

January 16, 2003

I am calling a Special Session of the UAM Assembly to hear appeals from two students who are requesting readmission to UAM. They were suspended from the University at the end of the Fall semester 2002. The Academic Appeals Committee heard their appeals and upheld their suspension on January 14, 2003. They wish to present their case to the Assembly for a final vote. The meeting and the vote will be done by email. I am waiving the 5-day agenda distribution requirement -the agenda will consist only of these appeals. Additionally, I am waiving the quorum requirement: A quorum will consist of all votes received. Due to the late nature of these appeals (which must be heard by the 5th class day) I will only allow votes until tomorrow, Friday, January 17, 2003 at 4:00 pm. Written ballots will be accepted if they are in my hand by the deadline (my office is Music 201). The UAM Assembly officers will tally the vote at 4:00 P. M. The decision will be based on a majority vote. For specifics about UAM's academic suspension policy see the UAM Catalog, page 53. For objectivity, the students will only be given a number. The students involved in this appeal have heard and verbally agreed to dealing with the issue in the above manner.

All meetings of the Assembly are open to the whole University community but only Assembly members have voting privileges. How do you know if you are a member of the Assembly and can vote on this issue? The Assembly is composed of the Chancellor, Vice Chancellors, Academic Unit Heads (School Deans, Division Chairs, and Director of the Library), Registrar, Dean of Students, Director of University Relations, Director of Campus Operations and Physical Plant, Director of Athletics, Director of the Division of General Studies, Director of Information Technology, all faculty employed halftime or more at the rank of Instructor or above and 24 elected or appointed students.

Paul Becker, Assembly Chair

## **Student #1**

### **The Record:**

Fall 2001 Semester GPA 0.0; Cum. GPA 0.0 Conditional Academic Standing

Spring 2002 Semester GPA .5; Cum .33 One-semester suspension

Summer I 2002 Semester GPA 2.00; Cum. 1.00

Summer II-W Cum. 1.00 Conditional Academic Standing

Fall 2002 Semester GPA.67; Cum. 1.00 One-year suspension

**The Plea** (submitted to me January 16, 2003 at 1:40 PM):

Dear Members of the UAM Assembly:

I am a freshman at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. During my matriculation at UAM,

my grades have not met academic standards. During the Spring of 2002 school term, my grades were not satisfactory, and I was therefore placed on Academic Suspension. During the Summer term of 2002 I returned and made the necessary grades to return and enroll during the 2002 Fall term. During this time I started a new job and began to experience a lot of turmoil and stress due to issues back at home concerning my family, which I have already stated in a previous letter to the Academic Appeals Committee.

The purpose of this letter is not to make excuses for my actions, but to let you know that I realize them and would like to correct them. I was told by the committee that "they did not want to set me up for failure." But in my situation I feel as though it has already occurred. A year out of school is not something I want to experience. I feel if I am allowed to take six (6) hours and meet with my academic advisor on a scheduled basis, I will take full advantage of UAM's resources. I am very capable of making the grades and making the necessary changes in my life to succeed. I will not just meet but excel the academic standards.

This is not a request to return back to school but a plea. I realize an education is priceless and something we all need. Please do not deny me this right, although there is no one to blame but myself, I fully take an account of my own actions. I know if I am given a chance, I can achieve my newly set goals.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

### **The Vote: Yes or No for readmission**

### **Student #2**

#### **The Record:**

Summer 2001 GPA .50; Cum .50

Summer II 2001 GPA 1.00; Cum. 67

Fall 2001 GPA 1.80; Cu. 1.50 Conditional Academic Standing

Spring 2002 GPA 2.00; Cum. 1.82 Conditional Academic Standing

Fall 2002 GPA 1.33; Cum. 1.70 One-semester suspension

#### **The Plea** (submitted to me January 16, 2003 at 1:40 PM):

Dear Members of the UAM Assembly:

I am a sophomore at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. In the Spring of 2002, I was placed on academic probation. During this semester, I achieved the necessary grade point average. During the Fall of 2002, I had a car accident. The recovery process produced a lot of stress. I also had to receive physical therapy. Due to the nature of these events, I did not meet the academic standards of the university.

I am writing this letter to ask you to reconsider the decision by the Academic Appeals Committee. This is the first time I have asked for an appeal. I would value a positive response to this appeal. If I am given the chance to enroll in six hours this semester, I will prove not only to the Academic Appeals Committee that I can do it, but to my friends, family, and myself as well. I assure you that I will work hard to achieve and maintain the necessary grade point average. Because I now fully understand the academic appeals process and the value of being in college, I will do everything that is required of me this semester. I need the six hours this semester to remain at UAM and improve my academic standing.

I have talked with my academic advisor who supports my appeal. My advisor and I will set up a schedule so that we can meet frequently during the semester. I will also use the tutorial services provided by the university.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration.

**The Vote: Yes or No for readmission**

**UAM ASSEMBLY OFFICERS MEETING  
January 17, 2003  
4:00 P. M. Dr. Becker's office**

Officers present: Paul Becker, Stephen Trana, Raymon Huston, Carole Efird

The assembly officers met on Friday, January 17 to count the votes that were cast electronically in response to two appeals that were made by students.

A quorum was determined to be 62 members (40% of the assembly membership) and 78 votes were cast.

The assembly supported the decision of the Academic Appeals committee in both cases. The following votes were cast:

**Student #1**

readmit-14

do not readmit-64

**Student #2**

readmit-25

do not readmit-53

The meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Efirm

\*\* Note: Student #2 (Faustino Cason) came to Dr. Becker's office around 4:10 p.m. to hear the decision. Dr. Becker informed him that the votes had not yet been counted. Dr. Becker put a note on his door when the meeting adjourned directing Faustino to Dr. Travis' office.

**Final Announcement sent to student and netlist:**

The Assembly met electronically to hear appeals by two students requesting readmittance to UAM this semester. A quorum was met. The majority of those voting have ruled to uphold the decision of the Academic Appeals Committee thereby sustaining the suspension of both students. Thanks to all who voted.

Paul Becker, Assembly Chair