

UAM ASSEMBLY MEETING
October 29, 2003
3:15 P. M. University Center Green Room

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:17 by Dr. Webster. There was a motion and a second to abandon the agenda so that Mr. Bennie Ryburn III could speak first. The motion carried.

Bennie Ryburn, III – Member, UAM Board of Visitor - Report on the Chancellor Search

Mr. Ryburn reported that there are currently five (5) members on the Board of Visitors and six (6) members yet to be appointed by the governor. The Board will be comprised of 11 members: seven members from Drew County and the surrounding counties and two members from the new Colleges of Technology in McGehee and Crossett. The appointments are three year commitments. The five goals of the Board of Visitors:

To form a liaison between UAM, Dr. Alan Sugg, and the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas.

To aid and secure financial support for UAM.

To advise upon and interpret the educational and service needs of the surrounding area.

To aid in the continuing development of UAM as a major four year institution.

To furnish guidance and counseling through advice and recommendations to UAM.

Mr. Ryburn listed the current five members of the Board: Herbert Hutchinson (Crossett), Marilyn Johnson (Warren), Frank Wilson (Rison), Bennie Ryburn, III (Monticello), and Rhonda Mullikin (Star City). Mr. Ryburn advised that the chancellor search is active and the five members will soon meet with Dr. Sugg. Mr. Ryburn assured that the Board wants to promote UAM and advised the members of the Assembly to feel free to contact any of the members of the Board.

Committee Reports

Academic Appeals

Academic appeals has met once. The committee had six appeals and denied all six.

Athletic

No report

Curriculum & Standards

Curriculum and Standard has met twice since the last Assembly meeting. Four proposals were approved by C & S, three of which were from Academic Affairs. These proposals were circulated via e-mail. Dr. Clayton outlined the changes to the "summer letter." Dr. Becker asked if the Assembly was amending something that had previously been approved. Dr. Clubb detailed the procedures. Dr. Travis asked about the number of students that this policy would affect and if that would in turn impact the faculty that teach summer courses. Dr. Clayton supplied those numbers. Dr. Clayton moved to approve the first three proposals and Dr. Clubb seconded that motion. Dr. Bryant asked how the filing of the graduation application would be enforced. Dr. Clayton answered that the filing of the graduation application early was a good suggestion and if students didn't take it, the fault would be theirs. Dr. Becker wanted to know when the second audit would be done. Dr. Clayton answered that the second audit would accompany the graduation application. Dr. Becker asked if the students' accounts would be flagged in the Registrar's office and Dr. Clayton deferred to Dr. Travis. Dr. Travis explained that there had been an ongoing problem with students realizing in their last semester that they are short on hours. Dr. Travis explained that this proposal is to help the students graduate on time. Dr. Bryant mentioned that students can apply for graduation at any time and added that she is concerned that there is no way to enforce this policy. It was again reiterated that these policies are good recommendations. Dr. Ruegger stated that these students should be treated as adults and these policies should come with consequences. Dr. Trana stated that if there was some type of enforcement, it should come from Academic Affairs. Dr. Travis mentioned that his office is discussing a way to enforce this by contacting each student individually. Dr. Sparks voiced her support for more audits. One student mentioned that from a student's point of view, she didn't feel this was a good idea. Another student voiced appreciation of this type of policy. After this discussion, the first three proposals were voted on and accepted. Dr. Clayton moved to accept the summer policy, Dr. Ruegger seconded and the motion passed.

Faculty Equity and Grievance

No report

Faculty Research

No report

Library

Ms. Dupree reported that this committee had met once and circulated their revised operating procedures via e-mail. There was a question about the new security system at the library and Ms. Dupree assured everyone that the new security system was very similar to the old security system.

Student Affairs

Dr. Brown reported that a couple of organizations had petitioned student affairs to become recognized and that student affairs was recommending them for approval. The first was Zeta Omega Eta organization. This organization will primarily be a social and service organization. Dr. Brown listed the goals of the organization. Brett Eckert asked if the organization would have to carry insurance as the Greek organizations do. Dr. Brown responded that the organization did not. Dr. Trana asked why this organization could not be called a sorority and Dr. Brown explained the steps for becoming a Greek organization. With no other discussion, the motion passed to accept Zeta Omega Eta as an organization. The second organization was the Spatial Information Systems organization. Dr. Brown outlined the goals of this organization. With no discussion, the motion to recognize the organization passed.

Teacher Education

Dr. Rosato reported that the Teacher Education committee had met and that Ms. Donna Brackin will serve as the secretary of that committee. Dr. Rosato also reported that Ms. Brackin is a path-wise trainer and will be training the SOE faculty in the near future.

SGA

Brett Eckert reported that Homecoming 2003 was a success. He reported that the SGA had seen a good crowd at all of the events. Mr. Eckert also reported that SGA secretary Sammie Jo Warren was elected Homecoming queen.

Ad Hoc - Campus Recognition

No report

Old Business:

Committee Operating Procedure Revisions/Reports

Dr. Webster encouraged all committee to revise and send their operating procedures ASAP!

Rolling Registration

Dr. Webster asked if anyone had questions or motions regarding rolling registration. There were none, rolling registration lies.

New Business:

United Way

Information on United Way was distributed and Assembly members were encouraged to contact James White with any other questions or concerns.

Concurrent Enrollment

Dr. Travis reported that the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADE) encourages Concurrent Enrollment (CE) and had made some guidelines regarding CE. Dr. Marshall asked about the students that actually come to campus for the classes. Dr. Travis called them 'pre-freshmen' and called what they are doing 'dual enrollment.' Dr. Clubb asked if the CE students were in classrooms separate from the other students. Dr. Travis answered that right now they are not but the goal for fall 2004 is to offer CE courses in a homogenous classroom. The CE students pay a reduced tuition (\$53/hour). Dr. Travis reported that Phillips County Community College is offering CE at no charge. CE faculty make \$25 per student. Dr. King asked who approves the course and the instructor. Dr. Travis stated that the deans/chairs make the final decision. Dr. King also asked if the same teacher continues teaching the course, will the course ever be evaluated. Dr. Becker wanted to know if the adjunct faculty are qualified to teach these courses and who decides if they are qualified. Dr. Travis answered that it was his personal preference for teachers to have a minimum of a Master's degree. Dr. Webster asked if there were some courses that were proposed and then not approved. Dr. Travis answered that Spanish I, Spanish II, and Biology were all courses that had not been approved for CE. Dr. Stark asked how this push was initiated and Dr. Travis answered that he didn't remember. Dr. Travis added that it was probably initiated because of the K-12 situation. He claimed that this was created to allow students to take college courses in a familiar environment. Dr. Travis explained that the School Study Council had met several years ago and asked Dr. Travis to consider offering CE. At that time, not all schools were on block scheduling and that is necessary to offer CE. Dr. Ruegger asked if students taking Composition I and II had take their senior English course and the answer was no. Dr. Ruegger wondered further if that was similar to teaching Fundamentals of English and Composition I together. Ms. Hendrix

asked about the content that is covered in the Composition courses. Dr. Stewart explained that the real reason for CE is that the governor decided that it would be a "good idea." Students should be in Advanced Placement English to be eligible for these courses. Dr. Stewart added that this push is more political than academic. Dr. Trana wanted to know how many of these courses are taught by people with a terminal degree in their field. Dr. Travis responded that none were taught by people with terminal degrees. Dr. Trana then asked how many of UAM's courses are taught by people with a terminal degree and Dr. Travis responded that 33 of the 127 faculty members at UAM have the Master's degree as their highest degree. Dr. Travis reiterated that the goal in fall 2004 is to teach the CE courses in a homogenous classroom. Dr. Roiger voiced his favor for CE. He claimed that if the courses are taught by a qualified instructor, students could take Microcomputer Applications in high school and this would free up his faculty to teach more advanced courses in college. Dr. Webster asked if the students taking advantage of the CE are the students that are likely to come to school at UAM. Dr. Travis stated that was his hope. Dr. Stewart explained that Arkansas Tech University was not enrolling students that had taken advantage of CE at Russellville High School. Dr. Stark took the microphone and explained that this is a "very serious issue." Dr. Stark claimed to have spoken with both high school and college faculty, students, and parents. Dr. Stark stated that UAM has a reputation for being the "13th grade" and claimed that students don't attend UAM because of that reputation. Dr. Stark added that this is a misconception and will continue to cost UAM students. CE makes no mention of high school classes being counted for college credit. Dr. Stark added that in his opinion, "what we've done has damaged our reputation. It will not be something we can quickly repair." Dr. Stark then made a motion that the Assembly go on record opposing CE agreements where high school courses are counted for college credit. The motion was seconded. Dr. Marshall asked about the criteria for the students enrolled in the CE courses. Dr. Travis answered that the students taking Composition I and II must have an ACT score of 19. Dr. Travis added that he did not want UAM to offer the courses if the quality and integrity of these courses could not be assured. Dr. Collins spoke about the history course that is currently being offered at Monticello High School. Dr. Collins stated that the person teaching the course was a very good high school teacher but there were issues in history courses that could not be explored as deeply in a high school classroom. Dr. Webster asked Dr. Stark to clarify his motion. The motion was repeated. Dr. Roiger opined that this was a negative approach and that the Assembly needed to be proactive. Dr. Roiger added that this is the time to show the parents that UAM can supply a quality education. Dr. Roiger also claimed that the motion was premature. Dr. Becker stated that the issue was money and not quality. Dr. Trana, not disagreeing with Dr. Becker, said that the high school teachers are not "we." Dr. Roiger stated that he uses adjunct faculty in his department. Dr. Trana continued that he was unsure if the adjunct faculty had been 'vetted.' Dr. Travis added that full-time high school teachers are teaching here all of the time. Dr. Ruegger argued that was different because those adjunct faculty are teaching on this campus. Dr. Sparks offered that quality control could be maintained by testing the outcome. Dr. Graber urged UAM not to take a short-term profit, stating that this could jeopardize long-term profit. Dr. Graber explained that a

long-term profit means enhancing UAM's reputation. Mr. Carr shared his experience as a high school student in Florida. Mr. Carr took CE courses during the first semester of his senior year at his high school. He claimed that these courses were a "joke." Mr. Carr continued that during the second semester of his senior year, he took college courses on a community college campus and benefitted much more. Dr. Bryant added that CE is not the only option. Students are eligible to take courses in college after they complete the eighth grade. Dr. Trana moved to called a question, a second was made and the motion carried. The motion made by Dr. Stark was voted on and passed.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and passed and the meeting ended at 4:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole M. Efir

Secretary, UAM Assembly