

UAM ASSEMBLY MINUTES

September 17, 1996

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

The chair of the Assembly, Paul Francis called the UAM Assembly to order at 3:18 p.m. in the Spencer Gallery of the Fine Arts Center. On a motion by C. Morrell Jones and a second by Larry Harris, the body voted to approve the minutes of the April 29, 1996 meeting as distributed.

Committee Reports

Academic Appeals Committee. Baylor Guy, committee secretary, reported that the committee has met five times since the last report to the Assembly. The committee has reviewed twenty-six cases, of which, eleven were denied, fourteen were approved, and one case required no action. Guy made a motion, seconded by Tony Chandler, that the Assembly accept the report. The motion carried.

Faculty Research Committee. Linda Robertson, committee chair, stated that the committee has met twice and the slightly revised version guideline forms will be distributed shortly to the unit heads. Faculty proposals should be delivered to the chair no later than October 17, 1996 for the first screening meeting to be held October 24, 1996.

Curriculum and Standards Committee. Paul Francis stated that any course changes, if they are to be included in the new catalog, are due by November 1, 1996.

Student Affairs Committee. Shannon Fleming, committee chair, reported that the committee recommends that a new student group named the *UAM Political Animals* become a recognized student organization. The purpose of this organization is to promote student interest and involvement in the political process and to emphasize the importance of participating in the process as it relates to elected officials and issues pertaining to Southeast Arkansas, the State of Arkansas, and the United States. The proposed faculty advisor is Cynthia Middleton. Fleming made a motion, seconded by Gary Marshall, that the Assembly accept the report. The motion carried.

Teacher Education Committee. Larry Harris, committee chair, reported that the committee has met once during this semester. It approved the admission of twenty-one students to the Teacher Education program and fifty-nine students for admission to internships. The committee granted nine student requests for deviation from the rules. In addition, it reviewed the new curriculum and the requirements for admission. The names of the committee members were presented, both faculty and students, and they are: Art Attwell, Gene Dilliard, Phillip Russell, Glynda Nixon, Don Gouwens, and Beverly Lobitz for the faculty, Penny Wood and Larissa Ellis for the students. Harris made a motion, seconded by C.

Morrell Jones, that the Assembly accept the report. The motion carried.

Assessment Council. Debbie Bryant, council chair, reported that the council had its first meeting earlier on the date of the Assembly meeting. They reviewed the same documents that were made available to the Assembly.

The Alumni Survey had a response rate of 24 percent, while the response rate for the entire state was 29 percent. Our Alumni had good things to say about UAM and there is a small amount of productivity funding related to alumni and employer satisfaction. ADHE is still working on the formula for distribution of this funding.

Considerable time was spent discussing the continuing concerns regarding the rising junior exam, as well as some of the findings of the CAAP survey conducted last spring. Brief comments from the survey could be found on the blue update sheet distributed at the Assembly meeting. The students who responded to the survey provided seventeen pages of predominately negative comments regarding the CAAP exam. As a whole, they are not very happy about taking the exam. Bryant mentioned that anyone who wished to see the entire report is welcome to come by her office to do so.

The council is concerned that students may not be putting forth their best effort, simply because there is little motivation (other than personal satisfaction) for taking the CAAP. The council, last spring, was considering ways to reward students--not just the highest scoring students, but students who performed at their expected levels. Some sort of consequence was discussed for those students who scored below their expected levels. On that front, the council will look at the possibility of predicting a student's CAAP score based on his or her incoming ACT score and cumulative GPA.

Bryant requested that anyone who has ideas and/or concerns to share (regarding CAAP, the survey, etc.) please E-mail the council at @PUBLIC:CASAA.DIS. She also mentioned that we (the faculty) are the owners of the assessment program, so please share our ideas with the council.

Administrative Reports

Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, Ms. Linda Yeiser. Yeiser reported that the Library relocation bid had been awarded and they would start moving the contents of the Library on December 14, 1996.

Yeiser mentioned that meetings would be held in the Spencer Gallery on Thursday, September 26, 1996 at 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 27 at 10:00 a.m., and Friday, September 27 at 2:00 p.m., to discuss the changes in the UAM employees' health care coverage. These changes are needed due to the 3.4 million dollar deficits in premium collections as compared to payouts for coverage. One change, implemented during September, was a 10 percent increase in the employee- paid premiums. The University began paying their increased share in July.

Yeiser stated that the University of Arkansas System has adopted four methods to bring coverage charges in line with premiums collected. These ways include: 1) a ten percent increase in premiums; 2) a modification in the health plan design; 3) an increased emphasis on physician contract negotiations; and, 4) improve the medical management process.

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Jack Lassiter. Lassiter stated that the official enrollment figure for the Fall semester is 2,200 students, a decline of 164 students.

Regarding the student retention meetings, Lassiter expressed appreciation for the active participation of the faculty and staff in the two large group brainstorming sessions. From that discussion, three smaller task groups were formed. John Annulis and Melinda Gaston will co-chair the Data Collection/Demographics group, Larry Harris and Betty Matthews will co-chair the Present Programs/Present Activities group, and Jim Roiger and Sally Kirst will co-chair the New Programs/Activities group. Hopefully, some activities and plans will be developed before the year is finished.

Lassiter mentioned that we are discussing articulation agreements with all twenty-two community colleges throughout the state of Arkansas. There has been a positive response from sixteen of those colleges and work is continuing to come to some agreement with the other six. The idea is to help advisors by giving them an established transfer guide which will list acceptable course equivalences from community colleges. In addition, it will aid recruiters by helping convince community college students to come to UAM.

This is a catalog year, so Lassiter requested that Francis call an Assembly meeting, late in December, to get any changes approved for the new catalog. The deadline for shipping the catalog to Fayetteville is January 15, 1997.

Lassiter recognized Dr. Harris and the School of Education for receiving a Minority Student Grant from the State Department of Higher Education. This grant will fund thirty-one minority students who will go into Teacher Education. Also, recognized was Dr. Clubb for receiving funding for a five-year grant to study early intervention in the Head-Start Program. Dr. Godwin and Dr. McConnell, in Math and Science, and Dr. Short and Dr. Clubb, in Social Science, have submitted proposals for SILO grants. Dr. Corby has submitted a grant to the Humanities for funding another summer program for public school teachers. Harris and his faculty have submitted a proposal for GOALS 2000 in public education. Dr. Adams and Dr. Gibson are submitting a proposal to fund a CIV classroom at UAM.

Lassiter informed the Assembly that the E-mail messages from Stroope, regarding grants, are coming from Clubb's office. Accolades should be extended to Clubb's office for keeping the faculty informed as to what type of grants are available and the deadlines on these grants.

The members of the General Education Committee were appointed this week to review our General Education requirements, as mandated by the State Department. The chair of this committee will be Dr.

Annulis.

Lassiter then brought attention to the excellent art display in the Spencer Gallery. This collection of works comes from past and present UAM art faculty.

Wayne Poniewaz asked Lassiter how much our enrollment was affected by the vo-techs. Lassiter responded by saying that if we took a geographical map of where our students come from, within the state, and overlaid a map of the locations of the technical colleges we would see a reduction in our student enrollment from each of those areas. There was a reduction of students enrolled at UAM from every county directly surrounding a technical college.

Regarding the numbers, Lassiter informed the Assembly that we saw a decline of twenty-one incoming Freshmen, seventy-seven returning Freshmen, seventeen Sophomores, forty-four Juniors, thirty Seniors, and four in post-Bachelor programs. The areas that had increases in enrollment were Graduate study, pre-Freshman, and Special.

In closing, Lassiter stated that even though we are losing students with low ACT scores, we are losing a higher percentage of upper level ACT students. This data, along with a great deal more will be shared through the Data Collection/Demographics Retention Committee.

Chancellor, Dr. Fred Taylor. Dr. Taylor started by stating that on the state level the Governor was leaning toward matching funds for higher education development. On the federal level, President Clinton was emphasizing a move to more two-year college programs. In Arkansas, after the recent wave of mergers, there remain eleven independent vo-techs. These eleven will, in all likelihood, merge with existing colleges or be returned to the high schools. They have the option of trying to become two-year colleges, but the expense and lack of funding will probably inhibit that consideration. What will happen to the McGehee and Crossett vo-techs is unknown. We have approached them about merging with us. They have not been receptive due to the differences in admission requirements.

The requisition is out for the DHE budget. They are predicting fifty-six million dollars in new money becoming available for the budget. This administration (i.e., Huckabee) will probably follow the past administrations' actions regarding outsourcing, and that could impact higher education. More and more services will be outsourced to private businesses from public agencies. Present examples, in the state of Arkansas, are prisons and selected parts of the Human Services Department.

The state plan for Higher Education is entering its final stage. Private colleges have been added to the planning process for the first time and OBU has been assigned to Taylor in regard to the Teacher Education function.

Taylor ended by mentioning that he would keep everyone informed regarding the progress of the upcoming legislative budget hearings and the overall attitude of legislators regarding higher education, e. g., four-year schools, two-year schools, vo-techs, etc.

New Business

Paul Francis is forming a committee to develop an Advising Handbook. There should be sections including, but not limited to, the role of the advisor, incoming Freshmen, transfer students, etc. Assembly members who have the desire to work on this committee please E-mail Francis.

Announcement and Adjournment.

Baylor Guy announced that the date for the Alpha Chi induction of new members will be October 24, 1996 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Auditorium, with a reception to follow in the Spencer Gallery. Student transcripts were being evaluated by the faculty sponsors and the list of potentially eligible candidates for faculty approval will be posted to E-mail by the first week of October. Invitation letters will be sent to candidates by the second week of October.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m. by Paul Francis.

Respectfully submitted,

Baylor C. Guy

Secretary of the Assembly

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