

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Visitors

University of Arkansas at Monticello
Fine Arts Center, Spencer Gallery

January 15, 2015

4:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Bettye Gragg
George Harris
Michael Jones
Mellie Jo Owen
Gregg Reep
Linda Rowe

University Personnel Present:

Jay Jones, Interim Chancellor
Jimmie Yeiser, Provost/Vice Chancellor
Linda Yeiser, Vice Chancellor
Jay Hughes, Vice Chancellor
Bob Ware, Vice Chancellor
Linda Rushing, Vice Chancellor
Donna Hunnicutt, Assembly Chair Leader
Mary Whiting, Director of Admissions
Matt Whiting, Assistant Athletic Director for External Affairs

Mr. Gregg Reep called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Mr. Reep made the following change to the minutes from the October meeting: Mr. Reep was elected for Vice Chair of the Board not Roger George.

Mr. Jones informed the Board on Fred Denton's health.

Mr. Whiting informed the Board on the following new hires in the Athletics Department:

- Quad Sanders – Defensive Line
- Drew Hall - Receiver Graduate Assistant
- Davis Stephens - Defensive Graduate Assistant
- Alexandra Graves - Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance and Academic Services

Mr. Whiting also stated that Becky Phillips was recently appointed as Faculty Athletic Representative.

Mr. Whiting reported on the department's fall 2014 GPA average and went over each sports GPA scores.

Mr. Whiting informed the Board that the UAM Sport Association is on pace to exceed what was raised last year and will increase membership as well. He also stated the Swing for the Fences

project only lacks \$100,000 in fundraising before the softball and baseball projects are completed.

Mr. Whiting reported to the Board that the construction of the new indoor golf facility is complete.

Dr. Yeiser informed the Board that the unofficial headcount for the spring semester is 3,414 as of today.

Dr. Yeiser stated that he has five committees in place to look at different aspects of how to raise retention rates and discussed each:

- e-mentoring
- first year experience
- first four weeks
- retention through student services
- recommendations

Dr. Yeiser mentioned that at this time last year they took phone surveys and found out students don't know who their advisors are and almost half of scholarships are lost after the first semester.

Dr. Yeiser informed the Board that the unofficial concurrent enrollment is 698 this semester and stated that 37 different high schools are being represented by those students.

Dr. Yeiser also reported to the Board that the Higher Learning Commission will meet on January 26th -27th to decide on the official report.

Ms. Rushing informed the Board of a donation made by Georgia Pacific Cooperation of \$6,000 to the Electromechanical Technology Program.

Ms. Rushing gave an update on three faculty positions that were filled around the holidays.

Mr. Ware reported that the McGehee campus was able to raise \$11,500 which was matched by the Arkansas Contractor Association Board for a new CAT Simulator and Keith Riggs also donated \$2,000 to go toward the purchase.

Mr. Ware stated that the CDL Training program is paid for by the Arkansas Human Development Corporation.

Ms. Yeiser reported to the Board on the following recent gifts and new endowments:

New endowments:

- Lesa Cathey Handly Trust Endowment for Business Excellence – by Brooks and Lesa Cathey Handly – initially \$15,000
- Bennie F. Ryburn, Jr. and Marion Burge Ryburn Endowed Scholarship – by Mr. and Mrs. Ryburn, the Bank of Star City, First State Bank of Warren, and Commercial Bank and Trust Company of Monticello – a total of \$100,000

Other recent gifts:

- \$50,000 anonymous gift to the UAM Sports Association
- We are named as one of three charitable remainder beneficiaries of a \$1 million charitable remainder trust from an anonymous donor

Ms. Yeiser also informed the Board on the following fundraising efforts:

- New Science and Mathematics Center. A campus committee comprised largely of faculty has worked with an architect to develop a concept and to identify space needs. We are now awaiting the architectural rendering so that we can present it to legislators and potential donors, and publicize it in UAM Magazine. This project will be about 77,000 square feet with an estimated cost of \$25 million.

Ms. Yeiser also stated that the annual Travelers baseball game in Little Rock will be on June 23rd.

Mr. Kuttenkuler went over the housing report with the Board. He stated that 622 students are in the in halls this semester. He mentioned that his department is currently working on a housing management software that would allow students to fill out their application and pay their deposit online.

Mr. Hughes informed the Board on the following student activities that took place before Christmas break:

- Christmas tree lighting ceremony
- canned Christmas tree contest
- ice skating rink
- late night breakfast

Mr. Hughes stated that 78 student activities are planned for this spring semester.

Mr. Hughes stated that UAM officially became a Storm Ready Campus on December 8, 2014 and that a siren will be put on the roof of the MCB building.

Mr. Hughes updated the Board on the process of the Fine Arts Center. He stated that the first phase of the project would consist of the following upgrades:

- auditorium seats – padding, fabric, and arms
- step lighting system being replaced
- carpet in hallway and auditorium
- stage lighting update

Ms. Hunnicutt reported to the Board that the faculty is excited about the new semester and that the Department of Education is getting ready for the NCATE.

Ms. Whiting updated the Board on the progress of the Chancellor search.

Mr. Jones gave a financial report for December 31, 2014 noting the following updates:

- overall revenues are about 54% of budget

- overall expenditures are about 48%

Mr. Jones informed the Board of an Executive Council retreat that will take place on February 4th for the purpose of discussing the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, setting goals for the process and identifying the challenges the university faces in the upcoming year.

Mr. Jones reported on a few efficiency measures that are being considered and stated that the budget process would include a dedicated session for seeking efficiencies in certain areas of the budget. One specific example he mentioned was that the university is currently in discussions with RICOH regarding the area of print management.

The meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Visitors

University of Arkansas at Monticello
Fine Arts Center, Spencer Gallery

April 23, 2015

4:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

George Harris
Lynn Rodgers
India Holt
Gregg Reep
Roger George
Bettye Gragg
Linda Rowe

University Personnel Present:

Jay Jones, Interim Chancellor
Jimmie Yeiser, Provost/Vice Chancellor
Linda Yeiser, Vice Chancellor
Jay Hughes, Vice Chancellor
Bob Ware, Vice Chancellor
Linda Rushing, Vice Chancellor
Donna Hunnicutt, Assembly Chair Leader
Mary Whiting, Director of Admissions
Chris Ratcliff, Director of Athletics
Scott Kuttenkuler, Dean of Students

Mr. Gregg Reep called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

The Board approved the minutes from January's meeting.

Mr. Hughes discussed the selection process of students to be recognized as Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities. He stated there were 109 nominations, 64 completed applications, and the selection committee chose 18 to be recognized.

Mr. Hughes gave an update on the Student Government Association stating that they had concluded with their online elections on Monday, April 21st, and 15% of campus participated in the election process.

Mr. Hughes went over the following student activities taking place this semester:

- Black History Month Balloon Release
- Wellness Fair
- Week long Arbor Day Events
- Career Fair
- Greek Week
- Crawfish Boil

- Sand Volleyball to promote Skin Cancer prevention
- Late Night Breakfast

Mr. Hughes gave an update on Title IX requirements and the Title IX educational online training module that will be available for faculty, staff, and students.

Dr. Yeiser reported to the Board the following Points of Pride:

- National Council on Teacher Quality ranked UAM's School of Education 14th in the nation in Elementary Education and 27th in Secondary Education
- Jazz band attended the Elmhurst College Jazz Festival's National Competition and received more awards than any other jazz band

Dr. Yeiser stated that for the spring semester we have 698 students at high school level taking classes at UAM.

Dr. Yeiser informed the Board on the UAM retention plan and went over the different areas that are being addressed to improve retention rates.

Dr. Yeiser reported to the Board that he is waiting on the Higher Learning Commission to give him permission to release the final report to the public.

Dr. Yeiser stated that Commencement will be on Friday, May 8th at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Ms. Whiting gave the Board an update on the chancellor search. She stated one finalist dropped out due to personal reasons, and the remaining three have all visited the campus and are being considered by the committee.

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

- Thomas Oden – retired in February as maintenance supervisor of 17 years
- Dewayne Miles – hired as new maintenance supervisor
- Sherry Harris – retiring in June as Workforce Ed Instructor AOT
- Janie Carter – moved from assistant vice chancellor to part-time project coordinator

Ms. Rushing informed the Board that courses for Work Force Experience in Computer Maintenance/Networking and Electromechanical Technology were recently approved.

Ms. Rushing stated the Crossett campus's Bass Club competed in a national competition recently and did very well.

Mr. Ware updated the Board on the Adult Education Program. He stated that the budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year was \$883,255 and for the 2015-2016 fiscal year is \$649,331. He mentioned that they are looking for ways to make up the loss.

Mr. Ware discussed Career Pathways and some of the programs offered, including a CNA program and truck driving where three out of four students received their CDL license and went straight into the work force.

Mr. Ware stated that 100% of the students in the Nursing program at the McGehee campus passed the NCLEX Exam.

Ms. Yeiser reported to the Board on the following three new endowments:

- **Robert H. Burch, Jr. Waterfowl Research Endowment – began at \$5,000 and currently \$18,587.50.** Received from family and friends of Dr. Robert “Bobby” H. Burch, Jr. for additional support for waterfowl research. May be used for any legitimate expenditure for waterfowl research and related academic activities, with first preference for undergraduate or graduate research.
- **Greg Bland Memorial Scholarship – Currently \$10,280 and anticipate receiving a check to fully endow it at \$22,223.** Received from Mrs. Deborah Bland and other family and friends. The scholarship recipient must be an Arkansan and have full-time enrollment status in the UAM School of Math and Sciences, with first preference to a chemistry major and second preference to any natural sciences major.
- **Kelly Bashaw Memorial Scholarship – \$15,000, and has now reached endowed level.** Received from Mr. and Mrs. Glen Bashaw, family, and friends. The scholarship recipient must be an Arkansan and full-time student of any major.

Ms. Yeiser also informed the Board on the following fundraising efforts:

- The University’s number one priority fundraising priority continues to be the new \$25 million **Center for Mathematics and Sciences.**
- **Allen Wilson Maxwell Memorial Scholarship.** Similar to the Burch endowment, with a brochure, press release, and contacting his legislative friends.
- **Bricks on Weevil Walk** - They are on sale now and make good graduation gifts.

Ms. Yeiser informed Board members of the following upcoming alumni events and activities:

- Million Dollar Quartet – Broadway show
Sunday, April 26, 2:00 p.m.
Maumelle Performing Arts Center
- Family night with the Arkansas Travelers
Tuesday, June 23
Dickey-Stephens Park, North Little Rock
- Homecoming
Saturday, October 10

Ms. Yeiser stated that the UAM Foundation Fund Board of Directors met recently and elected new officers, Gregg Reep as Chairman and Nat Grubbs as Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Ratcliff reported to the Board on the spring sports report and informed the Board on the following upcoming events:

- Monday, April 27th - Athletic Banquet
- Friday, May 29th annual golf tournament at Harbor Oaks in Pine Bluff

Mr. Ratcliff stated that the sports association has 281 members and raised \$125,000 this year.

Ms. Hunnicutt informed the Board that new officers were elected at the last meeting. She also mentioned the number of people attending meetings is relatively small and the leadership is trying to find ways to raise attendance.

Mr. Jones stated that due to the estimated costs, the Microwave Tower project has been put on hold for now and the Board will be updated on that project at a later date.

Mr. Jones discussed a presentation that the University will make to the Arkansas Natural Cultural Resources Council regarding the Taylor House Project on May 6th.

Mr. Jones stated that this year's UAM Distinguished Alumnus is Donnie King, president of North American Operations and Food Service for Tyson Foods, Inc.

Mr. Jones reported that the Universities Executive Council is working on a budget recommendation that will be presented to the Board of Trustees. He also stated that the University will be requesting approval of a 6.4% increase for UAM in tuition and fees, it would be a way to give a 1% raise in salaries for all UAM employees. He stated that a 9% increase in tuition and fees for Crossett COT and McGehee COT will be proposed to the Board.

The Board elected Gregg Reep as Chairman and George Harris as Vice Chairman.

Mr. Jones stated that the next Board of Visitor's meeting would be July 9th on the McGehee campus.

The meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

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 23rd 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 27th 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 3rd - early arrivals, resident directors and assistants
- August 10th and 12th – athletes will be on campus
- August 17th – 21st – Welcome Week
- September 19th – Parent-Family Appreciation Day
- October 5th – 10th - 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 30th 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 25th 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 40th anniversary of the McGehee campus, and activities that will take place. He stated that on October 24th 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 4th 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 40th anniversary celebration – goal to raise \$40,000 by Saturday, October 24th event
- Anticipate 40th 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 23rd. 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 8th
 - Alumni party – Friday, October 9th
 - Tailgating and football game – Saturday, October 10th
- Saturday, Oct 24th – McGehee 40th 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 1st.

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 3rd at 7:00 p.m. against Northwestern Oklahoma. He also mentioned on October 24th 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.

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.

Minutes of the Special-Called Meeting of the Board of Visitors

University of Arkansas at Monticello

Fine Arts Center, Spencer Gallery

November 10, 2015

3:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Betty Gragg
George Harris, Vice Chairman
India Holt
Michael Jones
Mellie Jo Owen, Secretary
Gregg Reep, Chairman
Lynn Rodgers
Linda Rowe

Executive Council Members Present:

Debbie Gasaway, Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration
Jay Hughes, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Jay Jones, Interim Chancellor
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:

Ed Bacon, Emeritus Professor of Biology
Donna Hunnicutt, Associate Professor and Graduate Coordinator
Scott Kuttenkuler, Dean of Students
Chris Ratcliff, Director of Athletics
Anissa Ross, Chief Information Officer
Bob Stark, Professor of Agriculture
Jeff Taylor, Associate Professor of Chemistry
Mary Whiting, Dean of Admissions

Special Guests Present:

Don Bobbitt, President, University of Arkansas System
Cliff Gibson, Board of Trustees
Bennie Ryburn, III, Search Committee Member

Mr. Gregg Reep called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Mr. Jones stated that Dr. Don Bobbitt, President of the U of A System, has called a special meeting of the Board of Visitors to discuss the appointment of Dr. Karla Hughes as chancellor.

Dr. Bobbitt thanked Mr. Jones for his leadership as interim chancellor, as well as Mary Whiting and the search committee for their hard work. He discussed the search process and difficulties

that were encountered. He stated they worked very diligently through two rounds of interviews, noting that everyone who interviewed had tremendous respect for the campus and people they met, and felt they were treated wonderfully. He said he was very thankful for both the UAM and Monticello community for their turnout to support the search.

Dr. Bobbitt stated that he spent considerable time with Dr. Hughes' references, and UAM has attracted a very good candidate and chancellor-elect. He noted that she acknowledges the history of UAM but is also excited about the future. He briefly discussed her plan for the first 120 days, which includes listening and seeking advice.

Dr. Bobbitt noted that we can help Dr. Hughes by making introductions to people she needs to meet and talk to. He also announced that he has appointed a transition team to assist her. Dr. Bobbitt said he was thankful that he did not receive a lot of pressure to do things quickly, but rather do things correctly.

The meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m.