MINUTES
ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES, AND THE ARTS
BOARD OF VISITORS REGULAR MEETING
May 5, 2009
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.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Amir Mortazavi made his presentation to the Board discussing projects and elections of the Student Government Association. Mr. Mortazavi stated that the Constitution was changed so that there will now only be one president of the student body instead of three. Mr. Mortazavi stated that in order to make decisions more effectively, there will now be two senates – one to focus on policy and the other to focus on activities. Mr. Mortazavi reported that the seniors are excited and looking forward to graduation. He also reported that the SGA is now applying the Roberts Rules of Order to their meetings.

Mr. Mortazavi reported that the 2009-2010 officers of the Student Government Association are: Annie Xu, President; Ben Bergman, Vice President; Caroline Stokes, Secretary; and Tulsi Patel, Treasurer.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Luke Gordy, Chairman, convened the Board of Visitors regular meeting into open session at 5:20 p.m. and welcomed all of the Board members.

II. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Members Present
Mr. Luke Gordy, Chair
Mrs. Lynne Dardenne, Vice-Chair
Ms. Marynell Branch, Secretary
Ms. Karen Garcia
Ms. MaryJane Rebick

Members Absent
Mr. Luther Lowe
Mr. Mickey Cox

Ex-Officio Members Present
Jim Purcell, Ph.D., Director
Arkansas Department of Higher Education
Blake A. Perry, Ph.D., designee for John
Ahlen, Ph.D., President, Arkansas Science
and Technology Authority
Mr. Ed Wood, President, Parents
Association
Mr. Amir Mortazavi, President, Student
Government Association

Ex-Officio Members Absent
Ms. Ann Biggers, designee for Ken
James, Ph.D., Commissioner, Arkansas
Department of Education
Ms. Joy Pennington, designee for Ms.
Cathie Matthews, Director, Department
of Arkansas Heritage

Administrative Members Present
Janet Hugo, Ph.D., Director
Mr. Mike Carpenter, Director of Institutional Advancement
Mr. William Currier, Dean of Residential Affairs
Ms. JaNan Abernathy, Director of Finance and Administration
Mr. Chris Robbins, Director of Outreach
Mrs. Lorraine Munroe, Administrative Assistant

Administrative Members Absent
Mrs. Melanie Nichols, Dean of Academic Affairs
Mr. Gordy introduced the newest member of the Board, MaryJane Rebick. Mr. Gordy stated that Ms. Rebick has a history of public service to Arkansas and served on various commissions and boards throughout the state.

Mr. Gordy also introduced Dr. Jim Purcell, Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education and appreciated Dr. Purcell being at the meeting.

Dr. Hugo introduced Ms. Cheryl Rawls, 2009-2010 President of the Parents’ Association.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Gordy and seconded by Ms. Branch to approve the minutes of December 2, 2008. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Director’s Comments – Dr. Hugo

Dr. Hugo reviewed her report with the Board.

Dr. Hugo referred to the “Biotechnologies in the Classroom” workshop mentioned in the 2009 ASMSA Summer Professional Development Opportunities handout. Dr. Hugo stated that two of the ASMSA’s biologists will be teaching the workshop that is funded through a grant they received from the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation by the Arkansas Science and Technology Authority. Dr. Hugo also stated that ASMSA also received another grant from the Arkansas Science and Technology Authority to host the BEST competition in robotics that will be held in the fall.


Ms. Abernathy reviewed her report with the Board. In response to Mr. Gordy’s question of why there was a $200,000 revenue increase in Distance Education, Ms. Abernathy explained that in previous years, Distance Education income had been received but had not been budgeted and that the program has been operating on state funds. She explained that this revenue is not due to an increase in the Distance Learning program.


Mr. Currier reviewed his report with the Board.

Mr. Currier stated that no student has been dismissed due to disciplinary action this past year. He also stated that the residential life staff has been great and a number of them will be returning for the 2009-2010 school year. He mentioned that there was one more residential mentor position that needs to be filled.

4. Academic Affairs Board Report – Melanie Nichols

Ms. Nichols was not present at the meeting.

Dr. Hugo spoke on Ms. Nichols’ behalf. Dr. Hugo stated that Dr. Brian Monson, earned the Siemens Award for Advanced Placement teaching, one of fifty teachers nationwide. She also stated that ASMSA won two gigantic trophies, one for overall winner of the state.
Science Fair and also the 7A winner in the state Science Fair. Dr. Hugo pointed out that a copy of the state Science Fair winners was included in the Board packet.

5. Office of Outreach – Chris Robbins

Mr. Robbins reviewed his report with the Board.

Mr. Robbins stated that there are 3,200 students enrolled in distance education, with 80 school districts that are being served with a faculty of 30 full-time employees. Mr. Robbins stated that the program receives some state grant funds that are used to offset the tuition of the students. Mr. Robbins stated that there is a small tuition proration that school districts have to pay ($105.00) per student.

Mr. Robbins stated that next year’s enrollment is looking up. He stated that ASMSA’s distance learning program has grown 20% on an annual basis for the last several years. Mr. Robbins stated that ASMSA’s program is larger than ADE’s and that ASMSA’s program is the only Arkansas program that won a USDLA award this year.

Mr. Robbins reported that Dr. Joe Spradlin and Frances vandenHeuvel received national recognition for superior teaching in Distance Education. Dr. Spradlin received his recognition from Instructional Technology Council and Ms. vandenHeuvel from the United States Distance Learning Association.

Mr. Robbins stated that ASMSA’s Distance Learning program is currently in six states and one country: Arkansas, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Indiana, Texas and Birmingham, England.

Mr. Robbins stated that ASMSA’s distance learning program ranges from kindergarten level foreign language to college-level Spanish at Paris Lloyd College in Kentucky. Mr. Robbins reported that foreign language and AP courses are high on the list of sought after classes.

6. Institutional Advancement – Mike Carpenter

Mr. Carpenter reviewed his report with the Board.

Mr. Carpenter stated that the first year of a graphic design department has been very successful. Mr. Carpenter stated that the ASMSA commercial ran in the early part of the year and additional flights will run late summer and early fall as the recruiters are getting ready to recruit students for next year’s class. The website hits increased substantially with the running of the commercial.

Mr. Carpenter reported that Mr. Zipkes of the Graphic Design department is working diligently to get the new ASMSA website up and running.

Mr. Carpenter reported on the three fund-raising events that ASMSA held: The 2009 Tandberg Golf Classic, the ASMSA 5K Run, and ASMSA Softball tournament.

Mr. Carpenter stated that he will not be returning next year.

Dr. Hugo reported that ASMSA was named the recipient of a $1,000 Hanor Award which will allow the school to bring more individuals to campus to discuss the arts for a $250 honorarium. Many pieces of artwork are on loan and are displayed along the hallways and in offices of the school. Dr. Hugo also
reported that ASMSA will be the recipient of a large piece of work by local artist, Richard Stevens, who was awarded the Hanor-Westfall Art Purchase Award.

Mr. Gordy made a motion, and was seconded by Lynne Dardenne, to accept the Consent Agenda reports. Motion passed unanimously.

V.  OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to report.

VI.  NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Wood stated that his son went to the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York and reported that the college would not accept ASMSA concurrent credits.

Regarding this issue, Dr. Purcell stated that that this problematic and said that the eastern seaboard schools are more picky about this issue. Mr. Wood stated that one of the problems is that ASMSA does not rank its students. Mr. Wood also stated that ASMSA has concurrent credits with UALR and reported that the University of Rochester stated that if the credits were given by UALR, they would not have a problem accepting the credits; but, since it is ASMSA (a high school) that gives the credits, it would not accept them.

Dr. Hugo stated that the problem is not with the courses but with the regulations.

Dr. Hugo reminded the Board that the ASMSA graduation was being held on May 23rd at 2:00 p.m. at the Summit Arena at the Hot Springs Convention Center. Dr. Hugo stated that the keynote speaker was Skip Rutherford.

VII.  AUDIENCE WITH INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS

No request or comment from an individual or group.

VIII.  ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Approved as written ______________   Approved as amended ______________

Ms. Maryjell Branch, Secretary

October 7, 2009  (Date)