

MINUTES
ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES AND THE ARTS
BOARD OF VISITORS REGULAR MEETING
May 14, 2018
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 4:00 p.m. and welcomed all Board members.

II. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Members Present

Mr. Hayward Battle, Chair
 Mr. Timothy Barnes, Secretary
 Mr. Brian Reed
 Mr. Todd West

Members Absent

Ms. Ann Xu
 Mr. Gary Dowdy
 Mr. Steve Faris, Vice Chair

Ex-Officio Members Present

Mr. Tom Chilton, Director, Arkansas
 Economic Development Commission,
 Division of Science and Technology
 Mr. Patrick Ralston, designee for Stacy
 Hurst, Director, Department of Arkansas Heritage
 Mr. Zane Colvin, President, Student Government
 Association

Ex-Officio Members Absent

Maria Markham, Ph.D., Director,
 Arkansas Department of Higher Education
 Mary Kathryn Stein, Ed.D., designee for
 Johnny Key, Commissioner, Arkansas
 Department of Education

Administrative Members Present

Mr. Corey Alderdice, Director
 Rheo Morris, Ph.D., Dean of Students
 Mrs. Vicki Hinz, Director of Institutional
 Advancement
 Mrs. Marta Collier-Youngblood, ASMSA Foundation
 Executive Director
 Mrs. Lorraine Munroe, Administrative Assistant

Administrative Members Absent

Mr. Bob Gregory, Dean of Academic Affairs
 Ms. Valerie Carpenter, Director of Admissions
 Mrs. Ashley Smith, Director of Finance

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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Since the February 22, 2018, meeting was in recess due to the lack of a quorum, the Chair resumed the February meeting. A motion was made by Mr. West and seconded by Mr. Reed to adjourn the February 22, 2018, meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Battle stated that the May 14, 2018, meeting was now in session.

A motion was made by Mr. Barnes and seconded by Mr. Reed to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2018, meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Director's Comments – Corey Alderdice

Director Alderdice advised the Board on the progress of the Creativity and Innovation Complex. He reported that the project remains on time and on budget and, if all continues to go well, he expects the building to be completed at the end of October or in early November. Director Alderdice reported that the Harris Architects team and Seale Construction have done a terrific job on the project and is very pleased with the progress. Director Alderdice reported that the total budget scope remains at \$4.7 million.

Director Alderdice stated that it is important to budget for capital needs on campus. He reported that the \$4 million in institutional money that has gone into the CIC is equivalent to the amount of money needed to finish out on the Student Center over the same period of time. Director Alderdice stated that the financial obligations for the Student Center has been completed.

Director Alderdice reported that he did not receive the private gift that was discussed at the previous meeting toward the Fine Arts Building. He stated that he was encouraged to submit a program grant in November 2018 and feels that it is important to cultivate a relationship with that group and demonstrate that there is a tangible commitment to the Arts at ASMSA. Director Alderdice stated that, for the time being, he will continue with the purchase of the doctors' office property behind the Administration building. He stated that he believes it is still a good investment in protecting the buffer around our campus facilities. Director Alderdice reported that he is beginning to explore additional possibilities for five-year loan programs.

Director Alderdice reported that the institution is going into budgeting season and stated that he did receive a fiscal forecast from DFA. He stated that, as early as December of last year, the Department of Finance and Administration was planning a 3.5% increase in EETF funding. He stated that he is assuming a 2.5% increase, which is more consistent with actual sales and use tax collections as of March 2018. He reported that he has worked with Dr. Leigh and the Governing Council on a study of faculty salaries. Based on the Council's report, salary updates have been made to the base salary structure for the faculty: \$50,000 for a master's degree, \$53,000 for a doctoral degree; Faculty in the \$50,000-\$60,000 range will receive a 4% increase in salary. Faculty earning above \$60,000 will receive a 2% increase in salary. Director Alderdice reported that he worked with Dr. Morris in reviewing Residential Mentor salaries and discovered that of the four residential STEM schools, ASMSA was the lowest. Based on those findings, Residential Mentor salaries will go from \$20,000 to \$25,000. The remainder of the employees will receive a 2% increase.

Director Alderdice reported that there is one Admission's Counselor position open and adding a new second shift Student Life Office Assistant that will start August 1st. This will prioritize more time for the Residential Mentors to be directly engaged with students rather than on process and operational items.

In response to Chairman Battle's question regarding difficulty in filling positions for faculty and staff, Director Alderdice stated that there were many applications for the music and art positions but the Student Life positions have been the most difficult to fill. He stated that he believed the salary offered at \$20,000 was a big part of the problem (now raised to \$25,000) and travel distance for graduate study. He stated that 90% remission of tuition, full benefits, retirement and housing is provided. In answer to Chairman Battle's question about a tuition reimbursement program, Director Alderdice responded stating that there is an existing program that is available on any of the System campuses. Because ASMSA is not on its own four-year campus, all employees are able to declare their own campus and receive 90% remission on those campuses. If someone decides to take a course at a campus that is not their home campus, the tuition drops down to 50%. Director Alderdice stated that the doctoral, law and executive programs do not apply to the discounts. Director Alderdice stated that the tuition program discount is available to all employees as one of ASMSA's core benefits.

2. Academic Affairs Board Report – Corey Alderdice (for Bob Gregory)

Director Alderdice stated that Mr. Gregory was out of town with a group of students who were participating in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Pittsburgh, PA. He stated that there are seven entries in the competition, and ten total students, which is the largest group ASMSA has sent to the competition.

Director Alderdice stated that the student retention has been consistent from the February 2018 meeting.

He commended the work of both the Admissions and Outreach staffs on the summer programs. He stated that the institution received over 150 applicants for the one-week programs. Director Alderdice reported that there has been a shift more towards a program for rising sophomores by getting them into the admissions funnel for their application year, which gives them a more in-depth experience with ASMSA. He stated that there are approximately 20 students who participated in a summer camp that are matriculating as juniors this fall. Director Alderdice stated that there were 80 applicants for the Biomedical Institute alone. He stated that ASMSA will be able to offer two iterations of the Institute in 2019.

Director Alderdice stated that there will be 106 students graduating this year.

In response to the question posed by Mr. Reed about the percentage of students that choose to stay in the state, Director Alderdice stated that last year's group was approximately 72% and the five-year average is about 70% of students staying in state.

3. Residential Affairs Report – Dr. Rheo Morris

Dr. Morris stated that there are some programs that will be going on before the students leave. She stated that the Wacky Awards will be held on May 16 which is one of the more fun programs for the students. She also reported that the late night breakfast will be taking place on May 21st.

Dr. Morris reported that Staci Stich, the new Licensed Professional Counselor, has now started in her position. The students are happy, and she is trying to find her balance and frequency of her duties.

Dr. Morris stated that Alladin Food Service displayed a very nice vendor presentation and final paperwork is being completed to renew their contract. Alladin has been receptive to the concerns of the institution, and it is believed that they will be responsive to the suggested changes as the new year starts. Although it is unofficial, the institution is comfortable in moving forward to accept their bid.

4. Admissions – Corey Alderdice (for Valerie Carpenter)

In Miss Carpenter's absence, Director Alderdice gave the Admission's report. Director Alderdice reported that 173 students have been interviewed out of 255 applications. Currently, the average ACT score is 26 and believes that it will shift a bit higher when the June/July scores are reported. Director Alderdice stated that the 37% free or reduced lunch is slightly higher than reported in the past at this stage. He stated that he thought he would see an increase in male applicants and hoped to see an increase in the representation of 45-50 counties presented in a given cycle. He stated the representation is a bit under the geographic representation but is still a very strong group.

5. Institutional Advancement Board Report – Vicki Hinz

Mrs. Hinz introduced Mrs. Marta Collier-Youngblood who is Mrs. Hinz replacement and the new Foundation Executive Director. She stated that Mrs. Collier-Youngblood started in her new position May 1st and was a former Ex-Officio on the Board.

Mrs. Hinz stated that back in March she was hopeful to reach \$500,000 at the close of the fiscal year. She reported that it currently appears that the school will reach closer to \$650,000. Mrs. Hinz stated that there have been some outstanding pledges and grants that have been confirmed but have not been received at this time.

Mrs. Hinz thanked those Board members who attended the Community of Learning Luncheon, which was a total success. She stated that the goal was \$30,000 and contributions reached \$30,533. Mrs. Hinz thanked Mr. West for all he did with the Walmart STEM group and his involvement with helping the institution.

Mrs. Hinz reported that an Alumni "Leave Your Mark" Campaign was started on April 15, a campaign where bricks with a contributor's name on it and other naming opportunities are available for Alumni Plaza as part of the CIC. Mrs. Hinz reported that the alumni have stepped up tremendously in response to the campaign. The total raised to date is \$37,000 and will continue to the end of May.

6. Financial Report – Corey Alderdice (for Ashley Smith)

Director Alderdice gave the Financial Report for Ashley Smith. Director Alderdice reported that collections are on target as well as the budget for the year. He stated that Mrs. Smith has been working on preparing the FY19 budget. He reported that until a budget forecast is received, he has to assume a flat forecast, which means that there are several versions of the budget at any one time. He reported that a better way to "read" the budget is that he knows the actual sales and use tax collections are higher than previous fiscal year. He said that he could base the internal planning on that but, until DFA makes a forecast for the institution, he cannot do so. Director Alderdice reported that a preliminary forecast has stated a 3.5% increase, but a buffer has been put on contingencies should funding come in under forecast. In that event, if the budget has to be reduced in August, adjustments can be made without having to make any

cuts. All the salary increases that were previously discussed in the meeting will take place for FY19, and will take effect July 1st for 12 month employees and August 1st for 10 month employees.

7. Student Government Association – Zane Colvin

Mr. Colvin introduced the new Student Government President, Alex Kaye, to the Board.

Mr. Colvin reported that elections were held for the new Executive Board. The goal for the current Executive Board is to assist in the transition of power from the old E-Board to the new and to aid in creating a plan for the next year.

Mr. Colvin stated that FIRM Bash was held following FIRM week. He reported that it is a great de-stresser and is a fun and popular event.

Mr. Colvin stated that the senior trip took place on May 3rd at Lake DeGray and the students enjoyed the many fun activities that took place.

The SGA Executive Board for the following year was elected. The SGA committees have also been working hard in the last few months. The Mental Health Committee is very pleased with the new counselor, Staci Stich. They have held meetings with Mrs. Stich to discuss plans for next year and to determine the best course of action for future programs and mental health events.

The Student Affairs Committee has also approved new amendments to the Handbook Committee. They have also discussed the Lights Out policy on campus.

The Food Service Committee has also held bi-weekly meetings with Chef Hannah throughout the semester, and has worked with the administration to negotiate the Food Service Contract in ways that will benefit the student body.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Director Alderdice stated that he is working through the final logistics with the First Lady's office for graduation. Director Alderdice once again advised the Board members that Commencement was on May 26th at Horner Hall at the Hot Springs Convention Center. He encouraged the members to arrive around 1:15 pm. Commencement starts at 2:00 p.m.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Director Alderdice proposed the following dates for next year's Board meetings: September 24, 2018, December 3, 2018, February 21, 2019 (which aligns with the Science Fair) and May 6, 2019. Chairman Battle asked Board members to make a note that the next meeting will be September 24th.

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. Barnes and seconded by Mr. Reed to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Approved as written _____

Approved as amended _____



Mr. Timothy Barnes, Secretary



(Date)