

MINUTES
ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES AND THE ARTS
BOARD OF VISITORS REGULAR MEETING
December 11, 2017
5:00 p.m.

The Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts (ASMSA) Board of Visitors met in the Boardroom on the first floor at 200 Whittington Avenue, Hot Springs, Arkansas.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Battle, Chair convened the Board of Visitors regular meeting into open session at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed all Board members.

II. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Members Present

Mr. Hayward Battle, Chair
 Mr. Todd West
 Mr. Gary Dowdy (via Zoom)
 Mr. Brian Reed

Members Absent

Mr. Timothy Barnes
 Mr. Steve Faris
 Ms. Ann Xu

Ex-Officio Members Present

Mr. Patrick Ralston, designee for Stacy Hurst, Director, Department of Arkansas Heritage
 Mary Kathryn Stein, Ed.D., designee for Johnny Key, Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education
 Mr. Zane Colvin, President, Student Government Association

Ex-Officio Members Absent

Maria Markham, Ph.D., Director, Arkansas Department of Higher Education
 Mr. Tom Chilton, Director, Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Division of Science and Technology

Administrative Members Present

Mr. Corey Alderdice, Director
 Mr. Bob Gregory, Dean of Academic Affairs
 Rheo Morris, Ph.D., Dean of Students
 Ms. Valerie Carpenter, Director of Admissions
 Mrs. Vicky Hinz, Director of Institutional Advancement
 Mrs. Ashley Smith, Director of Finance
 Mrs. Lorraine Munroe, Administrative Assistant

Administrative Members Absent

Mrs. Munroe called the roll of Board members who were present, and a quorum was established.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Reed and seconded by Mr. West to approve the minutes of October 2, 2017. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Director's Comments – Corey Alderdice

Director Alderdice reported that earlier in the day, a beam-signing event had taken place by staff, faculty and students for the Creativity and Innovation Complex site so everyone could “leave their mark” on part of ASMSA’s history. The site pad is completed and the crew is approximately 40% through the initial steel work on the project. Director Alderdice is confident that by early April the building will be “in the dry” with brick work started around that time. The project is still on schedule for an end of 2018 completion.

Director Alderdice reported that the first week in December was Computer Science Education Week across the country. ASMSA accepted awards for its leadership in computer science in three different time zones. He stated that he had the opportunity to go to the Silicon Valley area for the Code.org kickoff event, where ASMSA was selected as inaugural recipients of the Champions of Computer Science award.

Director Alderdice stated that he was informed by UALR that the cost for concurrent credit classes will be doubling in Fall 2018 from \$50 to \$100 per course. He reported that he and Dean Gregory have a meeting scheduled with Dr. Erin Finzer, who oversees external programs at UA-Little Rock, to talk about concerns on the increase. Director Alderdice stated that it is problematic for both the institution and families. He stated that if the cost doubles next year, it represents at least a \$35,000 increase for the institution due to underwriting the cost for low-income students. Director Alderdice stated that his hope is for the cost to remain steady. He reported that he hopes that a solution is found in order to move forward with UALR as a continued partner. However, if UALR is inflexible on the cost increase, ASMSA may visit with other campuses within the System to explore transferring the partnership. Director Alderdice reiterated that the institution is committed to underwrite the cost for low-income students.

2. Academic Affairs Board Report – Bob Gregory

Mr. Gregory reported 232 students – 124 juniors and 108 seniors, with 3 juniors (one minority) who withdrew due to personal circumstances. Mr. Gregory stated that his department transitioned the research program this year having juniors in Applied Research Methods seminars. He restated that the department is taking the research program and bringing it into the school day. It started as an after school program, but is now a scheduled class with a scheduled teacher. Mr. Gregory stated that the Applied Research Methods (ARM) for juniors will have projects that will compete in Science Fair this year.

Mr. Gregory reported that six seniors went to Osaka, Japan in October. Tennoji is one of ASMSA’s partner schools in Japan who has been coming to ASMSA for about 9 years. It gives every student on campus an opportunity to interact with a student from another country. He continued stating that last year, for the first time, ASMSA went to Japan with students and visited those schools.

Mr. Gregory reported that he is the newly elected President of the Board of NCSSS and had a successful conference in Chicago alongside five ASMSA teachers who had presented.

3. Residential Affairs Report – Dr. Rheo Morris

Dr. Morris introduced herself to the Board. Dr. Morris stated that the search for a Licensed Professional Counselor had proved unsuccessful in the initial phase. She reported that a subsequent search is being conducted. Dr. Morris stated that, if needed, the students have an opportunity to go to a local counseling center that comes to the campus to meet with them.

Dr. Morris stated that she met with Food Services and has requested the menu items contain more vegetarian and vegan options. She stated that a corporate chef visited the campus and went over the menu with the Food Director.

Director Alderdice interjected stating that the SGA's Food Service Committee recently completed a survey collecting data from the student body asking what they would like to see on the menu. This data will be reviewed in the early part of the new year to get an idea of how many students do utilize that part of the menu.

Dr. Morris also reported that a nutritionist from the corporate offices also came to campus to help the students make better food choices.

Dr. Morris also stated that ASMSA has donated more blood than all the high schools in the 12 counties that the Blood Institute visits, receiving over 1,400 units of blood and equates to 4,200 lives that have been saved.

Director Alderdice added that Sharon Brown, ASMSA's liaison with the Blood Institute, has done a fantastic job in encouraging students to participate in the program.

4. Admissions and Public Affairs – Valerie Carpenter

Ms. Carpenter reviewed the Classes of 2017-2019 data she included in her report, and additional data information she provided on the Classes of 2011 through 2016. She stated that 2017 was an anomaly class falling within 2 standard deviations, while the classes of 2018 and 2019 fell within three standard deviations. Ms. Carpenter stated that the class of 2012 was the lowest average incoming and exiting ACT scores, and the class of 2017 had the highest incoming and existing scores to date.

Director Alderdice stated that one of the requirements when the institution pursued concurrent credit for all students was the implementation of 19 for a minimum score that was perceived of being problematic by the Board at the time. However, with the level of curriculum and demands of the program, a 22 is a much more competitive and realistic score to be ready for the program. He stated that having a Director of Admissions has had a great impact on student success.

In response to a question by Chairman Battle, Ms. Carpenter stated that it has been a challenge recruiting minority students with a score of 19, but have found that students who are being informed about the upwARd Promise, where low-income students receive payment for the ACT, has helped students plan for the exam. Ms. Carpenter stated that by working with students whose potential is tapped, ACT scores do increase.

5. Institutional Advancement Board Report – Vicki Hinz

Mrs. Hinz referred to the Statement of Activity Report that was included in the Board packet. Mrs. Hinz stated that she and Director Alderdice will be going to make a presentation to the Hot Springs Giving Circle later in the week. Looking at the numbers, there is approximately \$65,000 in requests in Naming Opportunities for the Creativity and Innovation Complex.

Reporting on the Community of Learning Luncheon, Mrs. Hinz advised the Board to mark their calendars for Friday, April 6, 2018. The luncheon will be held at the Arlington Crystal Ballroom from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 pm. Mrs. Hinz reported that this is an opportunity to showcase the students' works; e.g. in research, art, robotics, etc. She stated that the luncheon is the centerpiece of outreach and advocacy and encouraged the Board to attend and can, perhaps, serve as a table ambassador.

Mrs. Hinz also discussed the ASMSA Fall Golf Classic that takes place each Fall. She stated that the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce has helped the institution raise over \$65,000 since their involvement with the golf tournament. 2018 will be the fifth year for the tournament. The Tournament raised just under \$20,000 in 2017.

6. Financial Report – Ashley Smith

Mrs. Smith introduced herself to the new Board members since she was absent for the October meeting.

Mrs. Smith included the First Quarter and Budget Reports.

Mrs. Smith stated that a few years ago, the UA System hired a consultant to look at the medical premiums and plans. It was at that time that spouses typically cost the medical plan more than employees. She continued stating that the UA System is moving towards a more "employee" supported medical program so the premiums will be a bit higher. Mrs. Smith reported that two new health insurance plans will also be introduced in 2018. She also stated that the System is switching from Delta Dental to Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Mrs. Smith reported that the Department of Finance and Administration released their preliminary forecast that is estimating a 2% increase in general revenue for FY19.

7. Student Government Association – Zane Colvin

Mr. Colvin reported that the SGA had their first fundraiser of the year selling Domino's "Slice the Price" cards at \$10 per card.

Mr. Colvin stated that the Activities Committee held their Spirit Week that ran from October 16 through 21, 2017. He also reported that the Fall Festival was held at the end of Spirit Week, which is an event that the SGA clubs gather together to raise funds and provide fun events for students. Mr. Colvin reported that the Winter Formal was held on December 2nd.

Mr. Colvin stated that the Mental Health Committee had sent out a mental health survey to all students. He stated that this information will be used to implement policy changes in the future.

Mr. Colvin reported that the Food Service Committee also sent out a survey to all students to determine the exact number of people who have allergies, dietary requirements, as well as which foods were liked by the students and what the cafeteria was doing well to meet the needs of the students.

Mr. Colvin stated that the Student Affairs Committee is currently reviewing the Student Handbook for future policy changes and inconsistencies that may be listed.

V. OLD BUSINESS

No old business to report.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. West directed his statement to Director Alderdice making reference to general themes of talent development and retention as well as ways that the Board can support the institution. He also made reference to how the Board can support capital needs, sponsorship and grants. Mr. West provided an update for consideration stating that in northwest Arkansas, there have been general awareness meetings. He reported that he has been in touch with the Walmart executive leadership team stating that there is a strong interest from Walmart and other companies in the northwest Arkansas area to come to the institution, to provide speakers and to look at talent development and retention. Mr. West stated that when his company is looking into the workforce, they recognize that they need to reach students in the 9th, 10th and 11th grades before they get to the 12th grade and transition to college. Mr. West stated that if Director Alderdice wanted to develop some ideas and goals that he touched on, along with some other members, they would be willing to do that, offering it from a northwest Arkansas perspective. Mr. West stated that he would bring an executive team down and do a campus visit to gain awareness about what types of things Director Alderdice would want through sponsorship, internship, etc. He again offered his assistance to Director Alderdice stating that if there is anything he and his team can do to support capital, sponsorship and grants, to let him know.

Director Alderdice stated that Mr. West's suggestion was fantastic and that talent development is a subject that needs to be further discussed. Director Alderdice reported that he met recently with Dr. Ron Hart, who initially was one of the visionaries behind the scenes to help develop the white paper group that eventually led to the creation of ASMSA. Director Alderdice stated that there are a variety and compelling experiences available in Arkansas. If someone wants to work for a Fortune 500 company – Walmart, Tyson, J. B. Hunt – they are here in the state. Director Alderdice stated that one of the things that young people miss out on is they discount what is happening in the state, or have a lack of awareness about what those professional development opportunities are and what is available to them. Director Alderdice thanked Mr. West for his input.

Director Alderdice stated that a meeting date for the next Board meeting needed to be set. He suggested the meeting be held during Research Week on February 22nd at 4:00 pm. This is a time where you can see first-hand the research and capstone the students are working on during the year. Director Alderdice also stated that he has encouraged the ASMSA Foundation Board members to also come to see the projects. This provides an opportunity for the two leadership groups to have some level of engagements as well.

Mr. Battle reviewed the date and meeting time with the Board members for conflicts and, since there were none, the next Board meeting was set for February 22, 2018 at 4:00 pm. Director Alderdice stated that he will provide a timeline to the Board members for the day's events.

AUDIENCE WITH INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS


No request or comment from an individual or group.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

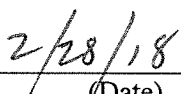
With no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Mr. Gowdy and seconded by Mr. Reed to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Approved as written _____

Approved as amended _____



Mr. Timothy Barnes, Secretary



(Date)