

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

University of Arkansas at Monticello  
Student Success Center and via Zoom  
February 19, 2026 - 4:00 p.m.

**Board Members Present:** Bryan McDuffie, Heath Moncrief, Mellie Jo Owen, Greg Pearson, Alan Riels, Scott Saffold, Tim Smith, Mike Walker, Harrell Wilson

**Board Member Present Via Zoom:** Gina Richard, Jeremy Sparks

**University Personnel Present:** Dr. Peggy Doss, Alex Becker, Dr. Landon Grimes, Crystal Halley, Steven Jossell, Dr. Tracy Tucker, Christy Pace

1. Chair Scott Saffold called the meeting to order at 3:59 p.m.
2. The Board approved the minutes from the October 20, 2025, meeting.
3. Chancellor's Report – Dr. Doss
  - Mellie Jo Owen and Scott Saffold were thanked for their many years of service on the Board of Visitors. Their term has ended, and the Board of Trustees has approved replacements for their positions.
  - The following new members appointed to the Board of Visitors were introduced: Bryan McDuffie and Tim Smith. They will serve a four-year term that ends on December 31, 2029.
  - UAM is striving to think creatively and develop solutions to sustain future growth due to the growing concern of population decline. The intention is to be student-centered while upholding opportunity and accountability. UAM is also seeking partnerships and strategies to better serve the needs of our students.
4. Academic Affairs Report – Ms. Halley
  - There were 407 degrees/certificates awarded at December's commencement. This is an increase of 14.6% from last December.
  - Current and upcoming campus within a campus partnerships were discussed, including those with National Park College, UA East Arkansas Community College, UA Hope-Texarkana, Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas, UA Community College at Batesville, North Arkansas College, Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas, and UA Community College at Morrilton.

- Ms. Halley, Dr. Tucker and Mr. Jossell provided information on overall headcount, as well as details within specific programs.

5. Finance Report – Mr. Becker

- Information on the budget hearing process and student semester credit hours for the spring semester was provided.
- Updates were given on campus projects, including the Forest Health Research Center, renovations to the Steelman Field House, and scoreboards at the baseball/softball fields.

6. Housing Report – Dr. Grimes

- The vacant position for Director of Housing was discussed, as well as the plan for redistributing responsibilities during the transition.
- For the spring semester, 359 students are living on campus.

7. Approval of Proposed Meeting Dates

The following meeting dates were proposed and approved by the Board of Visitors:

April 9 – Crossett Campus  
July 14 – Monticello Campus  
October 26 – McGehee Campus

8. Election of Officers

Officers for the Board of Visitors were elected as follows:

Chair – Alan Riels  
Vice Chair – Jeremy Sparks  
Secretary – Heath Moncrief

9. Important Dates

- February 24: Monticello Chamber of Commerce Banquet, UC Green Room
- March 3, 5-7: SEARK Concert Musical-Grease: School Version, Fine Arts Center
- March 19-21: ASFC Southern Forestry Conclave, UAM Diesel Academy
- March 31: Mr. Rex Nelson Campus Visit
- April 15-16: Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Meeting, UAM Campus

10. The meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.