

MINUTES
ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES, AND THE ARTS
BOARD OF VISITORS REGULAR MEETING
February 4, 2013
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. Luther Lowe, 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. Luther, Lowe, Chair
 Mrs. Karen Garcia, Vice Chair
 Mrs. Leigh Merry
 Mr. Hayward Battle
 Mrs. Donna Casparian

Members Absent

Mrs. Julie Mullenix, Secretary

Ex-Officio Members Present

Ms. Marta Gwyn Collier, designee for John Ahlen, Ph.D., President, Arkansas Science and Technology Authority
 Ms. Joy Pennington, designee for Ms. Cathie Matthews, Director, Department of Arkansas Heritage
 Ms. Mary Kathryn Stein, designee for Tom Kimbrell, Ph.D., Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education
 Mr. and Mrs. Gilmore, ASMSA Parents Association
 Miss Sorena Lo, President, Student Government Association

Ex-Officio Members Absent

Mr. Shane Broadway, Interim Director
 Arkansas Department of Higher Education

Administrative Members Present

Mr. Corey Alderdice, Director
 Janice Sullivan, Ph.D., Dean of Academic Affairs
 Mr. William Currier, Dean of Students
 Mrs. JaNan Abernathy, Director of Finance
 Mr. Greg Reed, Director, Institutional Advancement
 Mrs. Lorraine Munroe, Administrative Assistant

Administrative Members Absent

Mr. Chris Robbins, Dean of Distance Education
 and Information Technology

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Garcia and seconded by Mrs. Casparian to approve the minutes of December 4, 2012. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Director's Comments – Corey Alderdice

Director Alderdice offered details on the concurrent core proposal. He stated that the proposed credit for next year will come from the mid-level Chemistry course and the Physics courses. He reported that Ms. Rosalie Cheatham, the Concurrent Credit Coordinator at UALR, did state that the Physics department has been more participatory with other schools in recent years, and is hopeful that it will not be a stumbling block as it was six years ago when the school first sought out to offer concurrent credit.

Director Alderdice reported progress on a new Humanities emphasis for students wishing to pursue that track. There are now fewer science requirements and more humanities requirements particularly the requirement that students take either AmStud or WorldStud here and then carving out three courses that can be specifically humanities electives. For both the STEM electives and the Humanities electives, the interdisciplinary courses, (i.e. Folk Music and Acoustics and History of Infectious Diseases) would suffice for either.

Director Alderdice reported that the Malco Theater has been foreclosed and that he received a request from the Hot Springs Documentary Film Institute for ASMSA to partner with them in housing the 20,000 films they have in their collection. Director Alderdice sought input from the Board on the appropriateness of the partnership.

Mrs. Casparian stated that she was very well acquainted with the film collection having served on the Documentary Film Festival Board for many years. Mrs. Casparian reported that it was probably the largest collection of documentary films in North America. She stated that she is very familiar with their partial cataloging, and it would be a great opportunity for cataloging the remainder of the films and digitizing them. She stated that if the school had a warm and dry space to house them, it would be a good opportunity.

Mrs. Garcia agreed with Mrs. Casparian in housing the films. She reported that there were consecutive grants from the Walton family to preserve the films. Mrs. Garcia stated that the project may be used as a form of communication with the Waltons to let them know how the school is partnering with the Film Festival to preserve their investment and how the films will be used at the school. Mrs. Garcia also said looking at the long-term plan for the campus having an Arts Center, it would be a good tie into housing the films for students to use the films in their research.

Director Alderdice stated that the documentary film making class recently received a \$20,000 gift to purchase new equipment for the Digital Arts Lab which would be a great resource for research. He expressed concerns to what the hidden costs would be as well as the liability involved in housing the films and stated that his main concern going forward is getting a full cost assessment taking on the collection. Mr. Reed added that Darla Dixon, Artistic Coordinator, who is associated with the collection, has agreed to assist in cataloging the collection.

In response to Mr. Lowe's inquiry of ideas for a commencement speaker, Director Alderdice stated that he is looking at inviting Senator Joyce Elliott but has not yet extended an invitation to anyone at this time. Mr. Lowe stated that Dr. Hugo's tradition was to only look at speakers from Arkansas but felt that perhaps an invitation should be extended to outside people in the science community.

2. Financial Report – JaNan Abernathy

Mrs. Abernathy stated that her department has been working on the administrative system upgrade, W2s, 1099 and all other required reporting. She stated that the quarterly reports were due in a few months.

3. Residential Affairs Report – William Currier

Mr. Currier reported that all is going well in his area and he is looking at hiring staff for the next school year. Mr. Currier stated that he received an invitation and joined the Southwest Association of College and University Housing Officers (SWACUHO) that is comprised of representatives from the states of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Mr. Currier stated that the Association is having their conference in Rogers, Arkansas and attending it should help with recruiting some candidates coming from a number of colleges in those states.

Mr. Currier informed the board that there have not been many flu cases, but there have been many stomach viruses reported.

Mr. Currier discussed student participation in Martin Luther King Day and a five disc documentary on the civil rights movement was purchased. The series will be donated to the Library so it will be available to anyone who would like to view it.

In answer to Mr. Lowe's question, Mr. Currier stated that the average term for a residential mentor is anywhere from two to three years.

Mrs. Garcia asked if the computers were accessible to students on the weekends. Dr. Sullivan responded that the labs were usually opened on Saturdays and Sundays but due to recent incidents, it is no longer opened on Saturdays or after 7:00 pm on Sundays (referring to the Pine Street building). Dr. Sullivan stated that there is no control over the building access because anyone can come and go as they please. There is no secure entry into the building. This also includes access to the art and music area.

Mr. Currier stated that the Maintenance Department had priced crash bars for the doors of the art studio and music areas located on the 7th floor, 6th floor (faculty offices) and 5th floor (counseling offices) so the offices can be secured. Mr. Currier stated that a major problem is the lack of security personnel. On the weekend, there are only two security officers on campus until 7:00 a.m. One officer watches the monitors and another walks the campus and visits the old RLB which is almost empty. Mr. Currier stated that once the crash bars are installed, there will be more flexibility for the students to have access to the facilities.

Dr. Sullivan stated that a security problem exists with the old RLB. Teachers' offices have been entered into by students who allegedly have master keys to the offices. The building is not secured but is patrolled by security.

In response to Mr. Lowe's question if state law requires inspections of the cafeteria, Mr. Currier stated that he believed the state required two inspections a year and that the cafeteria has scored high marks when reviewed. Mr. Currier also reported that Ameriserve also has very strict internal reviews that they perform throughout the year.

4. Academic Affairs Board Report – Dr. Janice Sullivan

Dr. Sullivan stated that ten students have withdrawn for various reasons and five students are on academic extensions.

Dr. Sullivan also reported that she attended the board meeting of the NCSSSMST and will be working on two committees, Diversity and Publications, and is currently making changes in the student research guidelines.

Dr. Sullivan stated that retention looks about the same as it did last year at this time.

Dr. Sullivan reported that the Curriculum Review Committee has met and has come to some agreements with proposals of the core curriculum improvements. Dr. Sullivan stated that changes to the calendar have been made creating a summer and winter session. The summer session will focus mostly on transition and remediation, and the winter session (first two weeks in January) will focus on sustainability week projects, travel abroad, research immersion for science fair, etc. Two committees are being created to make proposals and organize activities for these two sessions.

Dr. Sullivan announced that Anne Greenwood is the new Humanities Chairperson. Under her initiative, Dr. Jay P. Greene, Endowed Chair and Head of the Department of Education Reform from the U of A Fayetteville campus, will perform two studies at ASMSA: Grit/Persistence/Values and Arts and Crystal Bridges research.

Director Alderdice stated that partnering with Dr. Greene on the Persistence study is useful in finding out information about non-academic factors working towards student success in a residential school environment. He mentioned that if we can observe the trends from the students about their levels of persistence and work ethic, it could be useful in helping us better understand student success.

Dr. Sullivan reported that seventy seven applicants have been chosen for priority interviews on February 9, 2013. She also stated that there are nine students who are finalists for the National Merit Scholarship.

Dr. Sullivan stated that the Curriculum Committee discussed raising the minimum ACT score to 19 to coincide with the concurrent credit requirement at UALR. Dr. Sullivan stated that the core classes are concurrent classes and have to ensure that the students receive the concurrent credit. Mr. Kratochvil, Admissions Coordinator, stated that raising the ACT score will only affect a minimal amount of students, usually the male applicants.

Director Alderdice added that the students scoring below a 20 are most at-risk and likely will not persist for the full four semesters. Director Alderdice stated that those students who come in with a low ACT are those that will usually squeak by and are most likely to not receive many opportunities for themselves as opposed to them staying at their home school. He stated that he wants to make sure that those students who enroll at ASMSA are well prepared for the experience. Mr. Alderdice stated that he is very concerned about those students who come into ASMSA with a score lower than a 20 ACT of not having the preparation necessary whether it is for the math coursework on which so much of the curriculum hinges or the critical reasoning skills necessary for courses like AMSTUD or the composition courses. He stated that no bottom line exists except for a GPA of 3.25.

Director Alderdice stated that we should set a minimal expectation of what a student should have before entering ASMSA.

Ms. Collier stated that she believed it would be a good idea for the school to partner with an ACT prep program in the state. Mr. Kratochvil stated that ASMSA participates in the Upward Bound Program that typically serves minorities and low income students and they should be receiving some of the prep work through the Upward Bound Programs.

5. Office of Distance Education and Information Technology – Chris Robbins

Mr. Robbins was absent from the meeting. In his absence, Director Alderdice stated that access to Twitter and Tumblr have been opened and YouTube is open in the evenings. Director Alderdice additionally stated that AT&T is making progress on the switch over to the MPLS circuit hopefully giving the institution three times the bandwidth that it currently has at a lower cost.

Mr. Lowe stated that he has been working with the IT Department to set up a way for the Board to meet by video and has access to create email accounts for the domain asmsa.org. Mr. Lowe said that he will follow up with the Board members on an individual basis to give them a user name, password and a walk-through on how to use it. Mr. Lowe reported that there needs to be a way for: a) the Board to meet via video technology and b) allow an open public access and record and save to YouTube in a private folder (but publicly accessible) of the meeting. Mr. Lowe advised the Board that, within the week, they will have an email address of (first name)@asmsa.org and will have it forwarded to the Board member's current email address. Mr. Lowe stated that Information Technology was very helpful in establishing a way to do this.

6. Institutional Advancement – Greg Reed

Mr. Reed reported that his department has launched the Annual Fund and to date has raised 17% of the goal for this year (\$13,322.50) that has been collected since last December.

Mr. Reed stated that online giving is now available and works well.

Mr. Reed introduced, Donnie Sewell, ASMSA's new Public Information Specialist.

Mr. Reed reported that the *Roadshow!* was a great success and congratulated the students, faculty and staff that participated in the presentations. Mr. Reed stated that the next series will continue during the summer that will focus on recruiting and admissions.

Regarding upcoming events, Mr. Reed stated that the Open Book Celebration has been downsized from 500 to 250 guests and that it will be held at the Great Hall of the Clinton Presidential Center. Mr. Reed reported that, to date, ASMSA has received \$30,000 in direct pledges and contributions. The costs of the event are now covered. Mr. Reed stated that on April 25, 2013, they will be meeting with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar at the Hot Springs High Springs High School gymnasium. All Garland County ninth graders have been invited to attend the assembly to listen to Mr. Abdul-Jabbar talk about STEM careers.

Mr. Reed also reported that he is working with the faculty to collect various awards and trophies that the school has received through the years to be showcased in the lobby area.

In response to Mr. Lowe's inquiry as to how many grants have been received since 2012, Mr. Reed stated that he believed 5 grants have been received with a ballpark total of close to \$50,000. Mr. Lowe asked for a breakout of monies that have been pledged and what monies are in the bank.

Mrs. Garcia requested that a rolling total of grants be listed in each of Mr. Reed's report.

Mr. Reed made a clarification stating that the Board of Ambassadors is a fundraising board for the ASMSA Foundation. Mr. Reed stated that he is still in the process of putting the board together that will be comprised of influential and powerful people across the state.

Mr. Lowe asked Mr. Reed to call the former Ambassadors, along with people who previously have shown an interest in fundraising for ASMSA, to see if they would be interested in continuing their efforts to raise money for ASMSA. Mr. Reed agreed to Mr. Lowe's request.

7. Parents Association – Sandra and Tom Gilmore

In the absence of Martha Carlson, Sandra and Tom Gilmore, who are statewide parent outreach representatives, were present to give the Parents Association report. Mr. Gilmore stated that he currently does not have an active student at ASMSA but is a parent of a graduate. Mr. Gilmore stated that at the time his daughter attended ASMSA, the Parents Association had no infrastructure and limited communication. Mr. Gilmore stated that all of that has changed now and he and Mrs. Gilmore plan to continue to be involved. Mr. Gilmore stated that Facebook is used as a primary tool for engaging the Parents Association and alumni and it is working successfully.

Mrs. Gilmore stated that there are two key leadership roles that are now filled indefinitely. Mrs. Gilmore reported Bill Royals will take on the championship role for open houses, and Dana Blush will be the champion for interviewing. Mrs. Gilmore stated that it is very important for parents to be prepared for what their child will experience at ASMSA. She also reported that Chris and Pam Carver have stepped up to be campus champions for the next year. Pam Carver is the Northeast Executive Director of the American Red Cross.

Mr. Lowe congratulated the Gilmore's on their success with the Parents Association.

8. Student Government Association – Sorena Lo

Miss Lo stated that the SGA was excited to work with the Parents Association and to do a class t-shirt and thanked them for getting the shirts for the students.

Miss Lo reported that two bills were presented to add an amendment to the Constitution to enact a dress code for General Assemblies and also the Val-O-Grams bill to sell Val-O-Grams during the week of Valentine's Day. Both bills had passed.

Miss Lo also stated that the Vice President had met with the new Public Information Specialist (Donnie Sewell) to update the SGA page on the website.

The SGA is hoping for two more major events before the senior trip at the end of the year.

