

**University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville**  
**Board of Visitors Meeting**  
**April 17, 2025**  
**Room 104 – Independence Hall**  
**4:30 p.m.**

Member present were Mr. Clark Baker, Ms. Jennifer Floyd, Ms. Jennifer Sandage, Ms. Rachel Sowers, and Mr. Calvin Wright. Others present were Ms. Meagan Akins, Ms. Crystal Blue, Ms. Stacey Gross, Ms. Tiffany Guinnip, Mr. Bruce Hankins, Dr. Brian Shonk, Dr. Becky Warren, and Ms. Jeanette Youngblood.

**1. Reception**

**a. Introductions – New Employees**

- i. Mr. Dakota Brown – Maintenance Assistant/Grounds
- ii. Ms. Joanna Fulbright – Adult Education ESL Faculty
- iii. Ms. Mallory Hooper – Adult Education Faculty
- iv. Ms. Shereka Ray – Nursing Faculty

**b. Internal Transfers/Promotions**

- i. Ms. Jennifer Coan – Sponsored Programs Officer
- ii. Ms. Tiffany Guinnip - Dean of Institutional Effectiveness and Academic Operations
- iii. Ms. Amber Halvorson – Data Application Administrator
- iv. Ms. Shannon Haney – Director of the Gateway Center
- v. Ms. Lisa Lewis – TRIO Academic Success Coach
- vi. Dr. Zach Perrine - Provost

**2. Establish a Quorum and Call to Order** – Quorum was not established.

**3. PTK Students** – Ms. Meagan Dodge and Mr. Keeden Hammon – Dr. Shonk explained that the PTK members are completing a project to assist the administration of the College. Ms. Dodge and Mr. Hammon shared their student stories with the board.

- a. Ms. Meagan Dodge – Ms. Dodge noted that she felt that UACCB was a good fit for her and her life. She noted she is a single mom and began at a non-traditional age. She noted that from the beginning it felt that everyone at UACCB was rooting for her success. Her support team at UACCB has been great in helping her find resources and helping her keep moving forward. She is currently in the RN program and expects to graduate in December 2025. She noted specifically the help that she has received through TRIO and the Student Success Center. Her plan is to go straight to work for now, but potentially she would like to explore continuing and looking at CNRA in the future.

- b. Mr. Keeden Hammon – Mr. Hammon began letting the group know he is a non-traditional student from Washington State. He went into the military after high school, and found that he had an interest in electronic engineering. He noted that he had been in Arkansas to visit family, and began researching UACCB while visiting. He has really enjoyed the campus and been impressed with the campus. He noted that helping students beginning in engineering isn't as robust at other universities that he has found.

**4. \*Approval of Minutes** – *October 17, 2024 and January 16, 2025 – A quorum was not established, and approval of the minutes was tabled for the June 2025 meeting.*

**5. New Business**

- a. **Enrollment Update** – Ms. Meagan Akins – Ms. Akins noted that headcount for this spring versus the previous year was an increase of 9.33% and a decrease of .87% for credit hours. For fall enrollment, the projection is cast as flat. Ms. Meagan noted that we would like to be able to forecast up, but with the enrollment pace we feel confident in predicting a flat rate for the upcoming fall. She noted that we are a little ahead of schedule from where we were last year in the enrollment cycle. She noted the good work

being completed by the staff in the Welcome Center who are working to reach out to students to help increase enrollment as we move forward.

- b. **Academic Affairs** – Ms. Jeanette Youngblood & Dr. Becky Warren – Dr. Warren provided an update about our Center for Teaching and Learning. The Annual performance report for year 4 was submitted this week and we met or exceeded or grant expectations. Dr. Warren noted that through this grant, faculty are provided the opportunity to participate in Quality Matters, which is a pedagogical learning course. This has allowed faculty to then receive a stipend for redesigning courses to meet Quality Matters standards. This also led to a review of all course learning outcomes on campus, and by the end of the spring term each course will have learning outcomes that will have assessable outcomes. Mr. Wright asked if the Quality Matters training was required. Dr. Warren answered that yes, it was required as faculty. The grant has funded this, and going forward, this will be maintained by the institution for new incoming faculty. She further noted that course redesigns were not required. Ms. Sowers asked how you would know if an outcomes was measurable or not. Dr. Warren noted that the outcomes were re-written to use Bloom's Taxonomy. Ms. Youngblood noted that several years ago in education that the outcomes became worded to change them to outline what students will learn, rather than teacher focused. She noted the core of the process has allowed us to look at courses and determine what skills and knowledge a student should have after they have completed the course. Ms. Youngblood noted the increased cost to students for materials in course over the last several years. She noted that financial aid will pay for books, but they might not have enough aid to cover these costs, and we have students who are not eligible for financial aid. Ms. Youngblood introduced open educational resources (OER), which are free educational resources available. Ms. Youngblood noted that being able to shift to this kind of content is a great benefit to the students because there is no cost for the materials and no barrier to access via cost at the beginning of the course. Ms. Youngblood noted that we have made a shift to move to OER content with course redesigns through the Center for Teaching and Learning. She further noted that we began using BibliU in the past year, which has further increased our use of OER content. She noted that we decided to part with the BibliU service, which will reduce cost to students, and has increased campus desire to move as many courses as possible to OER content. She noted that not all courses based on subject area will be able to move to this content, but we are making strides to reduce costs for students while still providing quality learning content.
- c. **Financials** – Mr. Bruce Hankins – Mr. Hankins noted that each quarter a budget to actuals is reported to the University of Arkansas System Board of Trustees. He noted that higher education accounting is in fund accounting, that is similar to the structure hospitals use, but is very different from the corporate environment. Mr. Hankins provided a copy of the report to the Board and reviewed. Mr. Hankins noted on the operating expenses at the end of the third quarter, we are approximately at 75% of budget for salaries and at 77% for supplies and general expenditures. He noted that for our revenues, we are at approximately 75% of projected income, and we are seeing a loss in expected income from sales tax. He noted that with changes in the operation of our auxiliary services we see a higher deficit than what we had anticipated.
  - i. \*Approval of FY26 Tuition and Fees – He noted that we have looked at out tuition and fees and we would like to propose an increase in tuition and fees for in-district 3.4% (\$90/credit hour), in-state 2.9% (\$106/per credit hour), and out-

of-state 3.8% (\$135). He noted that we would increase mandatory fees from by 2.6%. Dr. Shonk noted that of the 22 community colleges, we are in the bottom third for the lowest tuition and fees costs. He noted that the increase is still well below the cost that would be covered by the Pell Grant, but also understands that this is money that would not be going back to the students. Ms. Hankins noted that in the budgeting process they have anticipated a slight decrease to budget conservatively. Ms. Sowers asked if there is a reason to only increase tuition and fees by 3.4%. Dr. Shonk responded that we are provided guidance by the University of Arkansas System Board of Trustees on how much we are allowed to increase; this year they approved a 3.4% increase without making a special request to the Board.

- ii. \*Approval of Cost-of-Living Adjustment – Mr. Hankins noted that this year we have looked at the salary pools and eliminated any positions that we know will not be filled, that take space in the budget. He noted that this is a \$450,000 decrease in expected salary expenses from last year for the upcoming budget. Mr. Hankins noted that the recommendation is to increase salaries by 2% for COLA.

Dr. Shonk asked if there are any objections or concerns from the Board of Visitors on the proposed tuition and fee increases and the 2% COLA for employees. The Board had no further comments or objections.

- d. **Gateway Center/FARM Update** – Dr. Brian Shonk – Dr. Shonk provided an update to a new program on campus, where we are hoping to open in Fall 2026 with an addition of 26 new students. He notes that this will not be an expensive project to operate and through \$5M of state grant funds, we have been able to move forward with the design of the new space. Dr. Shonk presented renderings for the Gateway Center on East Main Street. He noted that the construction will update the east corner of the building. It would provide office spaces, classrooms, a control room, and a conference room space. Mr. Baker asked if there were continued plans for a market that has been discussed with this project in the past. Dr. Shonk responded that the market is something we want to do, but with the cost of construction, it isn't feasible now. He noted that this does not mean that there would not be a market at the space, but at this time no formal addition of a market yet. Ms. Sandage asked what would happen to the food that is grown at the site. Dr. Shonk responded that hopefully we will be able to provide the produce to students and use it at our grill on campus.

**6. Executive Session (if necessary)**

**7. Adjourn**

**Agenda items with an asterisk (\*) require Board approval.**

**Board of Visitors Meeting Schedule – FY 2024-2025**  
June 19, 2025

**Commencement**  
Spring 2025 – May 12, 2025

Board of Visitors Attendance Requested

**UACCB Purpose**  
Improve lives.

**UACCB Mission**  
Improve lives by empowering the people of North Central Arkansas through education and skills development.

**UACCB Vision**  
Empowering people to thrive through student success, organizational excellence, community engagement, and economic prosperity.

**UACCB Values**  
Caring – We engage with respect and compassion to foster a sense of belonging.  
Integrity – We commit to accountability, transparency, and trust.  
Learning – We promote lifelong learning, curiosity, and discovery.  
Transformation – We drive advancement through resilience and innovation.