

University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville
Board of Visitors Meeting
January 16, 2025
Room 104 – Independence Hall
4:30 p.m.

Members present were Ms. Jennifer Floyd, Ms. Michelle Reesor, Mr. Calvin Wright, Mr. Clark Baker, and Ms. Jennifer Sandage. Others in attendance were Mr. Bruce Hankins, Dr. Zach Perrine, Dr. Brian Shonk, and Mr. Heath Wooldridge.

1. Reception with students, alumni, and administration

a. Introductions – New Employees

- i. Ms. Debby Bailey – Campus Safety Officer
- ii. Ms. Candace Baker – College Navigator
- iii. Ms. Stacey Gross – Director of Human Resources
- iv. Ms. Twila Taylor – Nursing Simulation Faculty
- v. Dr. Zachary Whaley – Math Faculty

b. Internal Transfers/Promotions

- i. Ms. Luanne Barber – Accounts Payable/College Store
- ii. Ms. Emily Neely – English Instructor
- iii. Ms. Elizabeth Taylor – Director of Adult Education

2. Establish a Quorum – Quorum was not established.

3. Call to Order – Dr. Brian Shonk called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

4. *Approval of Minutes – October 17, 2024 – A quorum was not established. The approval of the minutes was tabled for the April 2025 meeting.

5. Old/Continuing Business

- a. Officer Election** – Dr. Shonk introduced newly elected board members Mr. Clark Baker, Ms. Jennifer Sandage, and Mr. Jonas Anderson. Dr. Shonk announced the officers for the current year as voted at the previous meeting are Mr. Brad Cummings as Chair, Dr. Jody Smotherman as Vice Chair, and Mr. Mike Arnold as Secretary.

6. New Business

- a. Enrollment Update – Dr. Zach Perrine** – Dr. Perrine provided an overview of the enrollment for the fall 2024 term with 1,124 student headcount and student semester credit hours (SSCH) as 11,897 as officially reported to the Arkansas Division of Higher Education (ADHE). Dr. Perrine noted that we were close to our enrollment goals for fall, but we did not quite reach our goals for fall enrollment. Dr. Perrine noted that before COVID headcount at the college was around 1,400 students. Dr. Perrine provided an overview of average SSCH of students over the fall semesters for 2022, 2023, and 2024. He noted that the higher the average SSCH the more full-time students you are serving. The chart further broke the enrollment out by status (in-district, out-of-district, and out-of-state). From the numbers, Dr. Perrine showed that our concurrent high school registration is increasing greatly, however students on average are taking less credit hours. Dr. Perrine noted that the shift is not good or bad, but it does indicate a change in the operations of the college as far as enrollment goes. Dr. Perrine provided an enrollment overview for Spring 2024 and noted that we are reaching our goal in headcount (+2.56%) for the spring term, but we are not quite meeting our SSCH goal (-2%) for the spring term. In forecasting for the fall 2025 term Dr. Perrine noted that we are currently seeing more applications at this point in time from where we were last year at this point in time for fall registration. Dr. Perrine noted that the messaging that is going out to faculty and staff are that every student matters and we still have capacity for more students. He has asked employees to always be an ambassador for the college and a key metric is retention to help students remain on track and graduate.

- b. **Academic Affairs – Dr. Zach Perrine** – Dr. Zach Perrine noted that his goal has been for him to keep ongoing project that Dr. Holly Smith had started going within academics. One of the projects that were in progress was assessment work of the college. Assessment assist faculty in evaluating their instruction to continue to better for student success. Dr. Perrine noted that much of this work has been happening, but we have not been great at documentation, which is where the process is now. In order to continue this working moving forward, institutional learning outcomes need to be updated, which is the basis for assessment on campus. Dr. Perrine noted that the project work has begun this spring with faculty attending a faculty led workshop, which was well received and faculty are very motivated and doing an excellent job with the project. Dr. Perrine further noted that the need for this work is also for requirements from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The work should be able to be completed by the end of the spring semester. Dr. Shonk further commented that the work from Dr. Holly Smith and the continued work from Dr. Zach Perrine has inspired faculty to rally around this work and excited to complete it.
- c. **Financials – Mr. Bruce Hankins** – Mr. Hankins provided the year end financial summary from the 2024 fiscal year, which ran from July 2023 through June 2024. Finances were reported as:
 - i. Total Assets - \$23,393,240
 - ii. Total Liabilities - \$4,184,130
 - iii. Total Net Position - \$19,388,672
 - iv. Increase in Net Position - \$206,910
 - v. Net Increase in Cash - \$1,740,415
- d. **Welcome Center Update – Mr. Heath Wooldridge** – Mr. Wooldridge noted that in May 2024 a contract was awarded to a construction company to develop our Welcome Center at the front of the Main Campus Building to function as a “one-stop-shop” for students. Mr. Wooldridge noted that the project is running behind schedule, but this is due to change orders that we have placed to improve the space and make it better for use. Mr. Wooldridge noted that the original project was bid at \$1M, but is running around \$100,000 over due to the change orders. Mr. Wooldridge noted that the project is going well, and major items outstanding are waiting for final supplies like lighting, doors, and the skylight to arrive. Mr. Wooldridge noted that he is hoping we will be able to be able to move into space.
- e. **Gateway Center Update – Dr. Brian Shonk** – Dr. Shonk noted that the work at the Gateway Center is still in progress. He noted that we have been working to lease out 75,000 sq. ft. of space. However, based on requirements of the lease it increased the scope of the repairs of the project and we were not able to meet the cost requirement of the project. Dr. Shonk further noted that we have been apply for grants to assist with helping with the space. To date, we have been awarded a \$500,000 Delta Regional Authority grant to construct a CDL driving pad, and a \$5M grant for our FARM project by a State Workforce Grant. Dr. Shonk noted that we initially requested \$7M for the grant, but it was reduced to \$5M in order for the state to fund additional projects. Dr. Shonk noted that construction on this project is anticipated to begin in June 2025. The project will add classroom and office spaces in the front of the building to support our FARM project, which will focus on Farm and Ranch Management. There is anticipation

that this program will expand campus enrollment overtime once it is started. Dr. Shonk noted that we still need between \$15-20M to fully complete the project and finish the building. Ms. Michelle Reesor asked if the college has changed direction to not lease a section of the building. Dr. Shonk noted this is correct that we would not be looking to lease the back 75,000 sq. ft. of the building. He noted that the work for the FARM project will focus on renovations of the front 30,000 sq. ft. of the building. Dr. Shonk noted that the back space will be available to use for storage of equipment and use the space for indoor growing.

- f. **Strategic Plan/Rural Guided Pathways/Campus Scorecard – Dr. Brian Shonk –** Dr. Shonk noted that on campus we are looking at a data shift on campus and beginning to look at data consistently. Dr. Shonk noted that we have always had a full-time Institutional Research position that focuses on campus reporting to outside agencies. He noted that around a year ago a half time FTE Institutional Effectiveness position was added and Mr. Tiffany Guinnip fills the roles and has been working to evaluate and produce accessible data to campus. Dr. Shonk reviewed the “Campus Scorecard” which is a compilation of key data points for campus including enrollment by student semester credit hours and headcount, retention, graduation, and gateway math and English success. The data reviewed was representative of the campus as a whole, and is not centered to a particular student cohort. For the 2024 academic year, the following data was reported:

- Retention
 - i. Fall to Fall: 38%
 - ii. Fall to Spring: 66%
- Graduation Rate
 - i. 35%
- Gateway Course Success:
 - i. Math: 70%
 - ii. English: 75%

Dr. Shonk reviewed further data showing that if students successfully complete their gateway math and English courses within the first year of enrollment, they have a 78% success rate in completing a credential, compared to only 30% credential completion success for students who do not successfully complete their gateway math and English courses within the first year or enrollment. Data for the 2021, 2022, and 2023 academic years were presented. Data from 2021 was reviewed, as these students have been provided the standard 150% completion timeline.

Students who successfully complete persistence (full-time students successfully completing 30 credit hours within their first year of enrollment and part-time students successfully completing 15 credit hours within their first year of enrollment) had an 85% success rate of credential completion, where students who did not meet persistence thresholds had a 22% credential completion success rate. Data for the 2021, 2022, and 2023 academic years were presented. Data from 2021 was reviewed, as these students have been provided the standard 150% completion timeline.

7. Executive Session (if necessary)

- 8. Adjourn** – With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tiffany Guinnip, executive assistant to the chancellor.