

**Southern Arkansas University
Board of Trustees Minutes
August 11, 2017
Reynolds Center, Grand Hall
1:00 p.m.**

The Board of Trustees met on Friday, August 11, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. in Reynolds Center, Grand Hall B. The following were in attendance: Trey Berry, Steve Keith, Edgar Lee, Therral Story via phone, Lawrence Bearden, Josh Kee, Donna Allen, David Lanoue; Shawana Reed, Roger Giles, Sarah Jennings, Jennifer Rowsam, Jason Morrison (SAU Tech Chancellor), Gaye Manning, Valerie Wilson, and David McLeane. Guests included Connie Wilson, Roger Guevara, Sheryl Edwards, Dan Marsh (SAU Communications), Brad Stout (SAU Staff Senate President) and Mike McNeal (Magnolia Reporter), J.D. Bailey (Banner News) and Abby Guin.

The meeting began at 1:00 p.m.

[00:01:01.11] Steve Keith: We will call the meeting of Southern Arkansas University Board of Trustees to order. We would like to welcome everyone. We would like to welcome the press - Mike McNeil of Magnolia Reporter and John David Bailey of the Banner News. We thank you for all the support you give us. At this time, we will ask for the approval of minutes if you have had time to look at them.

[00:01:34.00] Edgar Lee: So moved.

[00:01:34.00] Lawrence Bearden: Second

[00:01:34.17] Steve Keith: We have a motion and a second. All those in favor.

[00:01:36.09] Edgar Lee: "Aye."

[00:01:36.09] Lawrence Bearden: "Aye."

[00:01:36.09] Therral Story: "Aye."

[00:01:52.04] Steve Keith: At this time, we will turn it over the Dr. Berry.

[00:01:54.04] Trey Berry: Thank you. Well, I have a lot of information to share with you. I promise I will be as quick as I can. Lots of wonderful things have happened. We had a very, very busy summer and that is a good thing. I want to start out by showing you this slide for several reasons. For one is because I want to introduce the young lady that is in this slide. This is Abbie Guin. She is our new Mulerider. She is from Minden, Louisiana and she is going to do an incredible job and I want her to say a few words.

[00:02:37.28] Abbie Guin: Good afternoon. Thank you all for having me here for lunch. I am very, very excited to represent Southern Arkansas University to the best of my ability. I look forward to the next three years.

[00:02:52.14] Trey Berry: She has already been practicing on Molly this summer. She is doing great. I will tell you that this is also a billboard that went up in Shreveport and it is up on I-20. We are also putting a new billboard in Minden - her hometown that says "SAU Proud, Minden Proud!" It is going to be great. Abbie thank you so much for coming today.

You all remember two years ago that one of the things we said we were going to do on these words - "People, Planning, Program and Philanthropy." We tried our best to do that and it has been a great campus effort to do that. I want to go over something that kind of fits in all of these categories. Most importantly one of those is our people. I get asked all of the time...what is causing SAU to grow? Why is SAU prospering? My common answer is our people. We have such a great group of people here. In fact, I was up in Little Rock just this week and I will tell you why in just a second but one of the reporters asked me that same question and I it's because of our great people. We have a great team of folks here. The first question everybody ask and what is on everybody's mind all the time is enrollment. I will tell you that our enrollment for fall is very, very positive. The graduate enrollment looks very positive. Our freshman class looks very, very positive. There are a lot of signs that are pointing toward a possible record freshman class. I will tell you that that is our trajectory so far on our way hopefully someday, hopefully by 2020 we would like to reach 5000. I want to let you know that is where we are and hopefully coming soon we will have some positive news for everyone regarding our undergraduate population.

Tell you a little about our freshman class. It is not just about numbers. These are people. These are wonderful folks. I want to tell you a little bit about them. I am not going to talk about everyone on this slide. I will tell you that the young lady in the middle, she is part of the freshman class and from all our records, she is the first student we have ever had received from Guam. She

is a freshman, first generation college student. The first person in her family to attend college from Guam and she chose Southern Arkansas University. She found us on the internet and she is going to be part of that freshman class. Down on the bottom left, that is Madison Shinn, from the Shinn family that a lot of people know. Madison is coming this fall to be a pole vaulter and with all indications, she is a top notch vaulter. We are excited to have her here. Another thing I want to show you about the freshman class, last year in the freshman class of 2016, we had our very first distinguished governor's scholar that attended SAU. This year in our freshman class, we have five distinguished governor's scholars. It is not just about numbers; it is also about quality. We also have some very positive signs about our enrollment from Magnolia and Columbia County area. We are excited about that and I will be able to give you some better figures after enrollment happens, but all indications is that we have done very well recruiting in the Magnolia public schools and in the Columbia county area. I want you to really look at this slide. This study was put out last week of the universities in each state that provided the best economic mobility for their students. From the training they received and what happens after college. If you look at Arkansas in that circle is Southern Arkansas University. We are really good company because if you look up northeast, there is MIT up there, you have Dartmouth, Drake, Colorado State University and Southern Arkansas University. We are very excited about this and we are really going to promote this in our recruitment to our parents and our students. A lot of things happening on campus this summer. One of the largest things, was Mulerider Kids College. Mulerider Kids College started three years ago. Three years ago we had 150 students that came. This year, the third year, we had 417 kids as part of the Kids College. That top picture is the morning session and that is the afternoon session. What we are seeing is, a lot of grandparents in the Magnolia and Columbia County area, are asking their grandkids to come in from other towns and other states during that week so that they can send them to Mulerider Kids College. That is a wonderful thing for us. WE had a great partnership this year with the Magnolia Public Schools. They provided 110 scholarships for area students and also provided transportation for many students. We had great partnerships with Albemarle, CMC Steel, Brookshires and lots of other people. It helped us free up our budget a little bit this year for the Mulerider Kids College to allow us to do the Mulerider Teens College. We thought we would try this and it was wonderful. We had 75 students as part of this first year and we are pretty sure it is going to grow as well. Having all of these students on campus this summer was a great energy. Jana Walker, who is over here to the right, was the spearhead of this program. She directed both of them and did a remarkable job.

Part of our student body as well, we have some accolades that happened for many of our student athletes. I will tell you, this is unprecedented in the history of SAU. We had over 60 that received conference or national accolades and honors. Two of them I am going to tell you about quickly today. Trevor Rucker, baseball player, received first team, All-American for Baseball. Abbie Dow, she received an enormous amount of accolades. She was the Outstanding graduate in the College of Education this year. She graduated in May. She set the homerun record in the history

of our school. She is right now in the running for Woman of the Year in the NCAA. We will find out in October about that and she was the number one academic All-American for DII softball in the entire nation. That has never happened before. We are proud of both of them and all of our student athletes.

Alycya Thomas, is a junior and getting a musical theater degree. She was a part of a major competition to be someone that will shadow at the "Lion King." Truly a national competition, and they selected a student from Southern Arkansas University. Alycya has been up there all summer shadowing "The Lion King" on Broadway. Enormous, enormous opportunity for her and we are excited for her. I think she may still be there.

Our Muleriders have literal been all over the planet - almost on every continent this year. I want to show you quickly - at the top that is our Provost, Dr. David Lanoue, and our international recruiter, Jason Martisek, in India. They traveled to India to do some recruitment there and had a wonderful reception. To the left are some of our students in Paris with Dr. Ed Kardas. HE lead a tour there. To the right, that is some of our agri students who went with the Boumtje's to Cameroon, Africa to study Agricultural practices there in Africa. To the bottom left, that is Kaci O'Hara, she graduated in 2016, and she spent a month this summer studying in Antarctica. She has quite a story to tell. This is Taylor McNeel, and you know Taylor. She has done wonderful things. Last year she was National FFA President. She spent the summer working in orphanages in Mexico and learning Agricultural practices in Mexico. So every continent except Australia.

New faces on campus. You have probably heard this news before. Macy Braswell has become the Executive Director of the SAU Foundation. Her first day is in September and we are excited about her. She is a fixture here in Magnolia and has done some wonderful things in foundation work and we are really excited about the direction she is going to take. Mike Woods is our new Alumni Director. He has already started and has hit the ground running. We are looking forward to a lot of exciting things with these new leaders on campus. One of the things I want to tell you is, for the first time, I think for the first time, alumni, foundation and develop are all together under the same umbrella lead by our Vice President for Develop, Mr. Josh Kee. We are excited to have those three units working in tandem in the same direction and what will happen there.

We had a wonderful budget process. Shawana Reed did an incredible job. It has become an inclusive process. We had people from all over the campus that are part of the University budget process. Shawana told me the other day that we actually have a surplus which is always a great thing and it is part of her leadership that made that happen.

Residence Halls. We have two new residence halls as you know. They will be finished on time - there is no doubt about that now. I walked through them yesterday. All they are doing is unwrapping furniture. West Hall has room for 85 beds. It is behind Columbia Hall and Magnolia Hall. Eichenberger Hall as you know, we passed a resolution last time to honor Rudy and Sharon Eichenberger. This will hold 55 students. It was our former skating rink if you remember. I think you will be quite amazed to see what it looks like now inside. That was a skating rink at one time. Now it is going to be a wonderful place for 55 students. This will mainly be for science and engineering students and it is right across the street from the engineering building.

The Alumni Center, this is really coming along. This will be finished by September 8th - which is our first home football game. What you are looking at is the outdoor pavilion that has been added on to the end of the alumni center. It will be able to hold about 200 people there in the outdoor space. It also has indoor/outdoor bathrooms, a pass through foyer, we are working on the inside of the building. We are going to have a grill area and it is just going to be a really wonderful building for the community and alumni. Eventually, in late August, our Alumni offices will move to this building.

Because of our growth, we had to add on to the cafeteria. I will tell you, we have added 200 more seats and in fact, if you want to take a look at it, we can. We have added to the outside of the cafeteria. The hallway goes all the way around the cafeteria with 200 seats. We have also added a new serving area. We are calling it the 1909 Grill in honor of our founding year. It will be a Mongolian stir-fry area where students can watch their food being cooked in front of them. It will be another option for our expanded student body.

In programs, I guess our biggest news in the past 48 hours is that we signed a very historic agreement with the university of Artisema in Cuba. We are the first University in the history of Arkansas to have this historic, wonderful exchange program with Cuba. The possibilities are limitless. They really want to work with us on student exchange, faculty exchange, research projects, cultural exchanges. We are talking about the possibility of taking some of our music groups down there to tour. I think it will be limitless as you know, Cuba has been opening up over the past few years and this will be a wonderful relationship for us. They are such great people. In fact, they left today. They also spent part of the time painting a friendship mural on campus. There is one just like it in Cuba that Steven Ochs worked on, our Chair of the Art Department. It will be a great relationship.

Our doctoral program. We have talked about this before. It is moving forward. Dr. Lanoue and Connie Wilson and others have provided wonderful leadership to move this forward. If you look at this map, this kind of answers the questions on its own as to why a doctoral program is needed in South Arkansas. You see the stars, that's where the doctoral programs are in Arkansas. He knows there is a need here. Roger Guevara has done some wonderful surveys that shows the need in south Arkansas. So, we are looking forward to this. We plan to submit this to ADHE this fall for approval with the possibility of getting this doctoral program starting in the fall 2019. It will be in Education Leadership.

This has been in the news as well. SAU on the square. As you know Mrs. Webb donated this building to us and she is an SAU graduate. Many of her family members are SAU graduates. This building has been around for over 100 years and it is about to become "SAU Beyond the Campus." Our plan is to sell our SAU appeal in the front part of the building and the majority of the back of the building will be used as an educational space to have community education classes with our adults and our children in Magnolia. We think it is going to be a symbol that SAU is a part of our community and part of the downtown square. We hope that will open in 2018.

Athletic program: A lot of things have been happening in our athletic program. As you may have seen, we were picked as the pre-season favorite as number one for football this year. We are excited about that. I know it puts a lot of pressure on Coach Keopple but he has got the potential. He has a lot of starters coming back. I guess the most visible thing this year - we have a new scoreboard. It is going up at Wilkins Stadium. We raised the money for this. Josh Kee, Jackson McCurdy and others have raised the money for this. It is going to be an enormous scoreboard. The jumbo Tron screen itself is 30 ft x 15 ft. Just to show you why we needed this, the current scoreboard was put up in 1965. It has shown its age. In fact, this past year, it quite working during the game. We said then, it is time, it is time.

This is our 100th year of playing football and we are going to be celebrating that all year long. 100th anniversary of football.

We converted some of our showers in Watson Gymnasium. This is a cultural thing here. The current generation don't like to take showers in the gym, they go back to their rooms to shower after games so we had spaces that were not utilized and this summer, we turned them into team meeting rooms so they can watch smart tv's, watch games and gather and prepare for the games.

The tennis courts - as I told you, we are bringing tennis back to SAU in the fall 2018. Tennis courts will begin to being remodeled this fall. I told the staff the other day, you know you need new tennis courts when Robby Nash, who is the head of our physical plant, comes to you and says "Dr. Berry, we need to weed eat the tennis courts." It is time for a new tennis court. We have the money to do that. We are going to hire a tennis coach in January so he can recruit and then bring tennis back in the fall of '18.

Philanthropy - another wonderful thing. I will tell that as you know, we have been involved in a capital campaign. Josh Kee and his team have done a great, great job. Two of the most visible things is when you walk out the front door of this building, you will see the Ozmer House. We brought it to campus in October and we have received about a \$150,000.00 grant to restore it. The other is happening as we speak, right now - two hours ago, one half of the Alexander House arrived on campus. It is one of the oldest houses in Columbia County. The other half will be here on Sunday. We will put them together and we hopefully will have an historical day. When it is finished, this is what it will look like. We have the Ozmer House on the right, the Alexander House on the left. The Alexander House is going to become the Columbia County Museum. We have never had a museum. We are going to have one now. We are going to have outdoor restrooms in the middle and in the far back that will be a barn for Molly the mule - what our mascot rides. Molly the mule will be in the center of campus. This will be an event center and educational center for the community and region.

The Love and Loyalty campaign: We started ten months ago and I will tell you that what has happened is nothing short of astounding. The work and the love that our alumni have shown for SAU. I just want to show you the current figures. As of right now, since October, we have raised in pledges and cash, 8.5 million dollars in the past ten months. This year we are on track to raise 3.7 million dollars so we are very close to a number one year in fundraising in 2017.

If you are around Magnolia, we are going to have our Blue and Gold day on the square. It is as great time to bring the students together on the square so they can see what our merchants have to offer. It is a wonderful representation of all the business around the square. It is October 22 and that is our second day of registration.

Now, I want to show you one last slide and then I will turn it over to Jason Morrison. You know at the very beginning, I showed you the slide with Abbie Guin in it and it said "I Chose SAU." The past two years that has been our slogan, "I Chose SAU." It has been a very, very effective slogan. Your students have a chose and they chose SAU for many different reasons. This year, we tried to start an informal poll as to why students chose SAU. At our BAM sessions this summer when

they come to register for classes, we asked them this simple questions "Why did you chose SAU?" We got a lot of different answers why they chose SAU...they liked the major we have, there brother of sister went here, but we had one common answer that was given throughout all summer long and that may be our next slogan. WE are going to take it for a test run this fall and this was the most common answer why they chose SAU "Because it Feels Like Home!" With all the connotations as to what feels like home means, security, right fit. We are going to look at this possibility as our new slogan and we will forward to seeing where that will lead. That's all I have. Do you have any questions? I will be happy to answer. Thank you very much.

[00:25:31.16] Steve Keith: Jason

[00:25:40.02] Unknown Speaker: Alright. This Wednesday, our faculty reported back to campus and we had an all faculty staff meeting where we provided a state of the college address. It has been a busy seven months in Camden and we have had lots and lots of changes. So the state of the college, I am going to simply put, it's improving. We are not perfect, we are not doing great, we are improving. It is something that we are going to continue to do over the next few years. As long as I have that ability to move forward. We are improving from where we were back in January to now, I am extremely proud of the work our faculty and staff and administrators have put in to put us into a position to say "We are improving." Some of you might think that, well, that is no exciting. I promise you from where we were at, we are doing well and improving. I know that probably in the next board meeting Gaye will provide a financial report in which we did end the year up, which is good. That has not been the trend in Camden.

Now, what is new? We have done a complete restructure of everything on campus. There is probably not one part of the campus that has not been touched. We moved away from a dean's system to division chairs. We are a small institution and we felt like have division chairs will give us a structure that will give us a greater communication among the faculty ranks.

We have a new director of business industry training, Randy Harper, who is the director of the environmental training academy has taken lead on the business and industry training. When he took over the environmental academy, they were in the red. Within a few months, they were back in the black. I expect that Randy is going to do the same thing for our business and industry. A matter of fact, once we get the non-destructive imaging up and running, the first day that we announced that we are going to have the availability for non-destructive imaging training, we had over 40 inquires with the first 24 hours. Looking forward to what Randy will bring to the area. We now have a dean of enrollment services. WE are moving to enrollment management model in our recruiting and admissions process. With me is Jenny Sanders, she is our new Dean

of Enrollment Services. She has already, what a month now on the job, has taken lead, has created a database system for tracking students and to help us improve our targeting of students. One thing we have to always be conscience of, it's not about chasing a number, because that will get you into trouble, it is chasing a student. We can chase students all day long and the numbers will come. I appreciate Jenny and her efforts. In that process, we moved recruiters under her and recruit coaches under her as well so we could have a holistic recruiting center.

New scheduling process: I touched base on this a few months ago. We now have the adapted scheduling process based on the major you choose as a student and that you can actually complete fifteen hours in a semester. The courses for your degree are actually being offered.

Alright, SAU Tech choir. many of you heard during lunch, I was playing a little video of our choir. Carissa Lewis, she was able to perform the National Anthem at the Arkansas Travelers game and she did an outstanding job. I look forward to what she brings to this choir. We now have 20 members of our choir. We are excited about the and we are still looking for support as we are providing \$100.00 semester scholarships to our choir. If anyone wants to support the choir, I am here. We do have to get more support for our choir and we are planning an event in December as a fundraiser that is strictly for the choir. Carissa is taking charge of that and she will do an amazing job.

I can't say enough about our curriculum committee. They meet for the first time this spring for like the first time in 10 years face to face. They have gone through all our programs, making recommendations, and they are getting ready to go through a task of looking at another round of recommendations. when January comes and we go before ADHE, there will probably be not one program that has not been touched, and modified in order to serve our students better.

The new budgetary process: The first year, we started making request that request has to be tied to a plan to the strategic plan. We have to be tied to what we want to accomplish in the future of this institution. I think this is one of the things that has helped us be in a better position as we approach this year's budget.

Once again the program updates: The one thing we are looking at doing, we have an associates of applied science in general technology. Names matter and we are looking to change that degree over to an associates of applied science in industrial sciences in technology. It will also allow us to qualify for Our Futures grant and also by modifying core courses, it will get a greater

realization through curriculum and therefore we are not having to many courses out there with low enrollment. We would maximize enrollment in those courses.

Of course, you know we have the solar panel that is on our day room. I have had conversations this week and we anticipate something really bright for our future. Our new electronic signage was supposed to be up this week, but the rain came early in the week. They are a little fearfully of doing electrical wiring in the rain. We are going to have some new electronic signage in front of the Ross Center. If anyone knows where the Ross Center is located, it is on California avenue which is the most traveled street in Camden. This will allow us greater marketing capabilities in the Camden area.

We have talked about our alumni association. Our tech supporters are all around Camden. You drive around Camden; you will see signs at businesses. Those are people that are willing to give discounts to our alumni or have given to the scholarship. I forgot to mention that we have a new foundation director, Becky Moore resigned and returned to Hope. On Tuesday, I believe, our new director of our foundation, Lisa Antoon, will take the reins. In a matter of fact, we will be at an event this weekend and so is already jumping in. We look forward to creating so stability in that position. We have had some great momentum. We have already raised more money this spring than in the two years prior. I wish that is a tremendous amount but it is not, but we are getting there. We have commitments to our scholar's program, we have some commitments to our choir and other programs. We are going to get there.

We are planning a big event this fall called the Beach Ball. It will be in the gala. It will be a signature event for SAU Tech which will be strictly for the foundation and scholarship opportunities for students. As I tell people, you are not giving me money, you are not giving tech money, you are giving money to our students.

Religious study classes that will be taking place at the Ross center and we will also have a more revamped schedule for the Ross Center. More evening classes for non-traditional students that sometimes feel traveling to East Camden is too difficult. I have already mentioned the non-structured imaging. Of course we have the MOU's. We signed with SAU in criminal justice and those classes are starting this fall. We also signed an agreement with the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith in the associate of applied science to the bachelor of applied sciences. This allows students in our associate of applied sciences degree to transfer without any loss of credit hours. This is important to us to having applied science degrees because often students that transfer loose core credit hours. Now all other core credit hours will transfer. It is hard when you have a computer student who has five national certifications loose credit hours because they are told

they need s junior level of the same classes that they have a national certification for. This will allow a transfer opportunity for our students and also in our animation technology and gaming design students as well.

Let's go to the fall of 2018. Tech's college program - I still need supporters. I know that I passed some cards recently, and I am sure that they just have not made it back to me. I still need supporters for our tech scholar's programs. Right now, we are aiming for 14 or 16. 16 would be perfect because how our dorms are set-up. We are probably 60 percent there. We will continue to raise support for our Tech scholars program.

I have to give my faculty and staff praise for Wednesday during our meeting. Sometimes you never know what pops in my head when I have the microphone in my hand. It just hit me that we have all of the social media and technology about crowd funding, we did an old school crowd funding on Wednesday. I challenged everybody in the meeting to bring money and drop it on the stage and I would match it up to \$500.00. We raised \$315.00 so I cut another check for \$315.00 so we were able to raise \$630.00 on day one of the faculty meeting to go toward our scholars program. I am so proud of the faculty and staff that were willing to give. I tell me people it does not matter if you give a dollar or \$1000.00, you are equally important as supporters of this institution. They did a great job. I also have to thank my wife. we are both invested in this institution. As you did back in January, we gave everyone T-Shirts. We bought all of our faculty and staff t-shirts with the new slogan for this fall.

We are still moving forward with the forestry technician program. I believe in January it will go before the ADHE board. So we will probably be coming to you in October for final approval and then move to January. This is not a research degree...this is an application based degree. We are moving forward with our LPN-RN transition program. Our RN works with several articulation agreements for BSN. I know Shelly Young is super excited. She is our director of nursing for allied health. She is doing a feasibility study as we speak and thanks to Dr. Berry and the system in providing some extra resources for us to redo the nursing area. We appreciate that. Because we take pride, when Dr. Berry shows us numbers, we are like we are a part of that because SAU Tech is providing students to SAU. SAU growth has a lot to do with that and we are proud of about being a part of the system. I told Dr. Berry a while back, I will make him the best system president in the state. We should be proud of our system and how we benefit each other.

Also, coming in the fall of 2018, I always say hyper but I have been corrected. Health, Kinesiology and Recreation - we are working with Dr. Lanoue to make sure the transfer for those courses and so forth.

New housing, we have our 48 beds that will be coming by the fall of 2018. Also, men's and women's basketball - we will have an announcement on a coach in a few weeks. Data process has moved forward and I will tell you this, we truly had a national search. I am had candidates as far away as Hawaii, Florida, all across this country for this position. We are looking forward to making that announcement soon and brining that to our culture and our student life. Of course with that was our cheer and band. On Wednesday, I found an individual that is interested in being the director of our pep band. That is moving forward and start recruiting on that. We will start recruiting on cheer as well. We will continue to redesign our programs always making sure our programs are what students want.

What do you think? I guess you can take this as official. We are the SAU Tech Rockets. We are proud of the history of Camden, Arkansas and the industrial park. Camden is truly the dense of a nation. Camden defends with country and this nation with the materials they produce in our industrial park, we provide protection for everyone in this country and throughout this world. We are proud to honor that history by embracing the Rockets. So, from today on, we are the SAU Tech Rockets.

Programs that are strong and continue to be strong are mechanical maintenance program, our welling academy. At the next board meeting we will update on enrollment. I think we are six spots away in our welling from being full. We were bold this year and said we were going to 45 and we are at 39 right now. Our welling academy is a nationally, credentialed welling academy. Those numbers are looking strong. Our numbers overall for the institution, I don't want to jinx myself. but we are looking strong. I was told that we are at the same position where we were at last year, but last year we were including law enforcement, and fir students and those have not touched our enrollment yet. WE are at the same position but they all have to pay.

Our dorms are full. One thing about our dorm process, you have to pay upfront before you get a room. Our dorms are full by paid people.

Aviation maintenance is always a strong program for us here and in Texarkana. Our Texarkana program has struggled in the past and we are at eight or nine students this fall. That is up from one student last fall. In the adult program not the career academy program at the high school.

Our teacher education, we have a new teacher in the teacher education program. She seems pretty dynamic and a go getter. She is going to grow our early childhood education program as well as our teacher education program.

Our film and video production. Steve does a terrific job with that program.

In practical nursing, they had a 94 percent pass rate. We are proud of Shelly and her team.

Well, as I mentioned, on Wednesday night, we had SAU Tech night at the Travelers game. That was our second Tech night because on July 21, we had our first SAU Tech night and you can see some brilliant athlete throughout the first pitch (Jason's daughter). This was tremendous for us. WE went to Little Rock, we owned that night, we had 50-75 people from SAU Tech. In between innings, they were showing videos of our students, of our campus. This is helping us get where we need and next year, SAU and SAU Tech is going to sponsor all eight Wednesday ballgames. We are going to own college night in Little Rock. This is a tremendous growth for both of the institutions and we are looking forward to it because we have opened a whole new audience to the programs and what SAU Tech has to offer.

Areas of growth - transfer education and graphic design education. We have a new instructor and classes are already busting at the seams. We are excited about that.

Gaming and design, we built a program that we can track across the state.

Transfer education - I put this because I wanted to reinforce to my faculty and staff that we have to be more focused on our transfer program as well as our CT (career technical education program).

Cosmetology - It is full. The cohort starting this fall is full and there is a waiting list.

Like I told you before general technology to industrial science and technology will be a name change and I think it will help with that program.

Our student activities - in the spring we passed a student activities fee and this will provide additional funding for student activities and student engagement. We look help through that to bring them down to enjoy more SAU activities. That will benefit the system as a fluid recruitment process.

Student support, Marcus Copeland, is our retention coordinator. He is working tirelessly to come up with ideas for retention. Something that just happened this week, Tuesday, because of a resignation, we are combining our tutoring center with our Library into an educational resource center. A one stop, research, writing lab, tutoring center for our students in which Marcus, as the retention officer will be housed in there as well under the direction of Kyra Jerry, who is our tutoring coordinator and she is taking over the responsibilities as the educational resource center. The one stop shop for our students and support.

Our recruitment is not just in our local area. We are going statewide. We are going to show that we have the programs that students should want to travel no matter how far they have to travel to come and take. Of course we must continue to grow support for our foundation. We are going to work tirelessly to work on our reputation and perception of the institution in our serve area.

Our key focus this year is retention, retention, retention. Everything we are going to do is about retaining our students. We are bringing in more students so far the last two years at a higher rate than before. It is not retaining students. Folks, that brings us back to you can chase a number and you will fail, if you chase a student, you will succeed in growth. We are going to continue to recruit our students. After they are on campus, we are going to show that they are wanted and desired on this campus and they can be successful. So this fall, to go along with Be Tech - along with the shirts that Steph and I bought our faculty and staff has a #forkeeps. I encouraged them this Wednesday that everything you do is for our students is for keeps. Every contact you have, every tutoring session, every class you teach, financial conversation, every academic advising opportunity, every retention consultation is for keeps! We are going to take this and run with it and I am certain this will pay-off for us in the end. I will take any questions.

[00:47:21.18] Steve Keith: Thank you Jason. Dr. Lanoue, we will turn it over to you.

[00:47:48.15] David Lanoue: Good afternoon. I am here with one proposal today but it is a very important one. Dr. Berry already introduced. It is the proposal for the Ed.D. program, the Doctorate of Education in Rural and Diverse Education and Leadership. I want to recognize a

couple of people who are in the audience and a couple of people who are not, who have really done the heavy lifting here. Connie Wilson, a faculty member in the department of education and has been instrumental in going through curriculum and putting together what we believe is a very solid, competitive program. Dr. Roger Guevara has done great work as I will tell you in a moment in surveying potential students, potential employers, and really what the demand is and what we felt is there, actually was there. I talked about this before and Dr. Berry talked about it today so I want spend a lot of your time on it. I want to say a couple of things. One thing is that we feel we are ready for this. Graduate Education has become a more important part of SAU in the recent years and a much larger part of our student body. It is not just the MCSI program the international students, although it is an important component, our domestic graduate education applications this year are up 71 percent. So have a growing student body in all areas of graduate education but, we think this will help. We are ready for this in terms of experience, in terms of faculty, in terms of passing. The second thing, this is a needed program. Dr. Guevara surveyed over 100 people in the area. He surveyed faculty members, employers, K-12 teachers, k-12 principals, superintendents, community college administrators, community college teachers, faculty here at SAU, and community leaders. Over 100 people were surveyed and the results were overwhelming. Not just people wanted to see this program, but they felt there were jobs available many jobs available for people that graduate from this program, that there was a great need. In fact, I will recognize one question that was asked. On a 4-point scale, everyone was asked how great is the need with four being the highest level. The average result was over 3.5 and people told us what kind of jobs that people could go into, the need for those jobs and what they expected over the next several years. With Dr. Guevara's work, we really get established at what we felt there is a strong need and these people are going to get out, get employed and raise the level of K-12 and higher education in Southwestern Arkansas as well as our first doctorate program to our half of the state. I will leave it there and take any questions that you may have. Professor Wilson or Professor Guevara can certainly answer any questions you may about curriculum.

[00:51:20.27] Steve Keith: If there are not questions, we will ask for a motion to approve this change.

[00:51:28.10] Lawrence Bearden: So moved.

[00:51:30.14] Edgar Lee: Second

[00:51:31.06] Steve Keith: We have a motion and second. All those in favor?

[00:51:33.21] Edgar Lee: "Aye."

[00:51:33.28] Therral Story: "Aye."

[00:51:33.28] Lawrence Bearden: "Aye."

[00:51:36.15] Steve Keith: Thank you and thank you group for doing this. You all did an outstanding job putting this together. I read it!

[00:51:48.17] Steve Keith: Valerie

[00:51:51.12] Valerie Wilson: Hello everybody. In your packet, we included some programs that we are removing from our list of approved programs. As Dr. Morrison has already alluded, we are doing a review of our entire list of programs and making lots of revisions and this is just the beginning. These programs on this list are programs that are no longer offered that were not removed from our list. We are doing lots of clean-up and this is just the start of it.

[00:52:28.00] Steve Keith: Any questions? if not, we will ask for a vote. We need a motion.

[00:52:35.05] Edgar Lee: So moved.

[00:52:35.05] Lawrence Bearden: Second.

[00:52:35.05] Steve Keith: All those in favor?

[00:52:38.29] Lawrence Bearden: "Aye."

[00:52:39.08] Edgar Lee: "Aye."

[00:52:39.08] Therral Story: "Aye."

[00:52:39.08] Steve Keith: Motion approved. Thank you Valerie.

[00:52:47.24] Steve Keith: We will call on Dr. Lanoue again to report of Minority Recruitment and Retention annual report.

[00:52:54.12] David Lanoue: You have in your packet the report for SAU for the past year. I think it speaks for itself and I would be happy to take questions. One thing I want to point out, is to recognize one issue that has been extremely successful is the leadership academy. Credit goes to Dr. Allen and those in student affairs. They have done a wonderful job with that in which we have found students that are coming to SAU, minority students, first generation students, low income students and invited them to a pre-college leadership academy. We have found that the students are taking advantage of that, over 70 percent are retained from the freshman year to the sophomore year which is approximately ten percent higher than our overall retention rate. I just want to point that one initiative out because that has been a very successful program.

[00:54:06.14] Steve Keith: Are there any questions? At this time, I will ask for a motion to approve this report.

[00:54:16.28] Lawrence Bearden: So moved.

[00:54:20.03] Edgar Lee: Second.

[00:54:20.03] Steve Keith: We have a motion and second of the Minority Recruitment and Retention report. Any questions? If not, we will call for a vote. All those in favor.

[00:54:23.08] Edgar Lee: "Aye."

[00:54:25.03] Lawrence Bearden: "Aye."

[00:54:26.29] Therral Story: "Aye."

[00:54:36.24] Steve Keith: Motion approved.

[00:54:45.14] Jason Morrison: I will be presenting this report for David McLeane. In the fall of 2016 semester, there were 306 minority students attending SAU Tech. The total fall head count was 780 and they represent 39 percent of the head count. During the 2016-17 academic year, there were 206 minority completions with a total completion of 717 and minorities represented were 28.73 percent for total completions. In the fall of 2016, there were 29 minority employees as faculty or staff and the total number of employees were 109 and this represents 26 percent. There were 29 new hires during the 2016-17 academic year and seven of those new hires were minority candidates making it 24.14 percent of the new hires. This is your report. Are there any questions?

[00:55:38.01] Steve Keith: If there are no questions. we will call for a motion to approve this report.

[00:55:45.16] Edgar Lee: So moved.

[00:55:46.29] Lawrence Bearden: Second.

[00:55:46.29] Steve Keith: Motion and a second. All those in favor?

[00:55:50.04] Lawrence Bearden: "I:

[00:55:50.04] Edgar Lee: "Aye."

[00:55:50.04] Therral Story: "Aye."

[00:55:53.07] Steve Keith: Thank you. Motion. At this time, we will call on Mr. Roger Giles to discuss the resolution.

[00:56:10.09] Speaker Name: Many years ago, the Board adopted a policy for alcohol use at the

Ross Center. This is not something new for this Board to approve. It is something that has been in effect in the past and this reflects the change from Columbia county from dry to wet. This essentially continues our no alcohol policy. It simply allows at certain events at the Alumni Center, on the Square and at the President's home, that with the President's approval and in compliance with all Arkansas law. Students will not be there, for specialized events for adults, that alcohol could be served. There is a policy that has been distributed to you and a resolution if you chose to do so, which adopts the policy. Also note that we will be writing specific procedures that are more detailed for the qualifications of servers that ensures that all Arkansas laws are met.

[00:57:54.13] Steve Keith: At this time, we will ask for a motion to approve the resolution.

[00:57:58.23] Lawrence Bearden: So moved.

[00:58:00.04] Edgar Lee: Second.

[00:58:01.21] Steve Keith: We have a motion and second. Any discussion? All those in favor?

[00:58:07.29] Edgar Lee: "Aye."

[00:58:07.29] Lawrence Bearden: "Aye."

[00:58:07.29] Therral Story: "Aye."

[00:58:10.24] Steve Keith: Resolution approved. At this time, we will go into executive session.

Executive session at 1:50 p.m.

[00:00:07.08] Steve Keith: We will call the meeting back into order. At this time, I will ask for a motion to approve the personal changes.

[00:00:13.16] Lawrence Bearden: So move.

[00:00:15.01] Therral Story: Second.

[00:00:15.27] Steve Keith: We have a motion and a second to approve personal changes at SAU Tech and Southern Arkansas University. All those in favor?

[00:00:23.12] Edgar Lee: "Aye."

[00:00:23.18] Therral Story: "Aye."

[00:00:23.18] Lawrence Bearden: "Aye."

[00:00:24.08] Steve Keith: Changes approved.

[00:00:27.19] Steve Keith: I appreciate everybody. At this time, I will ask for a motion to adjourn.

[00:01:09.28] Lawrence Bearden: So moved.

[00:01:11.04] Therral Story: Second.

[00:01:13.08] Steve Keith: Motion and a second.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Recorder of Record: La'Tricia Davis

David Nelson, Secretary
Board of Trustees

Steve Keith, Chair
Board of Trustees