

MINUTES
ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES AND THE ARTS
BOARD OF VISITORS REGULAR MEETING
February 22, 2018
4:00 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 4:00 p.m. and welcomed all Board members.

II. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Members Present

Mr. Hayward Battle, Chair
 Mr. Steve Faris, Vice Chair
 Mr. Brian Reed
 Mr. Todd West

Members Absent

Mr. Timothy Barnes, Secretary
 Ms. Ann Xu
 Mr. Gary Dowdy

Ex-Officio Members Present

Mr. Tom Chilton, Director, Arkansas
 Economic Development Commission,
 Division of Science and Technology
 Mr. Zane Colvin, President, Student Government
 Association

Ex-Officio Members Absent

Maria Markham, Ph.D., Director,
 Arkansas Department of Higher Education
 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

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. Vicki Hinz, Director of Institutional
 Advancement
 Mrs. Ashley Smith, Director of Finance
 Mrs. Lorraine Munroe, Administrative Assistant

Administrative Members Absent

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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Faris and seconded by Mr. Reed to approve the minutes of December 11, 2017. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Director's Comments – Corey Alderdice

Director Alderdice reported that the appropriation bill for the System office was in joint Budget Committee and hopes that it will be released the following week. Director Alderdice stated that as the fiscal session kicked off earlier in the year, the forecast for the Excellence Trust Fund, which constitutes the majority of ASMSA's funding, is to be 3.5% next year. Director Alderdice conservatively expects a 2.5% increase. He stated that if the 2.5% comes in, it would equate to approximately \$200,000 in new money.

Director Alderdice stated that work on the CIC project is coming along very well. He reported that the masons work had started on the storm shelter on the first floor of the building. Once complete, they will continue with the internal framing of the building. Director Alderdice reported that the roofing materials will arrive in the next several days, and work on the roof will begin next week. He stated, that in his discussion with the architects, they anticipate handing over the building in November 2018 if everything remains on schedule. Director Alderdice stated he is hopeful students will be in the building in time for the spring 2019 semester. Director Alderdice referred to the FIRM projects and portfolios that were spread throughout the campus this year and stated that they will be shown next year under one roof.

Director Alderdice reported that he is encouraged that the Board of Trustees at the March meeting will approve their slate of sessions for the next academic year, and that the March 27- 28, 2019 meeting will be held on the ASMSA campus. It will be the first time the Trustees have had a meeting on the campus since the Student Center was dedicated in 2012. The meeting will be a part of the 25th Anniversary year for ASMSA and will plan to hold the 25th Anniversary Gala event that Thursday night.

Director Alderdice stated the searches have been initiated for two new positions in the Arts, adding a studio art faculty member and a first full-time music instructor. The positions mark continued investments in this component of ASMSA's mission.

Director Alderdice reported that he and Mrs. Hinz visited with a Foundation earlier in the month that has an interest in the Arts in Arkansas and delivered a proposal for a capital project. He stated that a building exists on the hill behind the campus that is approximately 15,000 sq. ft., that is a solid construction on the outside, but needs work on the inside to make it a functional classroom. Director Alderdice reported that the rough estimate for a renovation of the building is approximately \$2.5 million, which is the amount of the proposal that was delivered to the specific Foundation. He stated that the Foundation was interested, and he is encouraged by their response. A site visit is tentatively planned in advance of their April 2018 meeting, and it is expected that they will entertain a proposal at that meeting. They have talked about an aggressive timeline for the renovation, and they are looking at what a renovation timeline might look like. Director Alderdice stated that if the funding were to be made available to ASMSA in April, he believes he could have project and architectural approval at the May Board of Trustees meeting and hopefully begin renovation work sometime toward the end of 2018. He reported that at that time, the CIC building should be wrapping up and work can then start on the Fine Arts building, which should be ready to move in for spring 2020 classes. Director Alderdice reported that it is not yet a done deal, but is very encouraged with the interactions of the Foundation.

Director Alderdice reported that he has worked with Harris Architects to do the cost analysis and the rough square footage of the building. He reported that the combined \$4.5 million for the CIC and the \$3 million total for the Fine Arts Building is \$7.5 million. Director Alderdice stated that when he was going through the feasibility study for the CIC, he had initially forecast the CIC building to be \$8.25 million project -- \$750,000 was to maintain HVAC systems for the Chapel and Convent. The new building will result in 15,000 additional square feet and six times the amount of art space that was originally envisioned in 2015 for exactly the same cost.

Director Alderdice reported that on Tuesday, May 15th Chancellor Steinmetz and 40 faculty of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville are doing a bus tour across the state visiting three high schools, one being ASMSA. An open forum is planned for them to hear from ASMSA students and faculty about what makes the program special. It is also a good time to strengthen relationships with the Fayetteville campus.

Mr. Reed made reference to the concurrent credit increase with UALR and asked if any changes have been made.

Director Alderdice responded that a visit has been scheduled with the leadership of UA-Fort Smith on March 6th. He stated that he had a preliminary conversation with the Provost and staffers, including the Chancellor. Director Alderdice stated that at the present time, there has not been a conversation about cost but is looking for a pathway that maintains ASMSA's current cost. He stated that if that is not feasible, then he will be looking at UCA; however, his desire is to remain in partnership with a UA System entity. Director Alderdice reported that Chancellor Beran, UA – Fort Smith, has visited with him on multiple occasions seeking a partnering opportunity and is enthusiastic about ASMSA.

2. Academic Affairs Board Report – Bob Gregory

Dean Gregory reported that there has been much activity in preparing for Science Fair, which has been an all-consuming process of late. He stated that it has been an exciting and productive time for the students. He reported that as of February 13th, there are 222 students, with 106 senior and 116 juniors. Ten students have returned home since the December meeting, one a minority student who withdrew due to a family decision. Dean Gregory stated that there has been a very productive and exciting Science and Arts Café with Dr. Mary Leigh discussing George Elliott. Reporting student successes, he noted that six of the students have been recognized as National Merit Finalists and two teams participated in the Dawson Regional for the 2nd Governor's All-State Coding Competition.

3. Residential Affairs Report – Dr. Rheo Morris

Dr. Morris reported that she has been working on active shooter drills. She stated that a “start” pistol was used to simulate a live shooting incident so that students and staff can be familiar with what live shots would sound like. Dr. Morris reported that there would be a slow motion drill for students to think about what action should be taken in an active shooter situation.

Director Alderdice stated that the active shooter drills are continuations of a general session for all students and staff that took place in early January about policy and procedure in response to an emergency scenario. This has been in the planning stage prior to the events in Kentucky and Florida. What has been discovered through these processes has led to some physical improvements on campus and he expects to learn a fair amount more on timely internal campus communications.

Dr. Morris stated that an offer has been made for the Counselor position and is currently waiting to receive the acceptance letter. The Counselor will begin on April 2nd.

Director Alderdice commented that the Counselor is a mental health professional, more than a college and career advisor. The decision was made to add the Counselor in April to give her the opportunity to connect with students and establish some structures so that she will be ready to implement a full program when the new school year starts in August.

4. Admissions – Valerie Carpenter

Ms. Carpenter started her report with the applicant pool for the Class of 2020. She stated that there were 124 completed applications and 288 applications have been started. Ms. Carpenter stated that she and the Admissions Recruiter, Steven Sparkman, started making phone calls to see if they could assist in answering questions that applicants might have. Ms. Carpenter stated that the usual number of applicants accepted are between 120-130, depending on the number of seniors who plan to return. The capacity of students that can be housed is approximately 235 total. Ms. Carpenter stated that she is steadily working on recruiting more students from northwest Arkansas.

Ms. Carpenter referred to the new Admission's piece that was distributed to the Board members. She stated that some people cannot afford to drive to Hot Springs so she created a residential flyer in order for parents to see what the Student Center building looks like. The flyer also answers many questions parents may have about the facility. Ms. Carpenter stated that she has received positive feedback from both parents and students about the flyer.

5. Institutional Advancement Board Report – Vicki Hinz

Mrs. Hinz referred to her report making specific reference to the gifts totaling \$420,196.55 to date. Included in the amount is \$300,000 from the Oaklawn Foundation. She stated that approximately \$200,000- \$225,000 is a number that she feels can be reached on a regular basis. Mrs. Hinz stated that there is a goal of \$500,000 to be reached by year end.

Mrs. Hinz referred to a list of grants that was included in her report and reviewed the list with the Board.

Mrs. Hinz reminded the Board members that the Community of Learning Luncheon will be held on April 6th at the Arlington Hotel's Crystal Ballroom from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Mrs. Hinz stated that the luncheon is the centerpiece of ASMSA's outreach and advocacy. She stated that the students' projects will be on display on the second floor as well. Mrs. Hinz reported that Elise Mitchell, who is an accomplished strategic communications professional, business leader and author, will be the speaker at the luncheon.

Mrs. Hinz asked the Board to please contact her if they were interested in serving as a Visionary Steward at a table.

Mrs. Hinz reported that during the month of March, there will be an Alumni Challenge Campaign for naming opportunities as part of the Creativity and Innovation Complex. Examples of opportunities will be bricks, gardens, benches, an outside balcony and planters.

Mrs. Hinz reported that she and Director Alderdice visited northwest Arkansas to host an alumni gathering and then visited with the STEM Technology Team at Walmart. She thanked Todd West for making arrangements for the visit.

Mrs. Hinz stated that on April 24th and 25th, four juniors, along with the Director, will be participating in the Greater Hot Springs Washington DC Fly-In. Private tours have been arranged for the visit.

6. Financial Report – Ashley Smith

Mrs. Smith stated that her report included both the Quarterly Reports as well as the Budget Reports that were sent to the System office.

Mrs. Smith reported that the official general revenue forecast for the FY19 is predicting a 3.5% increase. Mrs. Smith stated that the preliminary budget will be approximately 2.5% increase and hopes to meet somewhere in the middle.

Mrs. Smith stated that in 2016, the UA System initiated the procurement process for a new administrative software system so that all UA campuses would share the same system. Full implementation of the system is expected to begin in 2020.

Mrs. Smith stated that the ASMSA Human Resources Department is working with the UA System insurance provider to obtain quotes for various types of short term disability coverage for employees.

Mrs. Smith reported that the food service contract expires June 30, 2018, and Administration is working to get out an RFP to be released on March 1st.

7. Student Government Association – Zane Colvin

Mr. Colvin stated that the “Slice the Price” fundraiser was very successful, making a profit of \$775.00.

Mr. Colvin reported that the Policy Committee has been reviewing the Handbook to see if there are any discrepancies.

Mr. Colvin reported that the Food Service Committee sent out an in-depth, school-wide survey and the results were sent to Director Alderdice and the Alladin cafeteria staff.

Mr. Colvin commented that the current SGA Executive Board will assist the 2018-2019 Executive Board to ensure a smooth transition.

V. OLD BUSINESS

No old business to report.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Battle was reminded that a date needed to be set for the May 2018 meeting. After verifying dates with members of the Board, Mr. Battle stated that the next meeting of the Board of Visitors would be May 7, 2018, at 5:00 p.m.

VII. AUDIENCE WITH INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS


No request or comment from an individual or group.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Since there was an early departure of a Board member, there was no quorum at the conclusion of the meeting. Chairman Battle stated the Board will stand at a recess until the May 7, 2018, meeting.

Approved as written _____

Approved as amended _____



Mr. Timothy Barnes, Secretary

(Date)