

Board of Trustees
Southern Arkansas University
Reynolds Grand Hall B
August 7, 2015
1:00 p.m.

Attendees: Buddy Franks, Chair; Steve Keith, Vice Chair; Edgar Lee; David Nelson; Lawrence Bearden; Trey Berry, SAU President; Donna Allen; Shawana Reed; Roger Giles; Ben Johnson; Jasper Lewis; Brad Stout; Deena Harden, Banner News; Ashley Whitelaw, Magnolia reporter. Guest: Katherine Berry

[00:00:00.00] {Beginning of Audio}

[00:00:03.05] Buddy Franks: The meeting the of Southern Arkansas University of Board of Trustees. Friday, August 7, 2015. I'll start out with the roll call. Myself, Steve Keith...

[00:00:17.02] Steve Keith: Here.

[00:00:18.08] Buddy Franks: Edgar Lee...

[00:00:19.13] Edgar Lee: Here.

[00:00:21.24] Buddy Franks: David Nelson...

[00:00:22.13] David Nelson: Here.

[00:00:26.16] Buddy Franks: Lawrence Bearden...

[00:00:26.16] Lawrence Bearden: Here.

[00:00:55.23] Buddy Franks: Okay we are going to start out with comments from our President.

[00:01:08.08] Trey Berry: I want to start with a couple of introductions. First, I want to introduce...you know them all, but I want to introduce their new roles...La'Tricia Davis is the new administrative assistant to the President. She has been riding the hurricane this past month with the new President and she is doing a great job. I am very pleased and fortunate to have her; she has been doing a great job. Shawana Reed is our new Vice President for Finance. She is no stranger to SAU. She has been our controller for several years. She is going to do a wonderful job. She is a great lady of integrity and we are just happy to be working with her and what she is going to bring to the table in the role. Ben Johnson is our Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. Again, no stranger. I am very pleased that he has agreed to take on this role in this interim time and he has told me there is no way that I can convince him to stay so it will be interim forever.

Real quickly, some things that have been happening. We had a reception in Northwest Arkansas just two weeks ago and it was what I considered a huge success. We had about sixty-five people to come to that reception and ranged from age 18 to almost 90 years old and every age in between...alumni, and friends. We had people in former leadership in Tyson, retired executives at Wal-Mart and we even had a former chair of the Board of the University of Arkansas come and it was a great crowd. It was a great time to deal with Alumni support. We are going to have similar events in Eldorado on September 3, and do another one in October in Camden and other one in November in Texarkana and we are going to try to keep going out and try to spread the word. This was a real success and I appreciate Josh Kee and Ceil Bridges for helping us put that on.

A couple of things that are happening...in Nursing, we received a Blue and You grant for \$149,000 last year to establish what will be the SAU Health Science Simulation Center. At the next Board Meeting, I want to take you on a tour of that when it is completely done. It will be like nothing else in South Arkansas. It will be a training center for nurses and physicians in the region. Right now, they are having to go to Little Rock to do some of their training. They can stay here and do a lot of the training here. It is going to be a great resource for south Arkansas and SAU. Also, Nursing, we renovated the auditorium over there. It is going to be finished in about a week and we will take a tour of that as well.

We started a campaign for an endowed professorship in Education. The College of Education is the only College that doesn't have an endowed professorship, so we needed to do that. Steve and Deborah Nipper have agreed to co-chair that and we have a lot of alums and friends that are involved in this. So, if you see Steven and Deborah downtown, please thank them for this. We have already had some lead gifts for this so we are rolling and we hope to get this endowed quickly.

A little bit about our philanthropy this past year. We've raised in the past fiscal year a little over 3 million dollars and if you see up there on the pie chart all of the different areas and what they have gone for. I will tell you, that is not the total number because what is not in there, is that the University has also received grants from several sources. We received about \$800,000 worth of grants last year so that puts the total from outside sources to \$4 million dollars. That is a good year.

We are in the mist of planning... planning for what we hope to be the most ambitious fundraising campaign in our history. For a lack of a better term, we are going to call it "Secure Our Future." SAU Foundation Board of Governors has agreed to pay for a feasibility study, that will be a study of our alums and friends and the capacity for us to raise money. That will help us set our goals for this fundraising campaign. You are going to hear a lot more about it. You are going to get to interview the institution that comes in to try to do the feasibility study. We are in the planning stage now and that is moving forward. You will be hearing more about that in the future.

Two interesting little things that are happening. We now have a program in Italy. A former Board of Trustees member an SAU alum has funded a scholarship for a Theatre student to

study in Italy. She is actually flying out next week and she will spend the semester in Florence. She will be studying theatre and art...that is a great program and we hope it will continue. It is a wonderful institution they are working with.

SAU in Cuba... Ed Kardas, our psychology professor and our Director of Honors College, just returned from Cuba a couple of months ago where he met with the University of Havana and the Ministry of Higher Education in the hopes of establishing a program for our Honors College there. It would be unique for Arkansas and unique for SAU of course. It was a delegation for the Arkansas Chamber of Commerce that went. He was the only person from Higher Education to go. He had a really good reception so we are going to follow-up with that to see what may materialize on that front.

And then, lastly is the biggest news, enrollment. All of our indicators, every single one of them point to very, very promising enrollment for the fall - undergraduate and graduate. Our residence halls are full. Our campus is going to be full, our online courses are full, our graduate programs are full. We are going to have a full slate of international students. It just keeps going, on and on and on. All the matrix points to something extremely promising. Of course I am of the old school "you don't count them until you see the whites of their eyes, right Dr. Allen?" It is looking great and I am hopeful that in September when we have our board meeting, we talk about all of these different areas where, ...I am going to go ahead and say it...a record enrollment." That is a hope for the fall.

That is all I have for now. I will have a much more extensive report in September.

[00:08:05.21] Buddy Franks: Ok, thank you very much. At this point, we need to talk about some employee business. We will at this point go to executive session.

[00:08:20.17] {Recording stopped}

*****The Board of Trustees were in executive session for approximately 30 minutes *****

[00:00:00.00] {Recording resumed}

[00:00:08.11] Buddy Franks: The results of our meeting...we decided to let Jasper Lewis and David Nelson to do a feasibility study on what use to be and what could be again, the President's home.

[00:01:02.11] Jasper Lewis: agreed to feasibility study.

[00:01:30.09] Buddy Franks: Do we have anything else that needs to come before this meeting?

[00:01:52.11] Lawrence Bearden: Mr. Chairman I move we adjourn.

[00:01:52.11] Edgar Lee: Second

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

W. Steve Keith, Secretary
Board of Trustees

O. A. "Buddy" Franks, Jr.,
Vice Chairman
Board of Trustees
Note: Vice Chairman Franks passed
away before these 5-7-15 Minutes
were approved. Newly-elected
Secretary Edgar O. Lee was present
at the 5-7-15 meeting and can sign.

Recorder of Record: La'Tricia Davis