

MINUTES
ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES AND THE ARTS
BOARD OF VISITORS REGULAR MEETING

March 7, 2016

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, Vice Chair
 Dr. Cynthia Miller, Secretary
 Mr. Gary Dowdy
 Mr. Steve Faris
 Mrs. Donna Hutchison
 Mr. William Watson

Members Absent

Ms. Ann Xu

Ex-Officio Members Present

Mary Kathryn Stein, Ed.D.,
 Arkansas Department of Education
 Miss Ashlynn Haller, Treasurer,
 Student Government Association

Ex-Officio Members Absent

Designee for Brett Powell, Director, Arkansas
 Department of Higher Education
 Designee for Tim Atkinson, Ph.D., President,
 Arkansas Science and Technology Authority
 Mrs. Amanda Nall, President, Parents Association
 Ms. Joy Pennington, designee for Stacy Hurst, Director,
 Department of Arkansas Heritage

Administrative Members Present

Mr. Corey Alderdice, Director
 Mrs. Ashley Smith, Director of Finance
 Mr. William Currier, Dean of Students
 Mr. Bob Gregory, Dean of Academic Affairs
 Ms. Laquilla Jones, Admissions Counselor
 Mrs. Vicki Hinz, Director of Institutional Advancement
 Mrs. Lorraine Munroe, Administrative Assistant

Administrative Members Absent

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Faris and seconded by Mrs. Hutchison to approve the minutes of December 7, 2015. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Director's Comments – Corey Alderdice

Director Alderdice reported that the beginning of the fiscal session of the 90th General Assembly is drawing near. He and Mrs. Smith will be attending the preliminary budget hearings the following day at the Capitol. He stated that Governor Hutchinson is expected to unveil his proposed budget that includes the continuation of the private option which is being restylized as Arkansas Works. Director Alderdice reported that if the private option is not continued as Arkansas Works, it will create at least a \$100 million budget gap in the state budget for the coming year. Director Alderdice stated that in his conversation with the System office, they stated that Director Powell from ADHE has prepared some analysis on what higher eds' cuts might look like. He reported that if the \$100 million deficit is created and higher ed carries the proposed burden, it will result in approximately a 9% reduction in RSA funding in general revenues. Director Alderdice continued stating for ASMSA, it would reflect a \$102,000 reduction in RSA and an estimated net loss of \$20,000 in state funding for the next fiscal year. Director Alderdice reiterated that this is reflective in the event that the private option is not continued as Arkansas Works. The reduction of \$102,000 would return ASMSA to FY09 levels. Director Alderdice reported that all of higher ed will be watching the news regarding the continuation of the private option as Arkansas Works.

Director Alderdice reported that changes were made to the appropriation bill for the coming year that has taken into account the needs for the CIC project, specifically additional appropriation. He stated that he has asked for three changes in appropriation: increase of \$400,000 in professional fees and services, increase of \$1.5 million for construction and an increase of \$475,000 towards loans or reimbursements. Director Alderdice reported that ASMSA cannot use general revenues for debt service. He stated that \$475,000 is the upward ceiling of what ASMSA can manage in annual debt for the facility (the goal is closer to \$375,000).

Regarding the Creativity and Innovation Complex (CIC Building), Director Alderdice visited with System officials about the process of moving forward with the CIC Complex. He reported that initially the System office stated that ASMSA would be able to piggyback onto an academic facility bond issue in the spring. However, System officials changed their thought that ASMSA would be best to pursue ASMSA's request on an athletic facility bond issue that would likely be the stadium expansion proposal. The bond will likely be floated sometime this fall at the earliest. Director Alderdice stated that the goal is to then issue the RFP for the selection of architects and contractors. He reported that the institution has the funds to do that now thanks to the general improvement investment from the Governor. He is hopeful to get the approval item on the May Board agenda so that the design work could begin in earnest. Director Alderdice reported that the goal is to be shovel ready with the project as close as possible once the financing issue has been resolved by the System office.

Director Alderdice reported that the PSAT scores were received at the beginning of January for the Class of 2017 and is very impressed with the overall results of this class of students. He stated that the College Board made some changes to the PSAT this year. He reported that the Index for National Merit Semi-Finalist has typically been between 204 and 206 in previous years and is expecting that number to shift a bit. Director Alderdice stated that the breakpoint looks like it will be 210 or 211. If this is true, he said that it looks like ASMSA will have approximately 20-21 students who in their senior year next year will qualify as National Merit Semi-Finalists. This year the senior class had 7 students.

Mrs. Hutchison asked Director Alderdice about his participation in a Higher Ed Task Force conversation about performance-based funding.

Director Alderdice stated that the conclusion that he believes the Committee will reach and the recommendation they will make to Higher Ed is that performance-based funding for non-formula entities will be difficult. He stated that Tennessee recently undertook a study of performance-based funding across higher ed and the conclusion that their legislature reached was that trying to map those structures did not make much sense given the unique structure and operation of each non-formula unit. Director Alderdice stated that based on his research, the only peer institution that has some performance metrics in their appropriation bill is the Louisiana school, and then it is unclear as to how the numbers would map. He stated that if one looks at the metrics for the two-year and four-year institutions, it is about degree production, student persistence and credentials in specific fields.

Director Alderdice reported that First Lady Hutchinson politely declined the invitation to speak at graduation. He stated he will extend an invitation to Kristi Crum, Regional President of Verizon who had spoken at a STEM Coalition meeting but has been called to D.C. for some legislative advocacy work. Director Alderdice reported that the next option will be to pursue a female CEO in a highly important field with a large employer in the State with a STEM discipline.

Director Alderdice stated that he will notify the Chair who has been chosen to speak at graduation. He reminded the Board that Commencement will be held on May 21 at 2:00 pm but to show up early in order to prepare for Commencement.

2. Academic Affairs Board Report – Bob Gregory

Mr. Gregory stated that the FIRM process had just concluded and the performance of the students was complimentary. He reported that three students qualified for the International Science Fair that will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, this year, and the State Science Fair will be held the first weekend of April.

Mr. Gregory stated that students are getting ready for spring break with 18 students going to Italy and 12 students going to Spain. Mr. Gregory reported that there were six National Merit Finalists this year. He stated that ASMSA has received a five year \$50,000 grant from the Confucius Institute to establish a Confucius Classroom dedicated to Chinese language and culture.

Mr. Gregory stated that at National Park College the Arkansas Council of Teachers of Math Competition tests were given from Algebra I through Calculus. He reported that ASMSA competed and swept the pre-Calculus I, II and III tests, and an ASMSA student won 2nd place in Calculus.

Mr. Gregory also reported that at the same time, ASMSA had 3 Computer Science teams that competed in the Hewlett Packard “Code Wars” and won first, second and third place. The ASMSA VEX Robotics team was one of 28 teams that competed in Monticello on February 6th. The team qualified for the State Championship at Arkansas Tech.

Chair Battle asked about the loss of six students since the December 2015 meeting.

Dean Gregory reported that, at the present time, the count is down to 100. He stated that traditionally, going into FIRM, there are students who do not put forth the effort to complete the graduation requirement and decide to withdraw. Two of the four students who withdrew were seniors. Mr. Gregory stated that the losses were related to grades. Dean Gregory discussed the resilience of many students who do complete their projects.

Dean Gregory reported that three students were going to the International Science Fair: Taryn Imamura, whose project was using rice hulls to make biofuels; Samia Ismail had developed four processes in order to deliver cancer agents, and Mikayla Hammers who was looking into the syndrome of hair pulling and found a gene sequence that may determine if a person is prone to the syndrome.

Dean Gregory also mentioned that for the first time this year, there is an Art SRS (Senior Research Symposium) that includes outstanding art and art portfolios. The students also created documentary films as well as creative writing portfolios. Dean Gregory stated that the Humanities faculty is very excited about getting the students into the art mode and seeing their extremely creative work.

Dean Gregory stated that he and Director Alderdice had a meeting with the UALR Provost to explore connection between the institutions. Dean Gregory reported that he was looking for a 1000 to 2000 level match for the Comic Book class, and UALR has a staff member who teaches a senior-level course. He stated that ASMSA is looking for other appropriate 3000 level course matches to expand college credit offerings. He stated that it has the same type of pricing and rules that apply for that course and are now looking at other ways to make connections.

Director Alderdice reported that part of the initial goal of the conversation was discussing how the relationship between UALR and ASMSA is different from the relationship they have with Bryant, Little Rock Central, or some of the other partners. He stated that if the relationship is redefined by looking at new ways to partner, it potentially opens up some doors. Director Alderdice also stated that UALR also grants a fair amount of flexibility and autonomy in how ASMSA constructs the overall courses. Director Alderdice reported that Dean Gregory is insistent with UALR that ASMSA faculty has the final say on the content.

Faculty members Ron Luckow and Mary Leigh, in addition to a UALR member, are working as a team teaching the Comic Book course.

At this time, Chair Battle welcomed new Board member, Gary Dowdy. Mr. Dowdy presented a short bio of himself to the Board.

3. Residential Affairs Report – William Currier

Mr. Currier stated that at the start of the spring semester, Juniors are able to apply for privileges. They must have a weighted average of 3.25 for the last nine weeks in order to apply.

Mr. Currier reported that two Residential Mentors attended and represented ASMSA at the SWACUHO Regional Conference that took place in Waco, Texas.

Food Service Director, Beth Jaeschke, has been out on Family Leave. Interim Director, Hannah Rivera has replaced Ms. Jaeschke for an undetermined amount of time. It has been challenging, but so far all is going well.

Mr. Currier stated that the nurse and a few residential mentors have participated in mental health programs in Arkadelphia. The Counseling Department also attended the sessions as well. Mr. Currier reported that attendance in the sessions has been a great benefit to the student body.

4. Admissions and Public Affairs – Laquilla Jones

Mrs. Laquilla Jones, admission's recruiter, delivered a report in Valerie Carpenter's absence. Mrs. Jones reported that there are 402 students that have started their applications, with 242 students who have completed their applications, which is a 20% increase over last year's submissions. Mrs. Jones reported that the applications are currently being reviewed, and the goal is to get the acceptance letters in the mail before spring break. Mrs. Jones stated that of the Project Helix students that attended last summer, 19 students have taken ACT in December.

Mrs. Jones stated that the Arts Focus Weekend promoting arts opportunities was great. She also reported that the SEI @ Monticello and French Focus Weekends were postponed due to the weather but have been rescheduled to be held at Pine Bluff on April 9th.

Mrs. Jones stated that there were over 100 people who attended the last Preview Day in February. She reported that after the Preview Weekend, many students had gone home to start their applications.

Mrs. Jones reported that the Computer Science weekend was such a success in October that another weekend was held in February. Mr. Daniel Moix who presented the workshop received much positive feedback from the students.

Mrs. Jones also stated that she will be presenting at *Girls of Promise* on March 11th, and on March 16th and 17th her department will be attending the EAST Conference in Hot Springs.

Mr. Watson stated that at the next meeting he would appreciate receiving data on the 20% increase in applications that would include demographic information on the applicants. This should include the student's city, county, if they are from the Delta region, etc. He asked if a snapshot of information for the last couple of years can be provided at the next meeting.

Mrs. Jones stated that she is presently working on a spreadsheet that includes the counties, where the applicants are from, whether they qualify for free or reduced lunch, their ACT and how many times they had taken the ACT. She reported that the information will be shared with the Director soon.

5. Institutional Advancement – Vicki Hinz

Mrs. Hinz stated that Community Leader interviews were being concluded. Mrs. Hinz stated that the total gifts listed on the report went from \$198,161 to \$202,900. Regarding the Alumni Campaign, Mrs. Hinz reported that the largest alum donation received to date, \$50,000, is from the Dan Fredinburg Foundation that was started by the Fredinburg family. Mr. Fredinburg, who graduated from ASMS in 1999, was killed in the earthquake on Mt.

Everest in April 2015. The Innovation Lab in the new Creativity and Innovation Complex will be named after Dan Fredinburg. Mrs. Hinz stated that the Community of Learning Luncheon, named Inspiration Meets Innovation, will be held on April 1st and the Fredinburg family will be thanked at that time for their generous donation. The luncheon is scheduled to be held at the Arlington Hotel in the Crystal Ballroom. Mrs. Hinz stated that she hopes all the Board members will attend. Mrs. Hinz had distributed the luncheon invitations to the Board members prior to the meeting. She had asked the Board members that if they know of anyone who would benefit by attending to please contact her and let her know that they are attending with guests.

Mrs. Hinz reported that ArkansasGives is scheduled for April 7th. She stated that it is a day set aside for people to donate to a charity of their choice. Mrs. Hinz stated that during the one-day event, each donation that is made will help the contributor's favorite nonprofit organizations and qualify for additional bonus dollars from the Arkansas Community Foundation. All participating nonprofits will receive a portion of a pool of bonus dollars provided by the Arkansas Community Foundation; the more money a nonprofit raises, the more of the bonus dollars it will receive.

Mrs. Hinz reported that the ASMSA Trustees Service Fellowship has been created to provide financial assistance to a rising senior who plans to conduct a summer service learning project.

Mrs. Hinz reviewed the "Mark Your Calendar" dates for events that will be held in the coming months at ASMSA.

6. Financial Report – Ashley Smith

Mrs. Smith introduced herself to the Board as the new Director of Finance. Mrs. Smith presented her 10 year work bio with ASMSA.

Mrs. Smith reviewed her report to the Board. Mrs. Smith stated that the Quarterly and Budget reports have been submitted indicating that the school is on target and on track on percentage of budget for the fiscal year.

Mrs. Smith reported that she is in the process of reviewing resumes for the Assistant Director of Finance position.

7. Parents Association – Mrs. Amanda Nall

Mrs. Nall was not present and there was no representative at the meeting.

8. Student Government Association – Ashlynn Haller

Miss Ashlynn Haller, Treasurer of SGA, filled in for president Rex Hearn.

Miss Haller informed the Board that the SGA had sold Krispy Kreme donuts in January. The proceeds of the fundraiser were delegated to the SGA account fund for future events held by the SGA.

The winter formal was held on January 9th with a great turnout.

Miss Haller reported that three committees were formed to discuss dress code, late nights and the cafeteria menu. Miss Haller reported that much work was put into revising the dress code since the current dress code is very vague. Regarding the dress code, Miss Haller stated that the committee has been working on draft revisions and has been in discussions with Director Alderdice and Dean Currier.

The Late Night Committee has been reviewing the policies of other residential schools' late night policies and sleep studies. Surveys have been conducted, and a policy is in the process of being completed.

The third subcommittee dealt with the quality and variety of food in the cafeteria. The committee is actively collecting recipes for healthier options such as preferences for baked food over fried, and to have more vegetarian options.

Miss Haller reported that students had a FIRM Bash where students burned their abstracts.

Miss Haller also stated that the Activities Committee sponsored a "Vall-o-gram" for Valentine's Day. The Committee also purchased a new basketball goal that was installed behind the Fitness Center.

Miss Haller reported that the date for the Senior trip has been set for April 30th. The destination has not yet been determined.

A motion was made by Mr. Watson and seconded by Mrs. Hutchison to accept approval of the Consent Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Miller reported that she had misspoke at the December meeting stating that 20% of pregnant students were from her daughter's 2013 graduating class. Dr. Miller stated that 20% included three graduating ASMSA classes of 2012, 2013 and 2014 (6.7% of each class).

VI. NEW BUSINESS

No new business to report.

VII. AUDIENCE WITH INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS

No request or comment from an individual or group.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Mr. Faris and seconded by Mr. Watson to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Approved as written _____

Approved as amended _____

Dr. Cynthia Miller
Cynthia Miller, Ph.D., Secretary

5/9/16
(Date)