

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

March 7, 2022

5:00 p.m.

The Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts (ASMSA) Board of Visitors met virtually via Zoom.

I. CALL TO ORDER

In the absence of Mr. Barnes, Mr. Reed convened the Board of Visitors regular meeting into open session at 5:06 p.m. and welcomed all Board members.

II. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Members Present

Mr. Timothy Barnes, Chair (5:40 p.m.)
 Mr. Brian Reed, Secretary
 Mr. Gary Dowdy
 Ms. Mary Alice Chambers
 Marlene Battle ('97), Pharm.D.
 Mrs. Mary Zunick

Members Absent

Mr. Todd West, Vice-Chair

Ex-Officio Members Present

Mrs. Amy Stvartak ('11), Chair of
 Association of Alumni and Friends
 Ms. Jennifer Fowler ('04), Director, Arkansas
 National Science Foundation EPSCoR
 Mrs. Krystal Nail, Program Director,
 Division of Elementary & Secondary
 Education Learning Services, Office
 of Gifted and Talented Placement
 Mrs. Whitney Moore, President, Governing Council
 Traci French, M.D., Chair, Parents Advisory Council
 Ms. Claire Green, ('22) President, Student Government
 Association

Ex-Officio Members Absent

Mr. Patrick Ralston, Director, Arkansas
 Arts Council
 Maria Markham, Ph.D., Director,
 Arkansas Division of Higher Education

Administrative Members Present

Mr. Corey Alderdice, Director
 Stuart Flynn, J.D., Dean of Academic Affairs
 Rheo Morris, Ph.D., Dean of Students
 Mx. Charlene Feick, Director of Admissions
 Sara Brown, Ph.D., Director of Institutional Advancement
 Mrs. Whitney Moore, Interim Director of Finance
 Mrs. Lorraine Munroe, Administrative Assistant

Administrative Members Absent

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

In the absence of Chairman Barnes at the beginning of the meeting, Secretary, Mr. Reed, called the meeting to order, stated that a quorum had been established, and asked for a motion to approve the December 06, 2021, minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Dowdy and seconded by Dr. Battle to approve the minutes of the December meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Director Alderdice welcomed everyone and reported that ASMSA is in the home stretch of the still unusual Covid year. He reported that the University of the Arkansas Board of Trustees and the System Administration has made a recommendation to ease back a variety of Covid protocols. Director Alderdice stated that the recent guidance from the Board of Trustees did request that all campuses going forward should move to masks being optional. Director Alderdice complimented the students, stating that they have been exceptional leaders throughout the Covid pandemic. Director Alderdice stated that he had the pleasure of being a guest lecturer in composition classes recently, and the overwhelming majority of the students in the classrooms were still continuing to wear masks. He reported that he was proud that they continued to exhibit the shared responsibility and commitment that has been part of ASMSA's messaging throughout the pandemic. Should the need present itself to reconsider ASMSA's policies, the Covid Workgroup will re-evaluate the situation.

Director Alderdice reported that the work continues on the Chapel and Convent renovations and remains on schedule. With it being a historic renovation, there are a variety of change orders that are being looked at cautiously on the budget. Director Alderdice stated that he believes it will come down to the wire, July or early August for completion. He reported that the stained glass window that will be a signature feature of the renovated Chapel is being installed at this time.

Director Alderdice reported that there is a design group for the new Administration Building. One of his priorities is always to have as much cross-campus involvement in these design projects, particularly from the folks who will be utilizing and benefiting from the new building. Director Alderdice stated that the space will move most of the administrative functions from the current Academic and Administration Building. He continued stating that the project also addresses some of the long-term campus ADA accessibility challenges. He envisions the space as a hub for the campus both during the day and after hours. Director Alderdice reported that it will include conference rooms, soft landing spaces, a flexible use Board room on the ground floor. The facility will be a nice intersection point between the academic and residential communities. He stated that it is his hope -- if all goes well -- the completion will be done by the end of calendar year 2023 as part of the 30th Anniversary of the school.

Director Alderdice reported that the Fiscal Session of the General Assembly will be wrapping up on March 8, 2022. He stated that budget numbers look promising for the year with sales and use tax collections, which make up the majority of ASMSA's funding. Director Alderdice reported that looking at the budget planning for the next year, there are some specific opportunities for continued investment in programs and staffing.

Speaking of staffing, Director Alderdice called attention to some employment opportunities in the reports, notably, three faculty searches. Also included are two hybrid-Administrative positions – an Associate Dean for STEM and an Associate Dean for Arts and Humanities. Director Alderdice also stated that last year a search was conducted for an Associate Dean for Curriculum and Instruction but it resulted in a failed search. After that process, Dean Flynn and Director Alderdice took a bit of time to reflect what was learned through that process and to look for ways to broaden the search out with some attention to creating additional pathways for faculty to be promoted from within. He continued stating that the other additional position is a Coordinator for Scholar Development which completes the multi-year transformation of our Counseling program on campus, which will in the fall have a team of six individuals in three domains: Mental Health, Advising and Intervention, as well as Scholar Development. Director Alderdice reported that the Coordinator for Scholar Development is to bring all the pieces of the profile together in the student's sophomore and junior years so that they are ready to hit the ground running when it comes to their senior year and college admissions. Director Alderdice stated that the Search Committees are busy.

Director Alderdice announced that Whitney Moore, who was serving at the Interim Director of Finance, has been selected to be the next Director of Finance at ASMSA. Her replacement has also been hired and will start on March 14th.

Mrs. Zunick thanked Director Alderdice for the wonderful letter pertaining to Helen Selig, who had passed away recently. Mrs. Zunick stated that she was so instrumental at ASMSA, as well as across Hot Springs, and touched so many people in so many different ways. She said that Director Alderdice had shared her impact on people who were not familiar with her work.

Director Alderdice thanked Mrs. Zunick and stated that, over the last summer as ASMSA crossed the threshold from 30 years of the school's creation and gearing up for the formal celebration in 2023, Donnie Sewell and Lorraine Munroe did some great work to consolidate the various pockets of institutional history that have been spread throughout campus. They worked during the summer to dive deep into the many things that took place to make the campus a reality past the legislative stage. There were few people more prominent in that discussion than Helen Selig.

Mr. Reed thanked Director Alderdice for his report. Mr. Reed recognized Dr. Patrycja Krakowiak to present the Faculty Advancement Plan to the Board.

Director Alderdice stated that one of the things that he has enjoyed over the last couple of years with these Board of Visitors sessions has been to bring in various campus stakeholders to discuss work that has been happening on campus - to highlight their programs and experiences. Director Alderdice reported that after two years, one of the two major lifts out of the Faculty and Staff Governing Council has been the Faculty Advancement Plan. He continued stating that the Board might recall from last year's legislative session that the amendments to our enabling legislation did two things: one, it ensured that all campus stakeholder groups have representation among Board of Visitors as Ex-Officios; second, it also made a tweak to the enabling language that would allow

ASMSA to consider a program of faculty promission that recognized both longevity and service as well as exceptional commitment to the many facets of the ASMSA mission.

Director Alderdice reported that this year Dr. Krakowiak stepped forward and has done an exceptional job bringing that discussion to fruition to advocate for her colleagues on campus and build an incredible and equitable system that will continue to move ASMSA forward. Director Alderdice then introduced Dr. Krakowiak to the Board.

Dr. Krakowiak thanked Director Alderdice and the Board for their attention to her presentation. She stated that it has been a long, hard process working with the stakeholders to bring it all together. Dr. Krakowiak presented an overview of the proposal and rubric for the meeting. Dr. Krakowiak stated that the plan itself is optional, that it is not punitive, and it is a reward system and teachers can take advantage of or not.

Dr. Krakowiak stated that the rubric is open and transparent. She reported that it was designed to inform the faculty their chance for obtaining it because it is based on a point system and as long as they are honest and truthful -- and the evidence is there to support it -- they should be able to be promoted. Dr. Krakowiak reported that it is not subjective. She stated that in the event that a faculty member does not advance to a new rank, there is a clear path forward on exactly what they need to do to advance.

After Dr. Krakowiak's presentation, Director Alderdice added a few comments that have been asked. First, he stated how the school will pay for it because it will represent at least a \$150,000 annual investment. He stated that it will be rolled into next year's fiscal year budget for this project and will be ready for immediate implementation. Director Alderdice reported that he made the commitment working on this project and will be good to go once he gets the approval. The approval must be done at the UA System level. It has been looked at by Dr. Moore, Dr. Bobbitt, and a few different lawyers and have recently run into those theoretical discussions about Board Policy 405.1 which basically states that promotions should not be based on any particular period of time. Director Alderdice stated that there is some discussion as to whether that policy applies to ASMSA. He stated that he hoped to get some clarification from Dr. Bobbitt when he meets with him the next day. Director Alderdice reported that the Faculty Advancement Plan and individual promotions are subject to the Board of Trustees approval.

Mr. Reed thanked Dr. Krakowiak for her presentation of the Faculty Advancement Plan and also Director Alderdice for his input stating that it is no small feat to try to implement such a plan.

Being the next item on the Agenda, Mr. Reed asked for the Student Government Association report.

Ms. Green reported that two new students have been appointed to the Covid workgroup. Ms. Green stated that the Wellness Committee is planning a meditation nature walk in honor of the late Dr. Ruhle, who was a fan of meditation and our National Park.

Ms. Green also stated that the Student Affairs Committee is planning a big end-of-the-year event. The Student Affairs Committee has a considerable amount of money and is hoping to plan a great event where the students can have a lot of fun.

Ms. Green reported that the Food Committee is continuing the composting project with the cafeteria in conjunction with the senior Research in the Park class.

Ms. Green stated that the President's Council is planning different fundraisers for clubs. She reported that they are brainstorming ways for clubs to be able to conduct fundraising events.

Mr. Reed thanked Ms. Green for her report and asked for the Parents Association to present their report.

Dr. French reported that the biggest goal to date is keeping parents up to speed on changing Covid policy and stated that Director Alderdice has done a great job communicating the information. She stated that the main focus this spring semester is helping guide the parents through the college application and post-high school process especially for the parents who have an upcoming first-time college student. Meetings have been held that combine the college readiness book club along with PAC. Dr. French also stated that Mr. Vallun talked about how the parents can support their student and next steps on post-high school college and career opportunities. Dr. French reported that the other main focus is trying to work on appreciation for the staff and faculty, knowing that they went above and beyond during the pandemic. Dr. French also stated that the PAC Committee educated parents on Science Fair and the Capstone process and feels that it has been well received.

Mr. Reed thanked Dr. French for the Parents Association update and asked that the Governing Council update be presented.

Mrs. Moore stated that the Governing Council has not had a recent meeting. She stated that at the last meeting, Dr. Krakowiack's Faculty Advancement Plan had been discussed.

Mr. Reed asked for the update on the Association for Alumni and Friends of ASMSA.

In the absence of Mrs. Stvartak, Director Alderdice asked Dr. Brown to give an update. Dr. Brown stated Mr. Robert Bryant, Coordinator for Alumni and Community Relations, has been hired, and started in January. Dr. Brown reported that Mr. Bryant was at the school as a Residential Mentor when ASMS first opened, so he already knows many of the alumni and has hit the ground running with the AAFA. Dr. Brown reported that the group, unfortunately, was not able to meet for their class reunion in October. The group will be meeting in May instead. Mr. Bryant is getting AAFA's focus on the October Homecoming that will take place in the second week of October 2022. Trying to connect alumni with the current students, there will be guest speakers in October and April talking about career goals and how they got involved with their careers.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Director Alderdice stated that he is interested in discussing a format that continues to leverage the flexibility of Zoom while also returning to having the Board on campus to the full extent as possible. Director Alderdice stated that he was curious if folks had any specific thoughts or perhaps this could be explored more at the May meeting to set a plan for Academic Year 2023.

Mr. Reed stated his opinion that he would like to go back to an in-person meeting, unless there are reasons of those who live far away that can't make the trip. Mr. Dowdy and Dr. Battle concurred with Mr. Reed's statement. Mrs. Zunick stated that she is in favor of in-person meetings since she only lives across town. She reported that it would be nice to meet the other members since she has not been able to since she joined the Board. Several of the other members said that they would appreciate a hybrid meeting situation. Ms. Chambers mentioned that although someone may be driving to the meeting, with construction issues occurring on the interstate, a Zoom link would be appreciated so the meeting could be listened to while enroute.

Director Alderdice stated that a proposal will be made at the May meeting for what standard would like to be used for the upcoming academic year.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Reed pointed out that the election of Board officers needed to be made. He stated that Mr. Barnes has done a fantastic job in chairing the Board over the past few years and he recommends Mr. Barnes remain in that position as Board Chair.

A motion was made by Mr. Dowdy and seconded by Dr. Battle that Mr. Barnes continue as Chair of the Board of Visitors. Motion passed unanimously.


Although Mr. West was absent, a motion was made by Mr. Reed and seconded by Mr. Barnes to have Mr. West continue at Vice- Chair of the Board of Visitors. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Dowdy and seconded by Mr. Barnes to have Mr. Reed continue as Secretary to the Board of Visitors. Motion passed unanimously.

Director Alderdice stated that since Mr. West was not present at the meeting, if, for some reason, Mr. West declines the position of Vice-Chair, then the position can be revisited at the May meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

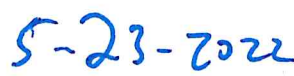
With no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Mrs. Zunick and seconded by Dr. Battle to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 pm.

Approved as written  _____

Approved as amended _____



Mr. Brian Reed, Secretary



(Date)