

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Visitors**  
University of Arkansas at Monticello  
Crossett Campus – McGoogan Building  
January 16, 2020 - 4:00 p.m.

**Board Members Present:** Roger George, Dr. Bettye Gragg, Gregg Reep, Scott Saffold, Mike Walker

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

1. Chairman Gregg Reep called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Ms. Rushing welcomed everyone to the Crossett campus and introduced Ms. Alice Lindsey and her Hospitality students.
2. The Board approved the minutes from the October 17, 2019 meeting.
3. Chancellor's Comments – Dr. Doss

The Chancellor noted she is thankful and humbled for the opportunity to serve UAM in this new capacity. She will have an open door policy and looks forward to working together with Board members and the community.

The recent storm damage was discussed, which was minimal on campus compared to surrounding communities.

4. Reorganization Efforts – Dr. Doss

The following reorganizational changes have taken place at UAM:

- Mary Whiting is now the Director of Recruitment and Admissions.
- The offices of Financial Aid and Cashier have been moved under the supervision of Finance and Administration.
- The Registrar's Office has been moved under the supervision of Academic Affairs.
- Ms. Crystal Halley has been named Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

5. Enrollment Update – Dr. Goldmon

The official census date is January 22, however, as of today the total enrollment for the spring semester is 2640. The ending enrollment for last spring was 2691.

6. Regional Recruitment Efforts – Dr. Doss, Dr. Goldmon

Board members were asked if they would be willing to help UAM recruit students, in which they agreed. Each Board member will receive a list of students in their town who have applied for the fall semester, and are encouraged to reach out to those students.

Recruitment staff efficiencies are being looked at as well as ways to help get UAM in front of audiences, such as parents, counselors, teachers, etc. Mr. Gary Meggs has

returned to UAM and he is doing an excellent job at recruiting students for band. This fall, Royer Hall will be dedicated as a Music Residence Hall, for music students/majors.

7. New Degree Programs – Ms. Halley

There are currently several new degree programs that have been submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval, including:

- Associate of Applied Science in Hospitality and Tourism Management.
- Bachelor of Science in CIS - add concentrations in Programming and Cybersecurity.
- Split the BA/BS in Health, Physical Education, and Exercise Science to create a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science and a Bachelor of Science in Health and Physical Education (non-licensure),
- Master of Arts in English, and
- Master of Fine Arts in Debate and Communication.

8. Budget Projections – Mr. Becker

Student semester credit hours (SSCH) were discussed and the plans that have been taken to compensate for the decrease in SSCH compared to what was budgeted. There are efforts being made by many employees across campus to package financial aid awards earlier, call students to help them get finalized, and encourage preregistration.

9. UAM Foundation – Mr. Weaver

Private scholarships have been reviewed and spending balances that are high have been recognized. A portion will be used to retain students, as well as recruit.

The terms have expired for four members of the UAM Foundation Board. Mr. Scott Saffold was commended for his many years of service to this Board. The new members are: Paul Griffin, Classie Jones, Renea McClendon, and Crews Puryear.

Four new endowments have been established, as well as several generous donations. An update was provided on the Alumni Director search, as well as upcoming alumni events.

10. Crossett and McGehee Updates – Ms. Rushing, Mr. Ware

Updates were given regarding business and industry in both Crossett and McGehee, and the impact in each area, as well as possible training at the Crossett and McGehee campuses.

The Crossett campus has officially been connected to ARE-ON (Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network).

The hospitality program will be moved from the Crossett campus to the Monticello campus and the classroom should be completed in a few months.

11. The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

**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.

## **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.

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

University of Arkansas at Monticello

Student Success Center, Room 102

October 20, 2020 - 4:00 p.m.

**Board Member Present in Person:** Roger George, Mellie Jo Owen, Gregg Reep, Scott Saffold

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

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

1. Chair Gregg Reep called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

2. The Board approved the minutes from the July 14, 2020 meeting.

3. Chancellor's Report – Dr. Doss

A lot of work has been completed to get ready for the semester. The retention rate is good, however, enrollment was slightly below target. UAM is constantly looking for new and innovative ways to recruit. There is a higher percentage of low grades reported for midterm, and not being able to have fall sports has impacted the campus. We have been trying to think of ways that faculty, staff, and students can be assisted due to COVID fatigue.

4. McGehee Campus Report – Mr. Ware

The annual Perkins audit was completed in October and the report was good. Equipment is being ordered for the McGehee welding and nursing programs and the Crossett electromechanical and nursing programs. There are 116 students enrolled in concurrent credit this fall. New potential programs were mentioned, including waste water management, medical coding and backhoe/dozer training.

5. Crossett Campus Report – Ms. Rushing

Two vacant positions have been filled: Paul Daws, Instructor for Electromechanical Instrumentation; and Tira Jones, College and Career Coach. The plans for the DRA grant of \$150,000 for the welding expansion should be finalized soon so that the project can be put out for bid. The transition of the Bookstore to online has been successful.

6. Athletics Update – Mr. McMeel

An update was provided on NCAA and options that are being considered to safely allow sports to continue. Currently, men's and women's basketball has been postponed until December 31, 2020. The breaking of ground for the football video board will be next week.

7. Finance and Administration – Mr. Becker

A financial summary for FY20 and FY21 was discussed. An update regarding Financial Aid was provided. The Director resigned in August and the position is still vacant. There has been some restructuring of the office and Trinita Newton has been promoted to supervise financial aid analysts. Preparations have begun for pulling in fall 2021 FAFSA's.

8. Student Engagement – Dr. Goldmon

An update was provided on enrollment. Changes in recruitment strategies due to COVID were discussed. Title IX regulations have been revised in order to comply with new federal guidelines. The student handbook and code of conduct were also revised. New student orientation for the fall consisted of virtual events, as well as, activities on campus that allowed for social distancing. Student Health Services works closely with all faculty, staff and students regarding COVID quarantine or isolation.

9. Academic Affairs – Ms. Halley

UAM has been given approval by the Arkansas Department of Health to hold Commencement on November 20. New programs that will begin in the spring include MA in English, MFA in Communication and Debate, and CP in Phlebotomy. Proposed programs for fall 2021 and spring 2022 were mentioned. For the spring semester, there will be a mixture of primarily face-to-face classes with some hybrid and some online.

10. Advancement – Mr. Weaver

The following updates were provided regarding Alumni and Development:

- The UAM Magazine should be arriving this week.
- A phon-a-thon will be held November 7-19.
- The Giving Tuesday campaign will continue this year.
- Spirit week and Alumni awards will be livestreamed on Facebook.
- New license plates are now available.
- A new endowment has been started to honor Bill Wisener.
- UAM is accepting proposals for Centennial Opportunity Fund projects.

11. New Business

Officers for the Board of Visitors were elected as follows:

Chair – Mellie Jo Owen  
Vice Chair – Michael Jones  
Secretary – Roger George

Officers will assume their position in January 2021 and will serve a two-year term.

12. The meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.