

University of Arkansas Community College
Board of Visitors Minutes
April 18, 2019 / 4 p.m.
IH Room 104

Members present were Ms. Stacy Gunderman, Ms. Jesse Freiert, Mr. Mike Arnold, Dr. Maggie Williams, Mr. Steven Green, Mr. Phil Baldwin and Mr. Ted Hall. Ms. Karen Ryan attended by phone. Mr. Mark Skelton, Mr. Stan Fretwell and Mr. Casey Castleberry were absent. Also in attendance were Ms. Deborah Frazier, Dr. Brian Shonk, Dr. Anne Austin, Mr. Gayle Cooper, Mr. Greg Thornburg, Ms. Kim Whitten, Ms. Jodie Hightower, Ms. Shelbi Gibson, and Ms. Hannah Keller Flanery. A member of the media was also present.

Chairman Gunderman called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

Mr. Ted Hall moved to approve the minutes from the January 17, 2019 meeting. Ms. Jesse Freiert seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Ms. Frazier recognized new employee, Ms. Shelbi Gibson, as administrative specialist for the advising center.

Ms. Whitten provided an update on the UACCB Foundation providing a summary of the capital campaign for the Workforce Training Center. The Foundation received 25 applications for summer term scholarships. The Foundation is working on two to four new endowed scholarships and currently there is a Kids College scholarship drive underway. Last year, the Kids College had to turn away students due to a lack of funds to cover the costs of their attendance.

Other projects she has worked on include the Arkansas Scholars Banquet which celebrated its 25th anniversary this year with 166 high school seniors participating. She noted that Mr. Ted Hall served as emcee of the event. She is also working with others at the college to plan commencement ceremonies.

Mr. Gayle Cooper, vice chancellor for finance and administration, provided a construction update on the Workforce Training Center. He said the main challenge has been a large number of rain delay days. He said barring any other rain delays, the contractors will begin work to pave the gravel lot across from the Nursing and Allied Health building on May 15, 2019. He noted that funds from reserves and money collected from student fees will pay for the paving. He said the total project of building the Workforce Training Center and paving the parking lot is slated for a 365 day project beginning January 18, 2019. He said the contractor and sub-contractors are doing excellent work.

Mr. Cooper and Ms. Frazier reviewed the budgeting process with the board members. Mr. Cooper said the college begins the campus-wide process in late February. Once the college receives the funding notice from the state, the real work of aligning budgets can begin. Mr. Cooper said that sales tax revenues last year were around \$1.45 million and are projected to be around \$1.75 million this year. Mr. Cooper said the FY 2020 budget is based on conservative projections and must be presented as a balanced budget.

Ms. Frazier said those involved in planning the budget have reallocated, compromised and reached a consensus. Ms. Frazier said the UA Online Consortium, created in 1999 and composed of three UA system community colleges, agreed to maintain a common tuition rate for online courses. This year the Consortium has agreed to increase tuition by \$5 per credit hour for online courses. She said the philosophy has been to mirror tuition rates for out-of-state students with online tuition rates. The increase would raise tuition from \$107 per credit hour to \$112 per credit hour.

Mr. Cooper said ACT 763, passed during the 2019 legislative session, is an unfunded mandate to increase the salaries of the first ten classifications within the classified employment rankings (C101 – C110). Eight UACCB employees are affected by this change with a total cost of \$14,436. A second bill, Act 914, increases the career service awards that rewards longevity of employment within the classified/non-classified employment categories. There are 29 employees affected by this change with a cost of \$9, 240 plus benefits.

Additionally, Mr. Cooper told the group about updates that the UA System office provided regarding insurance premium rates. A premium adjustment of 3.5% will be required for all UA institutions. The system will absorb 2% of the 3.5% increase and the institutions will split the remaining 1.5% evenly between the employee and the institution for employee only coverage. Employees enrolled in the Classic Plan who pay for spouse, children, or family will assume the full 1.5%. The largest increase will be \$20.06 per month.

Finally, Ms. Frazier requested the board consider a 1% cost of living adjustment to the base salaries for full-time employees in FY 2020. The cost for the increase in salary total \$51,060 including benefits and will aid some employees in offsetting insurance premium increases.

Mr. Ted Hall made motion to increase the online and out-of-state tuition in the amount of \$5.00 per credit hour for the FY 2020 funding cycle. Mr. Phil Baldwin seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Mr. Steven Green made motion to provide a 1% cost of living adjustment in base salaries for full-time employees beginning July 1, 2019. Ms. Karen Ryan seconded the motion and after a brief discussion, the motion carried.

Dr. Maggie Williams submitted the membership committee recommendations in the form of a motion, for the proposed new members to the Board of Visitors. The proposed membership included: Dr. Michael Hester, superintendent of Batesville School District; Dr. Jody Smotherman, vice president of community engagement at White River Health System; and Ms. Jennifer Walls, owner of Studio Salon and board member of the Main Street Batesville organization. Ms. Ryan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Their term will begin July 1, 2019 and end June 30, 2022, pending approval of the UA System Board of Trustees.

Mr. Hall presented the slate of officer recommendation on behalf of the selection committee for the FY 2020 proposed officers in the form of a motion. The recommendations are as follows: Dr. Maggie Williams, chair; Mr. Casey Castleberry, vice-chair; and Mr. Ted Hall, secretary. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Frazier reviewed the upcoming events noted on the agenda including the pre-commencement reception, commencement and the next board of visitors meeting.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Submitted by Ms. Jodie Hightower