

**University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville**  
**Board of Visitors Meeting**  
**Banquet Hall – Independence Hall**  
**October 14, 2021**  
**4:00 p.m.**

Members present on-site were Mr. Ted Hall, Mr. Mike Arnold, and Ms. Michelle Reesor. Those attending via Zoom were Mr. Calvin Wright and Mr. Brad Cummings. Those absent were Dr. Jody Smotherman, Dr. Mike Hester, Ms. Karen Ryan, Mr. Stan Fretwell, Ms. Jesse Friert, and Ms. Jenifer Floyd.

Others in attendance included were Mr. Zach Perrine, Dr. Brian Shonk, Dr. Anne Austin, Ms. Mandy Walker, Ms. Jodie Hightower, Ms. Kim Whitten, Mr. Blayne Stewart, and Ms. Peggy Pearce.

Chairman Hall called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Quorum was not established, therefore, minutes from the June 10, 2021, meeting were not approved.

Chairman Hall introduced his assistant, Ms. Peggy Pearce as well as new Board of Visitors members Mr. Brad Cummings and Ms. Michelle Reesor. Mr. Cummings is employed at White River Area Agency on Aging and has his own accounting firm. Ms. Reesor is employed at First Community Bank.

Chairman Hall announced that Mr. Casey Castleberry has resigned due to his moving out of the area. This is a vacancy that will need to be filled. His term ends July 2023.

Mr. Zach Perrine, interim chancellor, introduced the new employees who are:

- Loyd Barry (9/29/2021), Welding Faculty
- Brenda Bishop (8/15/2021), Nursing and Allied Health Faculty
- Jacob Chisom (8/11/2021), Oral Communication Faculty
- Tiara Lusk (8/11/2021), Management and Supervision Faculty
- Serena Martin (10/4/2021), Administrative Specialist III – Academics
- Jennifer Pitts (9/1/2021), Testing and Disability Services Specialist
- Leah Tess Weatherford (7/1/2021), Career and Life Coach
- Janet Rodgers (7/1/2021), Administrative Specialist III- Adult Education
- Stephanie Minor (7/1/2021), Administrative Specialist III – Financial Aid

Mr. Perrine introduced the internal transfers who are:

- Valerie Bennett, Administrative Assistant to the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs to Administrative Assistant Workforce Training Center.
- Cheryle Gunther, Assistant to the VC for Finance and Administration to Accountant
- C'aira Stewart, Administrative Assistant for Admissions to Admissions Counselor
- Sherrie Stagner, Testing and Disability Services Specialist to TRIO Personal Development Coach/Student Activities
- Michelle Bishop RN Program Coordinator – Division Chair for Nursing and Allied Health – RN Program Coordinator
- Marietta Candler from Div Chair for NAH to RN program coordinator.

**Chancellor Search** - Mr. Chris Thomason, UA System vice president for planning & development, search lead, provided an update on the search for a new chancellor at UACCB. He also reviewed the qualifications of the four final candidates who are Dr. Scott Cook, Dr. Jeff Jochems, Dr. Randy Smith, and Dr. Brian Shonk. Mr. Thomason said the candidates will visit campus beginning next week. He encouraged board members to actively participate in the sessions during the next two weeks. Chairman Hall expressed appreciation to Mr. Thomason and all the search committee members.

**Affirmation of the Mission** - Dr. Anne Austin, executive director of special projects, requested the board affirm the College's stated mission. She told the board members the College states its mission on the agenda of committees on campus including Cabinet and Chancellor's Advisory Committee. A vote to affirm the mission was not taken as quorum was not met.

**Foundation Report** - Ms. Kim Whitten, director of advancement, said the UACCB Foundation will hold its annual golf tournament on October 20, 2021, in honor of Stan Wood, for his long-time service to UACCB and as friend of Gateway. Mr. Wood was a strong proponent of the sales tax to support the College as well as supporting the College's move into the UA System. She said family has already endowed a scholarship. Ms. Jesse Friert, current Board of Visitors member, and Ms. Laura Brissey, former Board of Visitors member, are members of the Wood family. First Community Bank is the gold sponsor for the event.

Ms. Whitten said the Foundation awarded over \$20,000 in scholarships to 50 students in the last year. Ms. Whitten also announced she will be leaving the College at the end of October. Mr. Perrine expressed appreciation to her for her work the last three years.

**Enrollment Report** - Mr. Zach Perrine, vice chancellor for student affairs, interim chancellor, presented enrollment numbers for the Fall 2021 semester. He said although the College fell short of its goals for headcount and Student Semester Credit Hours (SSCHs), the College still had a strong headcount of 1,066, with 337 concurrent students.

He outlined the enrollment and reengagement strategies the College has deployed including:

- Persistent contacts in schools and community centers.
- Improve efficiencies in enrollment engine with a fully staffed admissions office.
- Maintain strong digital presence.
- Continue to tell our story through PR and marketing efforts.
- Gather external perspectives through EAB and other partners.
- Provide support through the Total Advisor Group (TAG) as well as mental health counseling in partnership with White River Medical Center. He noted that Ms. Maggie Beshears, behavioral health therapist, has received 38 referrals, provided 115 counseling sessions, with a caseload of 24 students.

**Academics Report** - Dr. Brian Shonk, Vice Chancellor for Academics, provided the following report:

- *Student Success Rates* – He provided a comparison of the last six semesters. In Spring 2021, 79% of students earned an A, B, or C. In Fall 2018 (pre-COVID-19), 77% earned an A, B, or C.
- *Department of Labor, Working Opportunities for Rural Communities Grant* – The College received a grant from the DOL worth over \$1 million. The three-year grant has a goal to

serve 150 people, primarily those underemployed or recovering from addiction. The bulk of the funds go to the students. The program is a one-month and will teach students skills to gain employment in technical and manufacturing settings.

- *National Science Foundation, Advanced Technological Education Grant* – The College submitted the application for this grant today. It is in partnership with UA-Fayetteville, the UA Extension Service, and others. It is worth about \$650,000. There are four courses in program, two non-credit and two credit. The program will teach students to operate a drone so they can earn a certificate to fly it. Students will also learn how to use equipment to gather data and how to use the data.
- *Productivity Funding* – Dr. Shonk reported that the College increased its productivity by 10%. Productivity is based on the number of credentials awarded, how many credentials are earned on time, and without an excess of credits. He said there is competition for the funds. Only one UA System school decreased in productivity.

**Budget Report** - Ms. Mandy Walker, vice chancellor for finance and administration, reviewed the financial statements of the College. She said overall net position is down about \$100,000, but cash is up about \$800,000. She said during FY 2020, not as much funding pulled down from the G5 system as compared to FY 2021. She said several things have affected the College's financials including the liability for post-employment benefits (generally health insurance) the liability for pensions (APERS, Teacher Retirement, TIAA, and Fidelity). Both figures increased significantly and are figures that are provided to the College by the System. She said despite the increases in those liabilities, the College is in a good position, noting that sales tax revenue was higher than projected. She also said that insurance premiums increased in FY 2021 and premiums were recently published for January 2022. The Classic plan premium is not increasing.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ms. Jodie Hightower, assistant to the chancellor.