if needed for the fall.

6. Financial/Budget Update – Ms. Gasaway

FY20 and FY21 Budget Status: The final close of the fiscal year is at the end of July, however, some good news from the past few months include:

- In May, UAM received restored state productivity funds of \$152,770 for FY 20;
- Productivity funding will be distributed in FY 21 in the amount of \$159,460;
- Restored state RSA (Revenue Stabilization Act) funding of \$662,371 was received on June 30;
- Timber Severance Tax Distribution Funds in the amount of \$350,000 was received on June 30. These funds are legislatively required to be set aside to be used solely and exclusively for providing additional support for the School of Forest Resources;
- In FY 20, two distributions from the Peterson estate was received. One was a cash gift of \$1,000,000 and the other was a gift of stock that was valued at close to \$1.5 million at June 30.

Bond Refinancing: UAM has requested approval from the Board of Trustees to issue refunding bonds, which would result in substantial savings for UAM over the remaining life of the bonds.

Storm Damage Repairs: The VPAC is expected to be completed by the end of the month. The second floor is being repainted, a new drop ceiling installed, along with new carpet and electrical. Royer Hall has been waterproofed and repair will begin on the roof. Repairs from the storm will then be made to Maxwell Hall and the McGehee campus.

CARES Act Funding and Distribution: UAM was allocated \$3.2 million from the federal CARES Act. Half of this amount was dedicated for distribution to students. The remaining \$1.6 million was the institution's share for reimbursement of expenses related to complete online instruction. UAM has received reimbursement of \$424,864 for expenses, which include 50 laptops and several WIFI cards to be used for remote online instruction. UAM was also allocated \$156,477 in additional CARES Act funding because our campus is a minority serving institution. These funds have not yet been committed.

PPE Orders and Funding: UAM was allocated \$267,168 from the state for personal protective equipment. Currently, orders placed and reimbursements received total \$162,000. Additional orders will be placed as needed. The deadline for reimbursements is the end of December.

7. Student Engagement – Dr. Goldman

Fall Enrollment Update and Projections: The Admissions staff has done a great job at recruiting. As of July 9, enrollment numbers are up compared to last year at the same time, for both first time freshmen and overall enrollment.

Recruitment Activities: Virtual tours are currently being conducted. Fall orientation will contain both face-to-face and virtual options for students. It is unknown at this time if recruiters will be allowed to visit high schools this fall.

Residence Life: Applications are slightly up from last year, possibly due to the suspension of the housing deposit this semester. Move-in Day will be spaced out over several days and there will be no volunteers as it has been in the past.

Title IX Regulations: In May, the US Department of Education released new regulations, which will go into effect on August 14. UAM staff have been working with the UA System General Counsel in order to comply with the new regulations.

8. Fall Sports Update – Mr. McMeel

Fall Sports: At this time, there has been a reduction of the number of contests. Safety of student athletes, coaches, staff and fans is the top priority. UAM continues to wait for guidance from the NCAA and GAC, as well as evaluate what other schools are doing. A new e-sports club developed through student engagement, has been successful. Markell Cox has been hired as the women's basketball coach.

Fundraising: The Athletics department has been reaching out to former athletes and donors to find people are interested in supporting UAM. Eighty percent of the funds for a new videoboard have been raised, mainly from local banks.

9. Alumni and Development – Mr. Weaver

Since January, UAM foundation deposits are just under two million, which include many smaller gifts and memorial donations. Larger gifts include contributions from the Ryburn family, the Blue and You Foundation, Jimmie and Linda Yeiser, Jean Hendrix, as well as donations to the Student Success fund. UAM has also been awarded a \$50,000 Windgate Foundation Grant to support visual arts.

The Alumni office is highlighting alumni successes, and nominations are currently being taken for the Distinguished Alumnus. The Arkansas Travelers game that is held every summer has been cancelled.

10. Academic Affairs – Ms. Halley

Fall Classes: Safety measures that have been put in place for fall classes were discussed, including social distancing students from each other and faculty; requiring of face coverings; the installation of plexiglass shields; placing hand sanitizer stations at each building entrance and sanitizing wipes in classrooms. The modes of instruction for classes will be moved to different locations on campus to accommodate social distancing, while other classes will be offered in a hybrid format where students will attend certain days of class instruction.

New Fall Programs: New programs that are effective now include: BS in Exercise Science, Graphic Design Component to the Art Program and a Cybersecurity Concentration has been added to CIS. Programs pending HLC approval include: MFA in Debate and Communication (online), MA in English and AAS in Hospitality and Tourism Management. A certificate in Phlebotomy and an option for adding Data Science to the BS in Math are currently pending approval by the Coordinating Board.

Concurrent Enrollment – There are no significant changes in concurrent enrollment at this time. UAM has the same number of partnership schools.

11. New Business

Election of Officers: The election of officers will take place at the October 2020 meeting, after the Board of Trustees has approved the reappointment of members to the Board of Visitors.

12. The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.