Board of Trustees

Southern Arkansas University

SAU Tech Room TE 116  
May 26, 2016

1:00 pm

The Board of Trustees met on Thursday, May 26, 2016. The following were in attendance: Trey Berry, Josh Kee, Donna Allen, Ben Johnson; Shawna Reed, Roger Giles, Jasper Lewis, Michael Westbrook, Brad Stout, Robert Gunnels. Gaye Manning, Valerie Wilson, David McLeane, and Diane Betts. Guest included Timothy Wise (SAU Faculty Senate), Johnie Hall (SAU Tech Faculty Senate), Ed Kardas (named Distinguished Professor), Barbara Hamilton, Blake Dunn (CADM Architecture), Aaron Street (SAU Communications) and Mike McNeil (Magnolia Reporter).

[00:00:00.00] Beginning of Board of Trustees Meeting

[00:03:15.16] Steve Keith: We will call the meeting to order. We appreciate everybody coming. We appreciate Mike McNeil. Thank you for being here. Thank you for the great meal. Thank you for all the work you do during the year - we had a good year in Magnolia as well here - we had a great graduation over here the other night. I always like to see the faces of the parents over here - they do a good job putting it on. At this time, we will ask for approval of minutes.

[00:03:52.21] Edgar Lee: So moved

[00:03:53.20] Lawrence Bearden: Second

[00:03:55.04] Steve Keith: We have a motion and second - all those in favor say "I."

[00:03:57.06] Edgar Lee: "I"

[00:03:57.12] David Nelson: "I"

[00:03:57.12] Lawrence Bearden: "I"

[00:03:57.12] Therral Story: "I"

[00:03:59.12] Steve Keith: Motion carried

[00:03:59.28] Steve Keith: At this time, we will turn the floor over to President Trey Berry.

[00:04:04.16] Trey Berry: Thank you and I want to also express my gratitude to SAU Tech for the wonderful meal. That is wonderful. Lot of good information to share with you today, I think. Several different fronts. We have already had a busy beginning to the summer and that is a good thing. I will start with enrollment - I always start with enrollment because enrollment is where it is. Right now, it is pretty good for summer school. We do not have our census date yet, but our summer school is looking like it is significantly up from last summer. Graduate school looks like it is really carrying the weight of the increase. That is a good thing for us for the summer. Historically, the second summer is usually the largest summer term and so we are looking forward to the seeing what the numbers are for the second summer term which will start after the fourth of July. Right now everything is looking very, very good for our summer enrollment. As you know, about 80% of our classes in the summer are online. That has been the trend for several years.

Our enrollment of the fall continues to look very, very promising. All of our metrics, all of the things we measure our enrollment by looks very good. We have our BAM, which starts June 1, Becoming a Mulerider, where we have all of the incoming students come with their parents and they work on their schedule, they work on the financial aid and leave at the end of the day having everything ready. We usually have several of those throughout the summer, we are actually having to add one this summer and that is always a good sign for the fall semester.

Our new residence halls, I don't know if you can see this, but they are moving along in a really quick pace. On Tuesday, we had a tour of one of the residence halls. The sheetrock is already up, the mudding on some floors and painting on other floors. We know that Columbia Hall is well on track. There is some hope, SOME HOPE, that we could finish Magnolia Hall within a week, two weeks, three weeks or so but we are hopeful that it will happen and we are excited about that. These are going to be wonderful. Just in walking through with the sheetrock up, it is going to be a wonderful facility. According to our metrics, we are definitely going to need new space. Here is another view and the brick work is almost finished on the first one.

We are also this summer, we are spending a lot of time and effort, the physical plant, housing and student affairs office, we are all working to together to remodel some of our current dorms. We have a paint crew of students, about 25 students that are working everyday painting and power washing and cleaning. We are doing major remodeling in Talbot, Talley, and Green which were in desperate need of that happening and they are going to look like three different places come fall. It is going to be really, really nice. We are excited about all of the things that are happening there. On the inside of the dorms in Talley, Talbot, and Green and on the outside you will notice some differences, as well, when fall comes around.

Some students are really doing some things around the globe this summer at SAU. On this slide, our students are doing some great things and they are...to give you some examples, I guess that is the news on the early part of the summer. SAU softball team, not just a great team, not just great athletes, but let me just tell you folks, they are great people. They made SAU proud on and off of the field in Denver. They have come a long way from GAC champions, to regional champions, to super-regional champions and then ending up at number four in the nation. Finishing up in the final four. 277 softball teams started out and we ended up in the final four. Yesterday, our coach, Coach Jason Anderson, was picked as the DII Softball National Coach of the Year. National Coach of the year and one of our pitchers, Kimmie Beasley was picked as the Newcomer of the Year - Nationally. These are all good and more accolades for SAU. SAU was able to get their name out there and it was just a wonderful experience for these students.

Ed Kardas, who is here today, just returned from Cuba where he took some alums and students. We had two students that went with him to Cuba. This is his third trip to Cuba in less than a year. One of the students, Juliana Williams, went with Dr. Kardas. Juliana was actually picked as SAU Freshman Student of the Year. That is not why she went, but that is a great representative for us to go down to Cuba. We are looking at a possibility in the fall with some announcements in the fall with formal agreements with some Cuban Universities. Keep that in mind and we will let you know about that as well. We have right now, as we speak six students at SAU that are studying for the summer on the gulf coast at Ocean Springs, Mississippi at the Gulf Coast Sim Lab. We are excited. We have had students go down before, but they have been singular students. Now we have a big group and we hope that will continue. It is a great way to get us down there on the gulf coast and get our name out there. The Marine Biology program continues to grow and is very popular.

I talked to you about Taylor McNeel last time. Taylor still continues to make the news for SAU, for FFA and for Arkansas. She was on their cover of the FrontPorch that came out. This is the first president from Arkansas in 1953 and Taylor. She has already been to Puerto Rico, to Japan and 10 different states. It is just the beginning of what she is doing. It is a wonderful time for her and SAU.

Our cafeteria, we are in the plans again, of expanding the cafeteria is ongoing. It is getting closer. If you remember, Aramark is going to help fund this with the expansion. It is something we desperately need for our growing population on SAU campus. I will let you know more about that as we progress.

Engineering building is moving forward quickly. They are really putting a lot of effort into this. They basically gutted everything that needs to be gutted and now the process of putting it all back together is going to begin Again it will be a wonderful facility and it is on track for completion in August. We hopefully will have a ribbon cutting sometime in September and maybe around some home football game. We will let you know.

Recruitment - We continue to see a lot of progress in some of the new frontiers as we are calling them in central Arkansas and Dallas/Ft. Worth. We are getting more and more students coming to campus from the Dallas/Ft. Worth mainly because our on the ground recruiter there. Central Arkansas is seeing unbelievable returns. We have seven students that are coming to play in the band from Cabot, Arkansas. I asked our band director, J.P. Wilson, well, is this more than you have ever had from Cabot before? and he said, "Dr. Berry, I have never had a student from Cabot!" He is going to have seven this year. We are getting more students from Cabot, Jacksonville, Beebe Bryant, Benton, Little Rock, and North Little Rock. I wanted to show you this - this is a funny one - this is showing you that we are getting our word out. This is the cafeteria workers at Cabot High School, we gave out about 800 t-shirts. The cafeteria workers, every Thursday, they have chosen to be Mulerider Day and they wear their Mulerider t-shirts. You can't pay for this advertisement. As kids go through the line, the kids see, Mulerider, Mulerider, Mulerider. That is a wonderful thing.

The alumni center is going forward. In fact, the Alumni Association made a major move yesterday to move forward with this project. We should be breaking ground sometime hopefully at the end of the summer - early part of the fall for this facility. I think it will be absolutely wonderful for the campus, for the region, for our students, faculty and staff and especially for our alumni. I will give you a progress report on that later but it is moving forward.

We are remodeling a lot of classrooms on campus. We are reclaiming some classrooms that haven't been used for a long time mainly because we need them. We need the classroom space. I want to thank Dr. Johnson and Jasper and everybody involved for helping us reclaim the classrooms and getting them up to speed - for purchasing the equipment and the classroom furniture for these rooms. They will really, really be something special for us and again, we need them.

The president's residence plan sare nearing completion. I want to thank Dr. Nelson and the committee. We have had a large committee working on this. Blake Dunn is here from CADM architects and he has spent hours upon hours on this. Changing designs and getting us in budget. We are really, really close. You have before you some paper copies as to what it will look like. This is the first floor plan. It is basically heat and air, 4200 sq. foot residence. This is what it will look like on the outside. We wanted to go with timeless architecture that would not date so we went with the Greek revival, federal, Georgian, how every you want to put it style. It is a beautiful, beautiful facility and I think it will be something good, not for just right now, but decades to come for the next president, and the next president, and the next president. As well as for the community and hosting events and really building a community at SAU.

Finally, our feasibility study - we are nearing the end of our feasibility study for our capital campaign. We know that we have interviewed, personally interviewed, about 118 individuals from all over the country about SAU and their perceptions of SAU and what they see as a need for SAU. We have also had three focus groups at three major metropolitan areas. We are anxious to hear what the results of the feasibility study will be and we will get our first initial feedback in June and then a major unveiling of the feasibility study on August 12 and that will be at the Board of Governors Meeting and we are wanting that to be a joint meeting with the Board of Trustees. If you will put August 12th on your calendar, we are going to have a major unveiling of this and there will be a lot of good information for SAU for right now and in the future.

Then I want to finish off by saying we are moving forward with the Chancellors search for SAU Tech. You have in front of you the list of the on the search committee. We had our first organizational meeting the other day, right before the SAU Tech graduation. Our ad should be up and running in a couple of days. We are looking forward to seeing what we get from that ad and looking forward to getting a new person on board - hopefully by January 2017.

Any questions - questions?

[00:17:33.08] Steve Keith: Robert

[00:17:43.19] Robert Gunnels: Good afternoon to the Board. I have a few things that have been taking place at SAU Tech. Arkansas Skills USA was held recently and as usual SAU Tech students did very well. We had four students from the career academy that received the silver and bronze medals in health sciences and one student that won bronze in radio and television. Our health instructor, Jessica Young, from the career academy, was also named skills USA advisor of the year. We are very proud of that. On the college level, aviation took first and second place for the state and all of the students will be going to nationals, Skills USA nationals, in Louisville, Kentucky next month.

SAU Tech Adult Education Program was named most improved program in 2015-16 for the increase in the number of students served in the outcomes of the progress made by those students. Congratulations to Barbara Hamilton to all her staff at the various locations for that award for the state.

We are having a Highland Heart Employee open house June 20 on campus - if you recall, I reported a few meetings ago, that we had an open house at the Roth Center for the community. We are doing basically doing the same thing on campus for the park employees - that will be held in the evening on the 20th and all of the offices will be present in the student center from admissions, financial aid, advising, enrollment and the like to present that information for the park employees. We will put a sign out as they make that curve - almost 3,000 people a day go by the front of the school and they will see that advertising for that open house and we hopefully will get a lot of enrollment out of that this coming fall. Part of that is our new Friday class schedule - we are going to begin offering Friday only classes designed for the park employees specifically because most of the industries here do not work on Friday's. It is a great opportunity for their employees to take classes.

Graduation was May 12. I thank the Board for being present for that. We had 139 associate degree graduates, 366 technical certificates and a total of those, 224, in case you wondered, participated - coming across the stage that evening. Programs with the most graduates, which obviously, are the reflections of the programs that are most popular at Tech. Allied health, aviation, general studies, law enforcement, mechanical maintenance and welding programs had the largest number of graduates this year. On campus beautification, I would just like to recognize the efforts of Vice Chancellor, Gaye Manning and staff member Becky Mahaffey and others that took out the time out of their day to put on work gloves to go out to the flower beds and clean those out on campus. I mention that, because I think it is a good example of the attitude our employees have and how much they love this institution. Nowhere in their job description does it say "clean out flower beds." This is something they took on themselves as a project and it is a reflection of the commitment of so many people have at Tech to make it the best it can be with no recognition in a lot of cases and many people not knowing that those things are being done. It goes on all the time - I can think of Lee Sanders, one of the busiest people on campus at his desk. A student may stick their heads and ask a question and he will take the time to walk them all the way across campus to find an office. I noticed one day, one of our English instructors walking in the Admin building, a piece of paper laying on the ground, had to detour off the sidewalk to pick that up and take it over to the trash can. Those are just the type of things that are above and beyond the norm that people have a passion for at Tech.

The phone system, I mentioned that at our past meeting, I believe, that we were looking at getting a previous GIF funding authorization rewarded to allow these monies to be used to purchase a new phone system. That was approved by the legislative committee so we are in the process of moving forward on putting in that new phone system which we desperately needed to replace the very antiquated system now.

Staff participated in an active shooters training workshop on May 18th provided by staff members through ALETA. It was very informative, as well as, entertaining. We have placed a priority on putting sound emergency response processes in place over the last few years. The new phone system just mentioned, in fact has a security will be used to communicate quicker about potential emergencies on campus. Faculty and adjuncts will go through the same active shooter training when they return in August.

Looking forward to the next academic year, very pleased and excited to say that we are 386 applications for admissions ahead of where we were last time last year. That is great news for possible good student enrollment in the fall.

In connection with that I would like to again recognize our recruiters. I know I did at our last meeting. I personally feel like we have the best three recruiters in the state of Arkansas. They are young, they are enthusiastic, they love what they do, and they are hard workers. The students and parents that visit campus brag on them about how great they are. Just an idea of what they accomplished this year, 139 individual student tours, 10 group tours, many of which don't tell us ahead of time, they just show up for a total of 118 students. Just an idea of what they have been doing - 650 students on Preview day, 71 students and parents of College Day, and 55 students on Career Academy Preview Day for a grand total of 1,004 students and/or parents that visited our campus and the recruiters. We are all involved in those visits.

Soar, which is our BAM, that takes place in June for freshman orientation, we had 147 signed up to attend and more are being added each day for those programs in June.

We have two major retirements coming up at the end of June, Dr. Diane Betts, VC for Planning, Assessment, and Development and she is with us today and Mr. Gerald Manning, Director of the physical plant. They have more than 700 years’ experience between them...oh wait, that is 70 years...oh well that's not as impressive as I thought it was. No, truthfully, these two will be greatly missed, not just for the depth of knowledge they have and take with them, but the love they have for this institution and that "going above and beyond" that I mentioned earlier. They will be missed by many, many people not just as professional colleagues but as friends. We will be having a reception for them before they leave campus.

Finally, I want to express my own gratitude to my fellow Vice Chancellors for the support, guidance, and effort they have given over the past year as we've been without a Chancellor. We have truly defined what "team-effort" means on campus this year for the positive things we have accomplished and we have the college on track to be the best it can possible be. Also, on track to meet Dr. Berry's goal to have 1200 students in about five or six years. I would also like to thank Dr. Berry and the Board for having the confidence in me to try steer this show. I am very grateful.

Usually at the end of the academic year, at the first Board meeting, we allow our staff organizations to give a report to you so I am going to allow first, from our administrative staff organization, Barbara Hamilton, is coming to tell her about her activities for the year.

[00:26:13.14] Barbara Hamilton: Good afternoon. I am here to represent the administrative staff organization. Individually, we have several successes throughout the year that Mr. Gunnels discussed earlier. As a collective group, we conducted two projects this year. The first project was called "Tech in Town" and it was held on Saturday, February 27. We had several college staff, faculty administrators, students, and community members as well as different organizations that came together to plant the downtown area of Camden in preparation for the upcoming Daffodil Festival. So for the administrators, we all dressed in our SAU Tech t-shirts to increase the visibility of the college within town. That project was a tremendous success with almost 1700 pounds of trash picked-up on that day and five of our administers were in the top ten winners for that particular project.. The winning team was Maul Road Assemblies youth and they had over 500 pounds of trash that was picked-up in the down town area.

Our second project was to secure discounts from businesses frequented by students to create a student discount list can access too by showing their ID. We have completed the first phase and have a total of eight restaurants. We thought we would have more restaurants than we actually did, but we are not defeated, we still have a plan. We will actually start on phase two That phase will consist of services like oil and lubes, barbers, beauty shops, and retail stores ti consider providing discounts for our students as well.

To end the year we have elected officers our new officers for the upcoming fiscal year. Mrs. Juanita Mitchell, Director of Career Academy, Chair; Ms. Jennifer Williams, Director of Financial Aid, Chair-Elect; Mrs. Olivia Clack, Director of Human Resources, Liaison; and Mrs. Kimberly Coker, Director of Communications, Secretary. Those are our activities for the year. Are there any questions? Thank you.

[00:28:37.11] Robert Gunnels: Johnie Hall, Faculty Senate Chair.

[00:28:51.26] Johnie Hall: Dr. Berry, Board, Mr. Gunnels, distinguished guests...thank you for being here. Glad you enjoyed your lunch. I want to thank you for the opportunity as the faculty senate president to give you a review of our year. We started last fall with several meetings with Dr. Berry and I want to congratulate the Board because from the faculty senate’s view point on this campus, you did a good job in selecting the leader for our system. Thank you for that. We have been encouraged this year, we have felt, as Dr. Berry says, we will turn this ship around. There has been an encouraging attitude on campus and I have really appreciated working with Dr. Berry and Mr. Gunnels this year. The first turn of our ship came when WIFI was upgraded across campus so faculty and students were much happier. I am grateful to the IT department for that so thank you IT! The next turn has been and still is a very large consideration of ours because we are changing from Blackboard, well, we have already changed to a new learning management system for our online classes. We have changed to Brightspace and that change has been spearheaded by Dr. Wilson and her web based learning center staff. Some of the faculty have piloted courses this summer and there has been a big learning curve for everyone involved and still is. This change will affect every single student we have. Thanks to the web-based learning staff and the faculty that has been closely involved in the change. We meet numerous times. We were looking at the delivery system to the nomenclature, to what you call it. We looked at every little detail we could to try to figure out how this thing was going to work. After all of that, there are not kudos to give to the people that have worked on this project so hard and so long. As of June 1, everything will be in Brightspace from now on or at least until we change next time. The courses that were piloted this summer, again, I mentioned the learning curve because the student's had a big learning curve as well. I always think that as an instructor, we expect our students to adjust to the learning curve and so I think the best instructors also adjust to the learning curve. We are seeing that taking place. A lot of us are on email or in Debbie Tuckers' office regularly right now. With new things, not only do we have a new online learning system, we had a really good thing that happened in the fall. We received a cost of living adjustment in a pay checks and that was really nice. That, along with lower gas prices at the pump, I don't know if I can credit any of you with that, but, I can say thank you to our leadership for working it out so that we could have an improvement in our pay scale. That helped and that was a good thing. Another good thing, some of the faculty has been working with students that have created a writers circle. They meet every other week in the Library and they write a little, they laugh a lot and it has been a very good effort that some of the faculty has tried to get closer to some of the students and help them accomplish some things they want to do. Faculty has also been involved recently in the creation of the new student handbook - that is in the works. Hopefully it will be ready in the fall. Another new thing is the change in leadership in the faculty senate. Sara Landaverde will be taking over as the president of the faculty senate and I assure you she will be an asset to the senate. Another important thing with the faculty is we have been trying to figure out how, not necessary take our students to Cuba, but take them somewhere. Al lot of us go to conferences during the year and we could take students who could actually present at a national venue and it would get them out of their box in South Arkansas and broaden their horizon a little. We have no funds for them. We presented a question to the quality council last month "How can we do this?" We need to figure out a way to help our students get out there more. The students who - Mr. Gunnels has already mentioned how some have achieved and going to national competitions. Unless their own department has funds for that, they either have to come up with their own money or sometimes the SAU Tech foundation has help. Faculty wants to see some way where we have a fund available to use and broaden their horizons. Probably the greatest change that is coming will be in the new chancellor. I want to thank the Board and Dr. Berry for including the faculty in this important decision. We sort of see Tech as this multi-facetted diamond in south Arkansas and we have multi-facetted diversity, we have an unusual structure and function here and it's interesting when, this past weekend I was in Searcy at a high school graduation and I met a student that intended to come to the Fire Academy. We have got a far reaching name out there that we need to take advantage of. We need this new chancellor to keep this diamond polished and all of its faces, so I really want to thank you for including us in that decision process. Again, I want to thank Dr. Berry and especially Mr. Gunnels, our Executive Vice Chancellor, because he has had many times, this past year and the year before, an open door policy for us. A lot of times, it just took a little conversation and everything would work out. Thank you all for being here and please come back and watch us grow, and watch us turn this ship around.

[00:37:39.02] Robert Gunnels: Laretha Walker is the chair of our classified staff organization and she was not able to be here today. I will read her notes. The main focus this year for the classified staff organization was communication and moral. With that focus in mind they had a speaker series. The series included in December, Lee Sanders, presenting the results of the students opinion survey; January, Mike Larkins, presenting winter safety tips; February, Courtney Haygood presented plans on recruitment from the student life office; March, Laura Johnson, presented on keeping desktop computers running efficiently; and in April, Allison Malone, presented on Library resources. The class organization included idea and the reconstruction of the student opinion survey, employee opinion survey, recommended the walking policy that was revised to include other types of workouts, projects to place student work on display around campus and attending seminars and first-aid as CPR training as required. There are approximately 52 members of the organization and average attendance of 31. Any questions for the report from SAU Tech?

[00:39:11.07] Steve Keith: Thank you. We have four or five resolutions we need to address. We will ask Dr. Trey Berry to go first and then Ben, Robert will follow him.

[00:39:30.00] Trey Berry: You have in your packet the first of a series of resolutions dealing with the admissions statement at Southern Arkansas University. It should say "whereas current mission statement" at the very top. Just like we are going through the feasibility study for our capital campaign, at the same time, the campus is going through a strategic plan process. We are trying to find ways and look at the directions we are going for the future. Part of that plan is to look at our mission statement for the University and this year, a joint committee of the staff senate and the faculty senate came together to look at the mission statement. It is also good for our accreditors that our Board of Trustees looks at our mission statement from time to time. I put in front of you today, the change of our mission statement, which is very slight. The one at the top is our current mission statement and the one at the bottom is the correction. You will notice, only a small change to the very last sentence. The very last sentence of the first one says "further the University encourages and supports excellence in teaching, scholarly, and creative endeavors, and service." Now, the proposal is, the new one, "further the University provides an environment conducive to excellence in teaching and learning scholarship, creative endeavors, and service." So we put this in front of you today for approval of this resolution to change the admission statement at Southern Arkansas University.

[00:41:20.15] Steve Keith: We need a motion on that.

[00:41:23.01] David Nelson: So moved.

[00:41:26.10] Therral Story: Second

[00:41:28.13] Steve Keith: We have a motion and a second to approve the resolution. All those in favor.

[00:41:35.20] Lawrence Bearden: "I"

[00:41:37.25] Edgar Lee: "I"

[00:41:37.25] David Nelson: "i"

[00:41:37.25] Therral Story: "I"

[00:41:40.28] Steve Keith: Motion passes.

[00:41:44.21] Ben Johnson: Thank you Mister Chairman. You actually have two letters from me - the first was in your original packet has to do with proposals establishing two new tracks in the master degree for computer information and science. Deans Scott McKay and Dr. Karim, who is chair of the department, has done wonderful work in terms of building up the enrollment and we tried to make sure that the programs are aligned with industries so that when our graduates go out in the world, they will get jobs. The second letter which, Mrs. Davis gave you today, and she did that because I only gave it to her yesterday. Let me see if I can explain my tardiness. Earlier this month, the Arkansas Department of Education, created, what we call a new track in the Bachelor of Arts in Teaching. The new track for those seeking elementary licensure. The reason the Arkansas of Department of Education created this track was because of, frankly, a crisis of teacher shortage. The department recently developed figures that should between 200-2015, we have had 60 percent drop in the number of students going into teacher education program throughout the state of Arkansas. That is coupled with the fact that teachers are leaving their jobs. Certainly those teachers at the end of their careers are beginning to retire. What is most troublesome is that we are sending nearly a 50 percent attrition rate among those teachers in their twenties. So after a year or two, they are leaving. So once again, as a result of that, the Arkansas Department of Education created this new track. SAU, and again, I want to thank Dean Zaidy Mohdzain of the College of Education, and Dr. Neelie Dobbins who is chair of the department of education, they jumped on that this month...almost immediately because we did a survey and found that we are about 62 teachers short in elementary classrooms throughout this region. Most notable 21 short in El Dorado. So in order to basically take advantage of this action of the Arkansas Department of Education, very quickly, a program was developed to add the elementary track to the Master of Arts in Teaching. It very quickly went through the three committees that needed to gain approval and that is why it is before you today. The last approval was not until Tuesday, once again, I gave Mrs. Davis the letter on Wednesday. The Master of Arts in Teaching is an avenue for those folks who have a Bachelor’s degree in a non-education major but they are able and willing to teach - they can earn their Master’s degree as well as teaching license and it is an alternative approach to teaching. Once again, Southern Arkansas University, as a result of this promote action that is before you, will be the only the second University in the state to basically have this track and the only school that will have it as online and will be the only school that will admit students throughout the year as opposed to just in the summer. I again, commend the College of Education and the teacher education that is before you. Again, I apologize for the lateness but that is the reason. Are there any questions?

[00:45:09.15] Steve Keith: Ben, we have three provisions?

[00:45:12.20] Ben Johnson: The first letter I gave you had two (Information Technology) that had two tracks in the Master of Computer Science - Information and Technology in Data Science and the letter you received to create the K-6 track in the Master of Arts in Teaching.

[00:45:29.27] Steve Keith: Do we have a motion?

[00:45:32.23] Edgar Lee: So moved.

[00:45:34.01] Lawrence Bearden: Second

[00:45:35.13] Steve Keith: We have a motion and second to approve all three. All those in favor?

[00:45:40.18] Edgar Lee: "I

[00:45:40.23] Lawrence Bearden: 'I"

[00:45:40.23] David Nelson: "I"

[00:45:40.23] Therral Story: "I"

[00:45:41.04] Steve Keith: Motion carried. Thank you Ben

[00:45:42.29] Robert Gunnels: We have a few academic changes at SAU Tech. First in the Computer Support Specialist degree - curricular changes based on technology changes. It changes quickly and rapidly - faster and faster every year it seems. Basically changes to the courses and curriculum order to maintain industry standards in computer science. Specifically in as support specialist and those are in both certificates. CP's - Certificate of Proficiency - Technology Certificates and the degree. The other is to create a new emphasis in the general technology degree for a CP and TC Certified production technician. This is in response to industry. This is really a program we have been working on for over four years in partnership with the industry and the need for entry level production line workers. Several reasons for that - turnover rate, issues with hiring individuals who can pass the drug screening and also the companies out here that are expanding. The product lines are expanding based on the Department of Defense contracts and so it is a good program and hopefully will be funded by the Arkansas Workforce initiative act grant that we have applied for - 8 million dollars that is available for competition among colleges - that is a grant that is due on Tuesday of next week. Regardless, if that program is not funded, we will still implement it in some form - we need this CP and TC in place. I ask for your approval of both the computer support specialist changes and the addition of the certified production technician. Any questions?

[00:47:44.07] Steve Keith: Can we have a motion to approve the curriculum revisions existing on the certificate degree program at Southern Arkansas University Tech.

[00:47:54.27] Edgar Lee: I make that motion.

[00:47:58.14] David Nelson: I second.

[00:47:57.04] Steve Keith: We have motion and second - all those in favor say I.

[00:47:57.23] Edgar Lee: "I"

[00:47:59.05] Lawrence Bearden: "I"

[00:47:59.05] David Nelson: "I"

[00:47:59.05] Therral Story: "I"

[00:48:00.00] Steve Keith: Motion approved.

[00:48:13.07] Robert Gunnels: SAU Tech has an opportunity to apply for an Arkansas Department of Transportation grant that would allow us to fully funded or partially funded - either complete or get down the road further in completing the parking lot for the student center. When you walked over today, the right side is finished, the left side is not. This grant would allow us to be able to do that. Our participation part in that would be a 20% match in kind or development for that. The Department of Transportation requires that the governing organization or Board for the entity applying for this grant approve our willingness to participate under its rules. That is what this resolution allows us to do. Any questions?

[00:49:06.06] Edgar Lee: These fund will be reimbursed after we complete it?

[00:49:10.00] Robert Gunnels: Is this a reimbursable grant?

[00:48:54.26] Valerie Wilson: Yes, it is reimbursable.

[00:49:17.09] Steve Keith: We have a resolution expressing the willingness of Southern Arkansas University Tech to use federal aid recreational trails funds. Do I have a motion?

[00:49:27.08] Lawrence Bearden: So moved.

[00:49:30.27] David Nelson: Second

[00:49:30.27] Steve Keith: I have a motion and second - all those in favor?

[00:49:31.23] Lawrence Bearden: "I"

[00:49:34.15] David Nelson: "I"

[00:49:34.15] Edgar Lee: "I"

[00:49:34.15] Therral Story: "I"

[00:49:34.22] Steve Keith: Thank you.

[00:49:47.24] Roger Giles: The first resolution that I will be discussing is our annual renewal stating that all of our campuses and rented properties will remain gun free - hand gun free. Faculty and staff - if the Board authorizes, can carry hand guns on campus unless the Board opts out. Since 2013, the Board has annually opted out and we have been able to keep hand guns off our campuses. We recommend that you continue this practice and adopt this resolution as you have since 2013.

[00:50:35.10] Steve Keith: Any questions?

[00:50:37.03] Lawrence Bearden: Roger, is this faculty and students or just faculty?

[00:50:40.06] Roger Giles: It is faculty and staff could carry concealed weapons on campus if the Board does not act. If the Board acts, they cannot carry.

[00:50:55.21] Lawrence Bearden: To allow them to carry, we don't need to do anything?

[00:50:58.25] Unknown Speaker: If you want faculty and staff to carry concealed handguns on campus, you would do nothing. If you want to continue the practice since 2013 of them not being allowed to carry concealed weapons on campus, then we need to pass this resolution.

[00:51:13.19] Lawrence Bearden: What kind of feedback do you have from faculty and staff?

[00:51:15.16] Roger Giles: They have requested this in the past. This originally had the endorsement of the campus and no one has requested a change.

[00:51:34.27] Trey Berry: Mr. Giles, I am going to correct that every four year campus has done this.

[00:51:40.16] Roger Giles: Yes, every four year college has adopted this resolution.

[00:51:44.22] Steve Keith: Anymore questions?

[00:51:47.19] David Nelson: I make a motion.

[00:51:47.23] Edgar Lee: I second.

[00:51:48.25] Steve Keith: All those in favor.

[00:51:52.09] Edgar Lee: "I"

[00:51:52.24] David Nelson: "I"

[00:51:53.16] Steve Keith: Opposed.

[00:51:54.03] Lawrence Bearden: "I"

[00:51:54.24] Therral Story: "I"

[00:52:14.26] Steve Keith: Two - Three vote.

[00:52:27.07] Roger Giles: In favor of passing?

[00:52:27.19] Steve Keith: Yes, that is correct.

[00:52:31.06] Roger Giles: Our next three resolutions, which I think we can pass as a unit because they are all dealing with temporary positions. One is provisional positions which are general funded from external sources such as grants, which when we don't have sufficient number of positions, in our appropriation act, the state allows us request additional positions to cover that and there is a resolution for both SAU and SAU Tech - Gaye can answer any questions on the SAU Tech and SAU is asking for the authority to request what is called pool positions, which are additional positions to the appropriation act for tuition or state funded positions. We are growing at a rate that our number of faculty is not sufficient. We may be able to make it through one more year. We are requesting additional positions for our appropriation act beginning July 1, 2017. We are in the process and probably will be requesting pool positions to get us through this next year for 16-17. I would request a resolution that passes the provisional and pool position resolutions before you.

[00:53:52.06] Steve Keith: A questions? Could I have a motion?

[00:54:01.24] David Nelson: Could you tell me again what this is? I did not follow what you said.

[00:54:02.17] Roger Giles: Okay, we have an appropriation act that authorizes so many slots or so many people that we can hire. The state offers us two opportunities to get more people authorizations. One provisional and that is for position that are externally funded like a grant. Things like Upward Bound, the Arkansas Public School Resource Center, those are all funded from an external source - not state funds or tuition funds. So, those are unpredictable, so the state allows us to request provisional positions when we have grants that have a limited duration in time. They are either year to year, three years, or five years. So that is for externally funded. When you need additional positions because of growth of your state funded positions you can request that is called pool positions, which are at the Department of Higher Education or the Department of Finance and Administration depending on classified or non-classified, which is to get us through until the next growth spurt. It is to help with the growth spurt. That is why they were created. Whatever school is having a growth spurt, they are the one that is asking for this specific positions. We are blessed with a growth spurt. It is a way to get temporary positions until you can get things fixed at one of the regular biannual sessions of the legislature.

[00:55:40.29] Edgar Lee: And of course, those are paid by us.

[00:55:40.29] Roger Giles: Yes, the pool positions by us. We are asking for an additional 25 faculty in the regular process.

[00:56:09.05] Steve Keith: Any more questions

[00:56:11.03] David Nelson: I motion for approval.

[00:56:11.29] Edgar Lee: Second.

[00:56:12.09] Steve Keith: We have a motion and second to approve. All those in favor...

[00:56:16.06] Edgar Lee: "I"

[00:56:16.06] David Nelson: "I"

[00:56:16.06] Therral Story: "I"

[00:56:16.06] Lawrence Bearden: "I"

[00:56:17.03] Steve Keith: Motion approved. Thank you Roger. Mr. Jasper Lewis...

[00:56:28.08] Roger Giles: I am sorry, I've got it.

[00:56:31.04] Steve Keith: Oh, you have the faculty handbook.

[00:56:31.04] Roger Giles: Yes. These are amendments that have come through the faculty senate, the faculty assembly and in the case of the committee structure, the staff senate as it applied to them as well. First, is we did a complete, the campus did a complete process of reviewing all committees. I think as you have heard already, without three committee recommending something, you can't do something at the University. It is called shared governance and that is how you have the process of complete participation. Our committee structure is the bases of shared of governance at SAU. At other schools, they use other things. The committee structure has been a core part of how SAU operates as far as I can tell from the beginning. The committee changes added an advising committee, professional development committee and an online education committee. We also have several committees that have revised their mission statement. The second part of this resolution is the quality improvement organizational structure. There is a chart that was distributed to you that adds the SAU executive council, leadership team and quality council as the formal part of our structure. Quality council is the workforce group for our quality improvement accreditation pathway (AQIP). The real work begins there, the leadership team then communicates it and the executive committee has the ultimate responsibility which the executive committee is chaired by the president.

The next item is the faculty qualifications. This simply incorporates the guidelines from the Higher Learning Commission, our accrediting agency which provide minimum qualifications for our faculty and those are listed. If you have any questions, we can answer. It essentially requires 18 hours for a master's degree and 18 hours in the discipline in which you are teaching or better qualifications. It is establishes a minimum baseline.

Commencement - we have changed commencement to inside this year and in that structure, there is not room for all of the faculty for every commencement. The deans and chairs will now provide a rotation for an appropriate number of faculty for each of the ceremonies as there are several - we now have four. We are making plans that there may be additional ceremonies. The annual requirement that you attend the one spring commencement exercise is no longer appropriate and this updates that.

The next item is the faculty administration evaluation procedure. This essentially changes our evaluation structure from a calendar year to a physical year - to the academic year. The reason for the calendar year is that all raises were given in the summer and everything had to be done before contracts. Now, we have deferred any decision on raises until October to have a better picture of revised budget at that time. So, the key element in that is the change in the year and exact dates when things occur. It is some general simplification.

The last item is probably the most fundamental and important change, and this changes the peer evaluation process from a "your colleagues pick up a form" to "actual peer evaluator both, goes into your classroom with very specific procedures that are outlined and a peer evaluator also evaluates your summary of your activities of the year and makes suggestions and that information then goes to the department chair so that a development plan or strategic plan for the individual can be put together." The forms will no longer be filled out on the peers which had evolved over time to every time saying nice things about their friends and not providing useful information. I will say this for our new faculty - "We want meaningful information on how to improve." That is one of the key reasons that this got pushed and also Dr. Johnson dogged it the whole year to make sure it did not fall by the wayside. This went through six different groups I believe. There was wide participation from chairs, committee that reviews faculty evaluations, the faculty senate handbook committee, faculty senate, and deans - everybody got to participate. So, are there any questions about any of the parts of these amendments to the faculty handbook?

[01:02:52.25] Lawrence Bearden: I move we adopt these request.

[01:02:54.06] David Nelson: Second

[01:02:54.29] Steve Keith: We got a motion and second to adopt these request in a form of a resolution. All those in favor?

[01:03:00.13] Lawrence Bearden: "I"

[01:03:00.24] Edgar Lee: "I"

[01:03:00.24] David Nelson: "I"

[01:03:00.24] Therral Story: "I"

[01:03:02.26] Steve Keith: Opposed? Thank you. Jasper...

[01:03:08.20] Jasper Lewis: What you have been looking for...the last resolution (Laughter) It is very similar to the Trails Resolution we talked about a few minutes ago except it is a 80/20 grant and it gives us permission to pursue an 80/20 grant for sidewalks at SAU campus. Sidewalk improvement and crosswalks - (map) It is hard to see by this is the new residence halls - where we are building up - and we will try to use 80/20 grant money to use for horizontal transportation system here - this is down by the University Courts here - there are nine crosswalks where we want to put up the triangular flashing crosswalks for students and traffic can see our students better. It is 80/20 - the total grant $162,000.00 and our share including the fees is not in the 80/20 is $51.000.00. Questions?

[01:04:20.17] David Nelson: Have we looked into the possibility of the catwalk up and over in front of Reynolds?

[01:04:28.09] Jasper Lewis: We did look at that when we built Reynolds and it was cost prohibited. It was about $900,000.00.

[01:04:35.21] Edgar Lee: How much did you say now?

[01:04:36.08] Jasper Lewis: He was talking about a Crosswalk that went from Reynolds, we thought about the second floor going all the way across and down and we concluded very quickly that the students would probably would not use it - they don’t use the crosswalk that is there now - they typically travel the path of least resistance.

[01:04:55.00] Edgar Lee: What was that amount? I missed it.

[01:04:55.22] Jasper Lewis: $900,000.00.

[01:05:48.26] Trey Berry: The triangular signs are solar powered.

[01:05:58.06] Jasper Lewis: The residence halls are further north and are closer to high speed traffic so we are concerned about all of those crosswalks slowing that traffic down as it comes through the main campus. Dr. Berry came up with the idea of the flashing triangular indicators that there is a crosswalk here that will slow the traffic down. I think it is a great idea. We have several places on campus that we are concerned about.

[01:06:24.26] David Nelson: I motion to approve this resolution.

[01:06:56.04] Edgar Lee: Second

[01:06:40.08] Ed Kardas: Well talking about sidewalks - reminds me of a question we ask of potential honors students - because when you put in a sidewalk now days, you put in a ramp and there is a little yellow thing with bumps of it - have you seen those? What are they for?

[01:07:15.13] David Nelson: It has something to do with handicap.

[01:07:09.17] Ed Kardas: For the visually impaired. In the old days, one would use their cane until they hit the curb. Now what if you did not have that thing there, that indicator, you would walk along and you don't know if you are on the street or on the sidewalk. That is a question that I ask potential honor students when they start. Thank you all for inviting me - I am the current director of the honors college. The honors college has been here at SAU since 2003 - Dr. Rankin likes to tell the story about going to a meeting and having a building handy which is now honors hall - another president suggested it to him...Why don't you start an honors college? The next thing you know, we had one. I have been the director since 2009 and the current assistant director, Mr. David Wingfield, has been with the Honors College since the beginning. Speaking of the mission statement, here is our mission statement. "To encourage intellectual and academic growth of the University community by giving academically prepared students the opportunity to pursue challenging and stimulating academic experiences." I think this is best understood by looking at several interlocking components - all of which are designed to make academic excellence a goal. One of course is the academic rigor. We have honors courses - honors students have to take 24 hours of honors courses - some of which are full honors and some we call contract honors. To date, we graduated a student a few years ago that took 54 hours of honors course. Twenty-four is the minimum. If an honors student fails to make 24 hours, then they don't get their degree even though they may have the GPA and all that. Travel and internships have been an emphasis for us recently. The SAU Foundation has had an anonymous donor or two whose mission has been to increase travel opportunities for all students including Honor's students and that has been a great boom to us. Of course, you all know about the recent trips we have taken and I might add in a year from now, we are going to Paris and if you want to sign up, please do so. It is $3,100.00 and you can pay it out any way you want. Also, closer contact with faculty in terms of working on those honors projects and we will talk about some of those honors projects. Some of those have taken place in Mississippi, some take place in a lab, some, take place in terms of doing library research and other kinds of research, usually in close contact with a faculty member. Also, this sense of academic community, one of the things that honors students seem to lack, is they have this fish out of water kind of feel. You know, coming out of high school...they are not in any particular groups and so they have the opportunity to live in honors hall and to have the opportunity to help each other out. You took Cal III last year, help me out with this. You know that kind of thing. So that is another big thing. Finally, an external advisory board that we have and they help us meet our mission. Honors students have to graduate with a minimum of 3.25 gpa and 24 hours of honors courses like I said. Right now, we have about 184 students in honors and this figure is a little low because we computed this figure with the ones that had less than a 3.25 gpa. David told me it is really 3.70 gpa so just imagine 100+ students, almost 200 students carrying a nearly a 3.70 gpa. I am taking an ag education student to a meeting and another ag student and they are doing a research project on the difference between snow white grim version and the Disney version. These are Ag students - this kind of shows that they are interested in a little bit of everything. They came up with this idea on their own. Of course, I am going to have to help them out with it for the next few months. If I ask my student in Honors Seminar, if they are going to go to graduate school, or professional school, nearly all of them put their hands up except the engineers, most of the engineers want to get their degree and begin making $100.000.00. More power to them. I have three engineers in the family so good for them. Then, we have the mothership, the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC), they cost us a lot of money in dues every year. They probably have the most luxuries meeting I have ever seen, but they are a good place for us to go. David and I are going to go there this year with six students. All of us will be on the program. David and I are doing a review of the last years of honors classes because every year, I ask them to make a five item bucket year. We are going to analyze those five item bucket lists and turn it into article and hopefully that will give us some idea to tell us and others what honors students are like, at least when the start, and of course the follow up is, we are going to chase them down as alumni and see how close they have come to their freshman bucket list…swimming on the Great Barrier Reef, jumping out of an airplane, and things like that. A lot of them - more or less dramatic than that. Then finally, specific...one of the ways we recruits, is you get your regular scholarship based of your ACT at SAU and then we can give them a stipend of 4600.00 a year. We ask them, but to require them, to think using that to getting something that will help their education - a laptop, tablet, camera, something they would need. They can also live in the Honors Hall if they like...depending on availability. Not all of them do that. As you may have heard before, we have established 2+2 honors programs with SAU Tech, College of the Ouachita’s, and also South Arkansas Community College. That was to answer a need of transfer students coming in with any honors hours at all, so now they can earn honors hours at those two year colleges and we are seeking to expand those as well. Finally, we have an honors student who graduated this year who will be working in Antarctica doing research. Another graduate will attend pharmacy school, still another is going to go to Arkansas and study plant pathology, still another, the one who went to Mississippi for a couple of years is going to William and Mary and study Marine parasitology. Our emphasis lately is to get more and more travel. Some have traveled to Italy, Greece and Cuba. We continue to expand. Right now we have a class room capacity of 60 for our honors seminar. AS of today, we have admitted 52 students for next year’s class and BAM has not even started yet. I am looking to drag chairs into our 30 chair room. Any questions?

[01:16:26.29] Steve Keith: We will adjourn for executive session.

[00:03:00.21] Steve Keith: We will call the meeting back to order. At this time, we will turn it over to David Nelson.

[00:03:07.16] David Nelson: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a recommendation to the Board. Based upon the recommendation of the President's housing committee, that the Board accept and pass the design of the president's residence.

[00:03:06.12] Edgar Lee: So moved

[00:03:07.14] Lawrence Bearden: Second.

[00:03:26.12] Steve Keith: All those in favor say "I"

[00:03:26.12] Edgar Lee: [00:03:26.12] "I"

Lawrence Bearden: [00:03:26.12] Therral Story: "I"

[00:03:26.12] Therral Story: "I"

[00:03:28.04] Steve Keith: Motion approved. Thank you. [00:03:29.20] Steve Keith: Good job - committee too.

[00:03:33.15] David Nelson: They did a good job - lots of thought goes into that house.

[00:03:46.29] Steve Keith: We need a resolution to accept the personal changes.

[00:03:53.23] Edgar Lee: I move to amend the list of personal changes to extend the contract of Dr. Berry.

[00:04:03.08] Therral Story: Second

[00:04:04.19] Steve Keith: We have a motion and second. All those in favor say "I"

[00:04:06.24] Therral Story: "I"

[00:04:07.00] Edgar Lee: "I"

[00:04:07.00] David Nelson: "I"

[00:04:07.00] Lawrence Bearden: "I"

[00:04:09.25] Steve Keith: Motion carries.

[00:04:15.19] Shawana: Presented the SAU proposed budget for fiscal year 2016-17. See budget book for detailed information. The budget is for your approval as well as the athletic certification - it is just taking the athletic portion of the budget and putting it in a form that needs to be reported annually for ADHE.

[00:13:49.02] Gaye Manning: Presented the SAU Tech proposed budget for fiscal year 2016-17. See budget book for detailed information.

[00:25:44.25] Steve Keith: Thank you. We are going to ask for two motions. One is to approve the athletic budget and then we will approve the budgets. We need a motion to approve the athletic budget.

[00:26:03.03] Lawrence Bearden: So moved

[00:26:05.08] David Nelson: Second

[00:26:06.13] Steve Keith: All those in favor

[00:26:07.22] Therral Story: "I"

[00:26:07.26] Lawrence Bearden: "I"

[00:26:07.26] David Nelson: "I"

[00:26:07.26] Edgar Lee: "I"

[00:26:14.09] Steve Keith: Now we need a motion to approve the SAU Tech budget

[00:26:17.17] Therral Story: So moved

[00:26:18.09] Edgar Lee: Second

[00:26:20.05] Steve Keith: We have a motion and second - all those in favor

[00:26:21.27] Edgar Lee: "I"

[00:26:22.06] Lawrence Bearden: "I"

[00:26:22.06] David Nelson: "I"

[00:26:22.06] Robert Gunnels: "I"

[00:26:22.18] Steve Keith: Motion approved. Now a motion to approve the SAU budget.

[00:26:28.06] Edgar Lee: So moved

[00:26:28.10] David Nelson: Second

[00:26:28.13] Steve Keith: All those in favor

[00:26:30.14] Edgar Lee: "I"

[00:26:31.25] Lawrence Bearden: "I"

[00:26:31.25] David Nelson: "I"

[00:26:31.25] Therral Story: "I"

[00:26:32.16] Steve Keith: Motion approved.

[00:26:44.09] Trey Berry: This is a resolution from the Board of Trustees. I am going to ask Ed Kardas if he would stand please. The resolution states "Whereas, a current Southern Arkansas University faculty member, Dr. Edward P. Kardas, clearly meets these guidelines and is deserving of the appointment to the rank of Distinguished Professor. Dr. Kardas has established through his teaching, scholarship, and service a notable legacy at the university. He is currently Professor of Psychology and Director of the Honors College, a position he assumed in 2009. Under his leadership, the enrollment in the Honors College has risen, accompanied by a consistently high rate of graduation. Dr. Kardas has encouraged students to embark on a variety of research projects, reflecting his own extensive record of scholarship. His most recent work, History of Psychology: The Making of a Science, is an influential overview of the discipline that has been adopted as a textbook in university courses. Dr. Kardas has secured numerous grants to fund research and teaching initiatives and is often invited to deliver presentations at professional conferences. In 2002 he was recognized as the University Honor Professor and was also the 1998 recipient of the Faculty Excellence Award in Research. Dr. Kardas has strengthened the links between SAU and the National Collegiate Honors Council through involving students in the organization’s national conferences along with his service as co-chair of the Council's Research Standing Committee. He is a past president of the Southwestern Psychological Association. Dr. Kardas was the president of the Faculty Senate during the 2001-2002 academic year and has ably served on many standing university and special project committees.

Now Mr. Steve Keith will read the rest of it.

[00:28:50.17] Steve Keith: Therefore be it resolved, that Dr. Edward P. Kardas is hereby appointed to the rank of Distinguished Professor of Psychology.

I need a motion to approve this resolution.

[00:29:02.07] Therral Story: So moved

[00:29:02.18] Lawrence Bearden: Second

[00:29:04.04] Steve Keith: All those in favor

[00:29:04.12] Edgar Lee: "I"

[00:29:04.12] Therral Story: "I"

[00:29:04.12] David Nelson: "I"

[00:29:04.12] Edgar Lee: "I"

[00:29:05.25] Steve Keith: Congratulations.

[00:29:15.21] Steve Keith: I need a motion to adjourn.

[00:29:25.08] Lawrence Bearden: So moved.

[00:29:26.25] Edgar Lee: Second

[00:29:26.25] Steve Keith: Thank you.

The meeting adjourned at 2:49 pm

David Nelson, Secretary Steve Keith, Chair

Board of Trustees Board of Trustees

La’Tricia Davis – Recorder of record.