

University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville
Board of Visitors Meeting
Banquet Hall – Independence Hall
April 21, 2022
4:30 p.m.

Members present on-site were Ted Hall, Mike Arnold, Calvin Wright, Brad Cummings, Jesse Freiert, Karen Ryan (Zoom), Dr. Mike Hester, Jenifer Floyd, Dr. Jody Smotherman and Michelle Reesor (Zoom). Those absent were Mr. Stan Fretwell. In-coming board member Tammy Pearce was also present.

Others in attendance included were Dr. Zach Perrine, Dr. Brian Shonk, Dr. Anne Austin, Jodie Hightower, Heath Wooldridge, Dr. Holly Smith, and Bruce Hankins.

Chairman Hall called the meeting to order at 4:35p.m.

Mr. Cummings moved to accept the minutes from the January 20, 2022, meeting and Dr. Hester seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairman Hall turned the meeting over to Chancellor Shonk who introduced the new employees listed in the agenda which were:

- Lauren Belt, Faculty for Psychology (1/10/2022)
- Shaneka Brandon, Director of Career Pathways (4/1/2022)
- Jennifer Coan, Fiscal Support Specialist (3/21/2022)
- Shannon Haney, Director of Development (1/3/2022)
- Bruce Hankins, Chief Financial Officer (4/18/2022)
- Justin Holman, Faculty for Welding (1/3/2022)
- Steven Huff, CDL Faculty (3/4/2022)
- Holly Smith, Vice Chancellor of Academics (4/18/2022)
- Amber White, Administrative Analyst for Admissions (1/3/2022)

Old/Continuing Business:

Board of Visitors Vacancies – Nominating Committee –

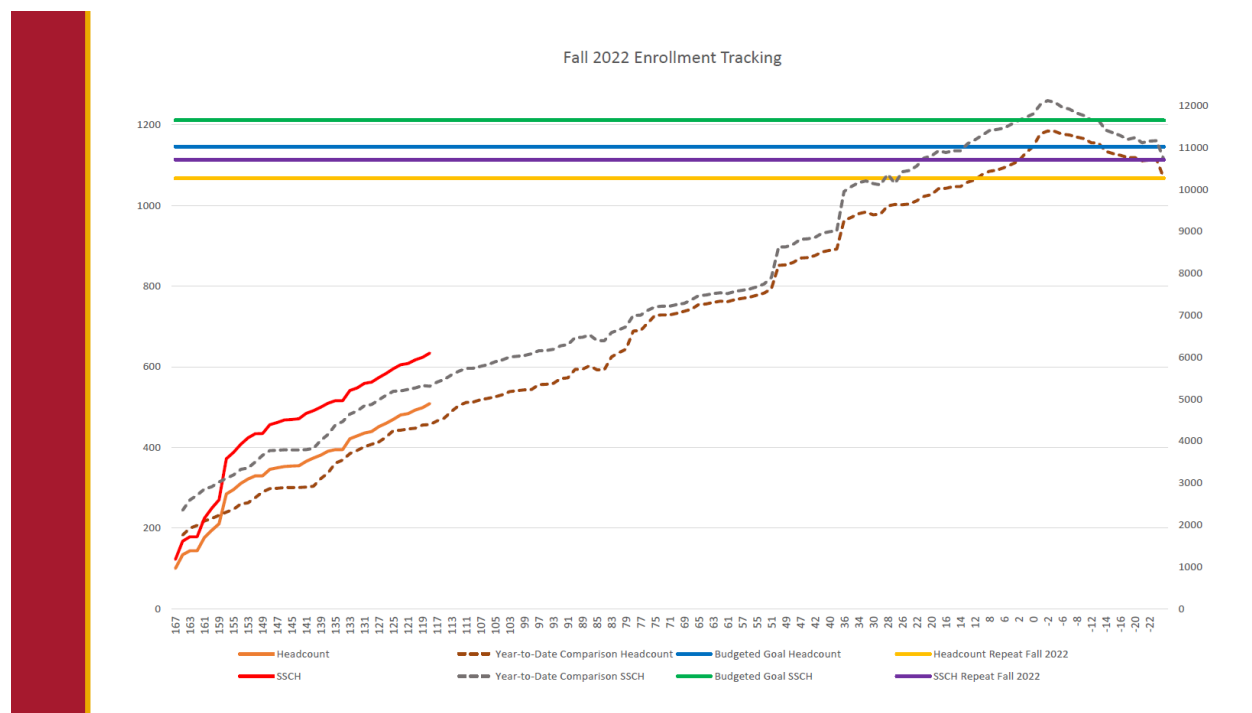
Chancellor Shonk introduced Tammy Pearce, whose nomination to the UACCB Board of Visitors was presented and voted on via email. Her election will be confirmed at the May 25 – 26, 2022 University of Arkansas Board of Trustees meeting.

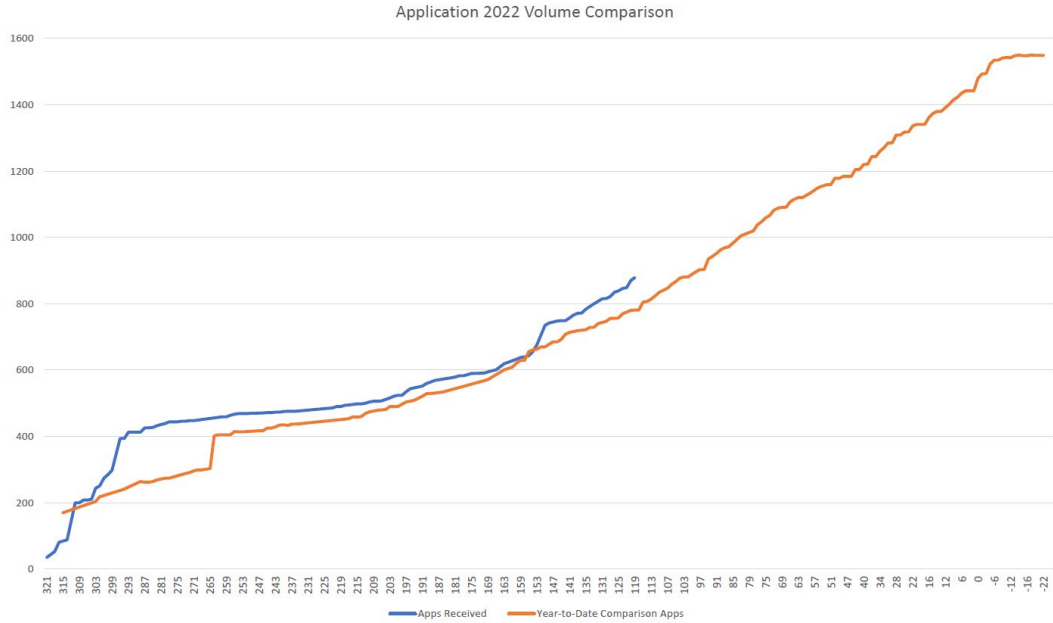
The other board members who agreed to serve another term are Brad Cummings, Jenifer Floyd, Dr. Jody Smotherman, and Dr. Mike Hester.

Ms. Freiert moved to approve re-appointment of the above-named individuals to the UACCB Board of Visitors. Mr. Arnold seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Chancellor Shonk introduced Dr. Zach Perrine, who provided an update on enrollment. Dr. Perrine received his doctoral designation last week.

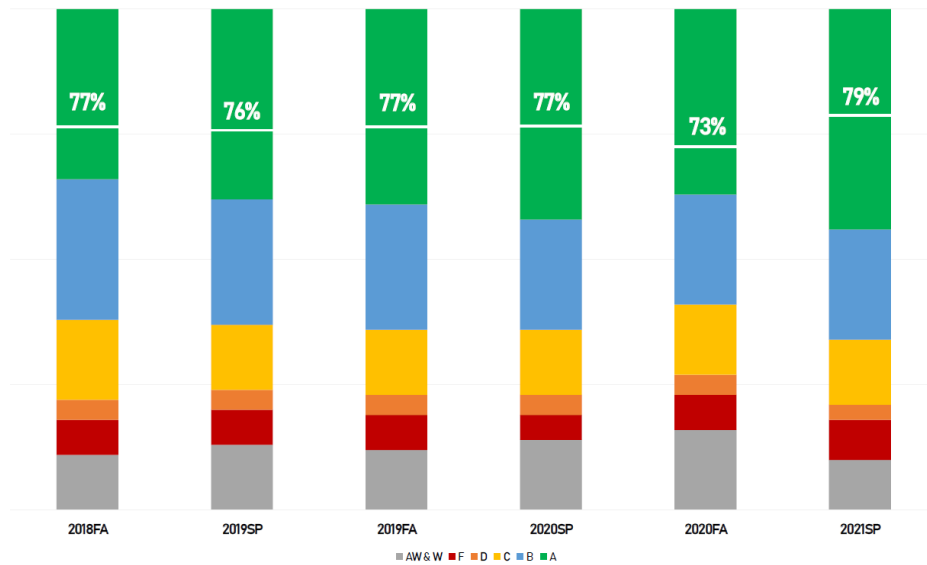
Dr. Perrine provided information on grade distribution, success rates, and retention information. He noted that headcount, Student Semester Credit Hours, and applications are trending higher this year compared to last year. Year to date applications as of today is 884, which is 103 more than same date last year. The UACCB retention rate is 60% (for any student, not just first time), which is good for a 2-year community college. The graduation rate is 54%. He also showed comparisons of rates across different types of schools. He said student activities held a carnival on campus today and it has been very good to see students enjoying themselves.





Grade Distribution and **Success Rate** by Term

Success rate is the total number of students earning A, B, or C grades + total number of students on the final grade rosters, which includes students with grades of A, B, C, D, F, AW, and W



	Retention	Graduation
2014	48.08%	26.77%
2015	49.11%	25.20%
2016	56.00%	28.00%
2017	62.00%	33.00%
2018	53.90%	41.10%
2019	60.00%	41.00%
2020	60.00%	54.00%

UACCB

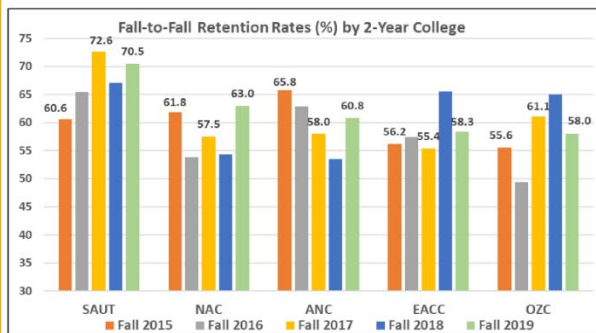


Chart 3.8: Student Retention Rates by Institution – 2-Year Colleges

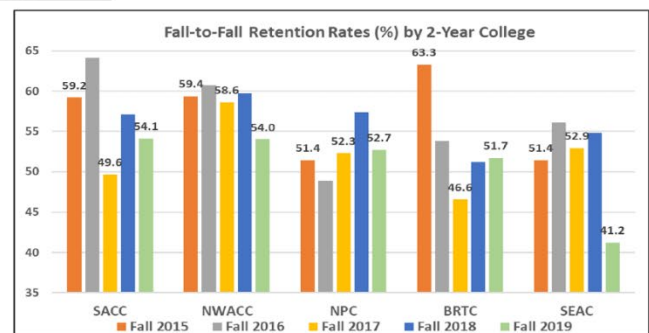


Chart 3.9: Student Retention Rates by Institution – 2-Year Colleges

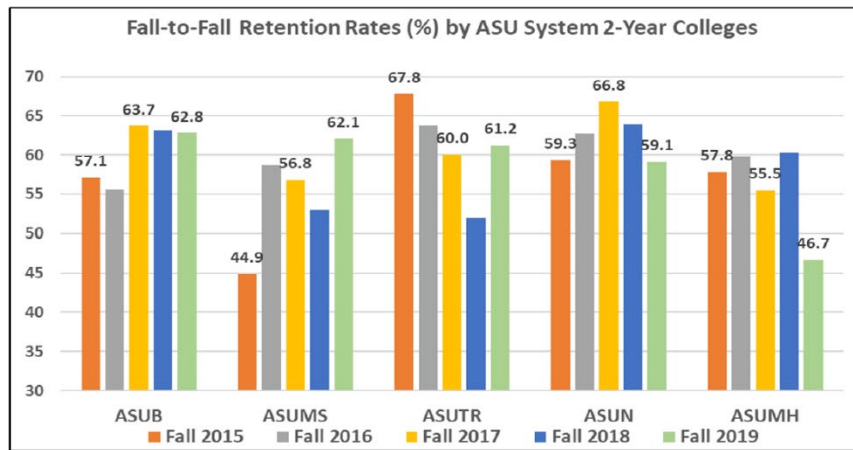


Chart 3.10: Student Retention Rates by Institution – ASU System 2-Year Colleges

UACCB

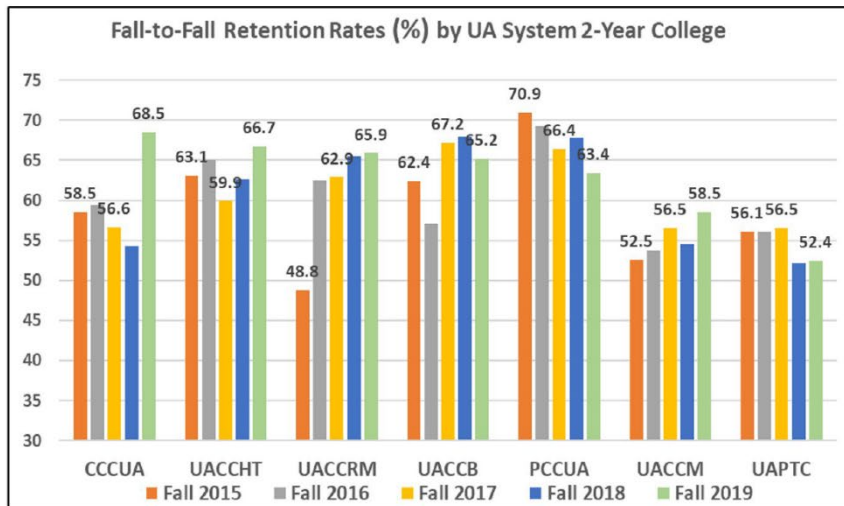


Chart 3.11: Student Retention Rates by Institution – UA System 2-Year Colleges

UACCB



Chancellor Shonk asked the members for input and support regarding the budget. He said the budget is due to the state office by May 2, 2022, but the college was just provided the projections for appropriations from the state today.

He said current tuition is \$74 per credit hour for in-district tuition and most of the students fall in this category. Including all the mandatory fees, some of which are per credit hour, the total cost for an in-district student to take a course is \$118.50 per credit hour. UACCB is the 5th lowest in tuition and fees in the state. Combined with retention and graduation rates along with low costs, UACCB is great value for students. However, the college needs to keep buildings, grounds, and technology up to date. In addition, the college needs to be competitive in compensation. UACCB is 2nd lowest in the state for 9-month faculty salaries.

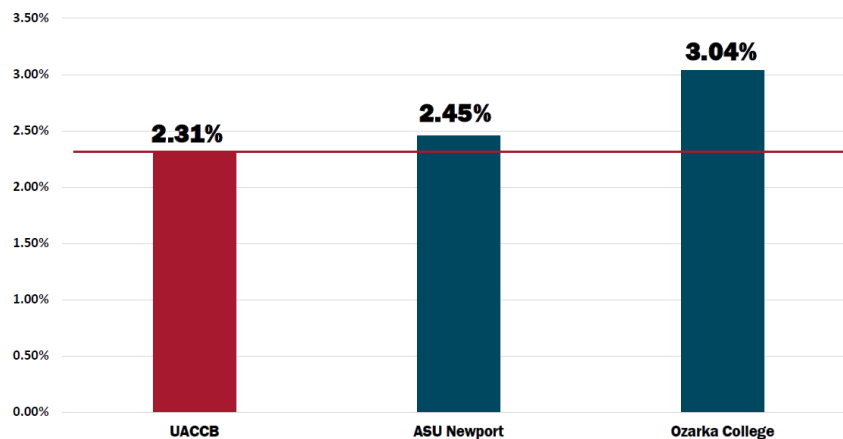
The college needs to generate additional revenue to support the school and there are few ways to increase revenue. One source of revenue that has increased in the last few years is sales tax revenue. The college predicts \$1.7 million in revenue from sales tax for the FY 2023. A second source of funding is through grants and the college receives \$4 million from grants annually. The final way to generate revenue is through tuition and fees.

The college needs to raise salaries and needs to upgrade technology. The college has received COVID relief money and will have about \$1 million in upgrades to information technology infrastructure over the next six months. Chancellor Shonk noted this is one-time money.

Chancellor Shonk reported that the college would like to increase the in-district tuition from \$74 to \$79 per credit hour and increase the technology fee from \$5 to \$10 per credit hour. That fee money is ear-marked for technology needs. The increase in tuition will primarily be used to increase salaries. The college plans to increase salaries by 2% for a cost-of-living adjustment, which is the limit allowed by the state. He noted the college has not provided a cost-of-living increase for the last three years. He also asked the board to consider approving a merit increase ranging from 2 to 6%, depending on the budget and what it can support. If the college can institute a COLA, it will go into effect on July 1, 2022. A merit increase would take effect once fall enrollment numbers are confirmed, which is usually mid-September. Dr. Smotherman asked if the merit would be retroactive to July 1, 2022. Chancellor Shonk said probably not as it really is dependent on enrollment numbers.

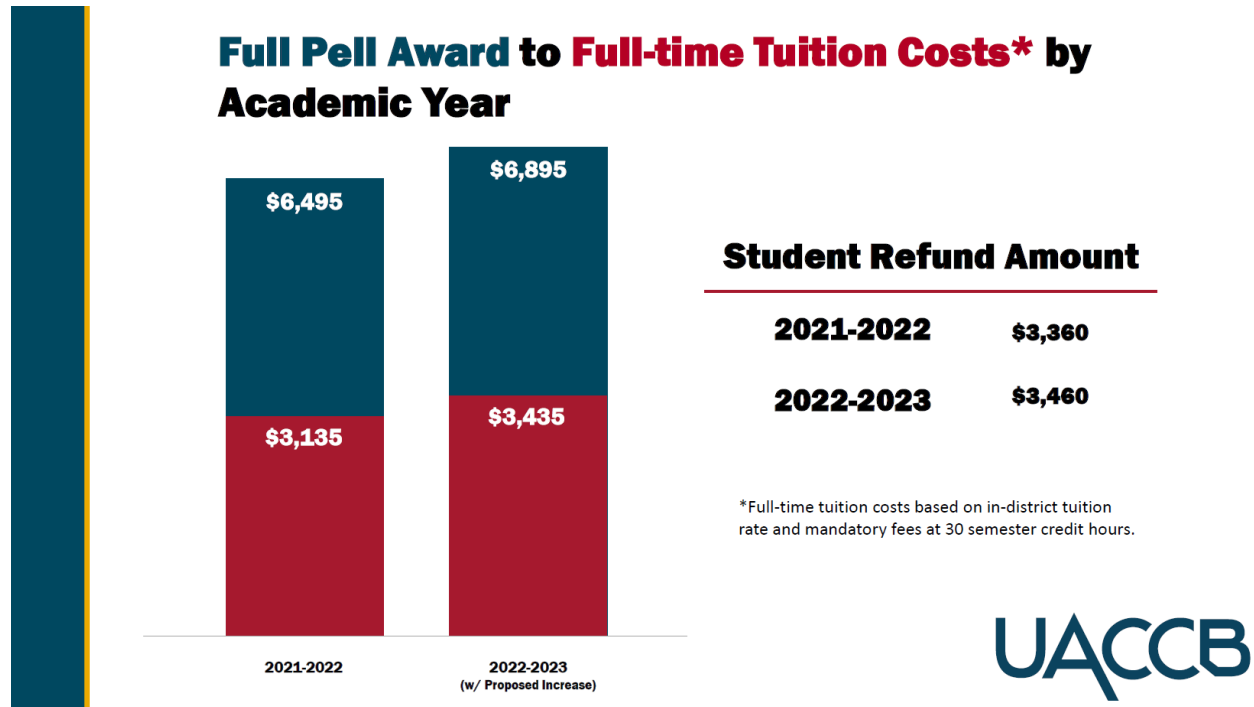
Mr. Arnold asked how the proposed increase in tuition would rank the college compared to others. Chancellor Shonk said the Governor asked for universities and colleges to hold any increases in tuition or fees for the last two years; as well as salary increases including COLA. Chancellor Shonk said a few schools have indicated how much of an increase they will seek, but of the few who have, the increase seems to be 3%. He showed a slide with the average tuition increase from 2012 to 2022 for UACCB, ASU Newport and Ozarka College. UACCB as compared to the other schools has had a lower increase in tuition over the last 10 years.

Average Tuition Increase by school from 2012 to 2022



UACCB

Chancellor Shonk reviewed a slide outlining the current costs and Pell Awards for the average student. Students on average receive a refund of \$3,360 after tuition and fees are paid. With the increase in Pell Awards that the federal government enacted and a tuition and fee increase from UACCB, the average student will still receive \$100 more in their refund.



Mr. Cummings asked how many students receive full Pell. Dr. Austin said about 64% are full Pell. Chancellor Shonk said about 70% of students are eligible for financial aid – institutional scholarships, foundation scholarships, or state awards. Chancellor Shonk talked about the efforts to reduce the cost of books to students. He also said that while inflation is around 8%, the Higher Education Price Index is about 3.5% - 4%. Based on that number alone the college should be providing 4% in salary increases. We are far below that number now.

Dr. Hester said he loves the open education resources and hopes the college can use the savings from there to do other things.

Chancellor Shonk said one of the results from responding to the COVID pandemic is that faculty and staff better understand the correlation of enrollment to employees. Due to lower enrollment, some vacant positions are not being filled and staff are taking on additional duties. Additionally, faculty who were used to supplementing their income through overload courses, cannot do so as there are no classes for them to take on. Chancellor Shonk said he hopes faculty will be even more willing to use open education resources in the future.

Chancellor Shonk requested a motion to support the increase of in-district tuition by \$5 per credit hour from \$74 to \$79/credit hour; the adjustment of other tuition rates proportionally for online, out-of-district and out-of-state residents; and the increase of \$5 in the technology fee from \$10 to \$15 per credit hour. *Mr. Cummings moved to accept the motion as presented. Dr. Smotherman seconded the motion and the motion passed.*

The second request is to support the implementation of a 2% COLA for employees and to support a range of 2% to 6% merit increase which is dependent on available funds and determined after fall enrollment numbers are confirmed. Dr. Smotherman asked to amend the motion to also express the Board of Visitors' gratitude to the faculty and staff for all the work they have done over the last two years and see this as a demonstration by the Board of Visitors as support for the faculty and staff.

Dr. Smotherman moved to accept this motion. Ms. Friert seconded. There was discussion regarding how determination for merit increases will be implemented and the date each of these increases would go into effect. Dr. Shonk said COLA would go into effect on July 1, 2022 and merit would be determined through a shared governance process and approved by Cabinet. The employee evaluations would be used to assist and are currently in process. They also discussed the faculty evaluation process. With no further discussion, the motion passed.

Chancellor Shonk welcomed and introduced Heath Wooldridge, executive director of facilities and auxiliary services, to the board. Mr. Wooldridge has been with the college since 1999 and serves on Cabinet. Chancellor Shonk said his knowledge and experience is very valuable to Cabinet.

Dr. Austin said the accreditation review for the college is this fall in November. She said the college has been in process of writing the assurance argument since January and will continue through the summer. She thanked everyone who has contributed. When faculty return in the fall, she anticipates having some training sessions on the argument and what the evaluators are looking for. Dr. Austin said evaluators will get access to the document 30 days prior to the visit. She said the Board of Visitors is important because mission and governance is critical for accreditation. She said the evaluators may ask to meet with them in November when they are here. She hopes to have a draft document in the summer and will share with them then.

Chancellor Shonk reminded the board the dates and times for Commencement (May 9) and the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees meeting (May 25 -26).

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jodie Hightower, assistant to the chancellor.