

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees met on Thursday, May 11, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in TE 116 at SAU Tech, Camden. The following were in attendance: Trey Berry, Steve Keith, Edgar Lee, Therral Story, David Nelson, Lawrence Bearden, Josh Kee, Donna Allen, David Lanoue; Shawana Reed, Roger Giles, Jason Morrison (SAU Tech Chancellor), Gaye Manning, Valerie Wilson, and David McLeane. Guests included Sheryl Edwards, Aaron Street (SAU Communications), Dan Marsh (SAU Communications), Svetlana Paulson (Faculty Senate President) Deana Taylor (Staff Senate President), and Mike McNeal (Magnolia Reporter).

[00:01:05.04] Beginning of Board of Trustees Meeting

[00:01:15.13] Steve Keith: We will call the meeting of the Board of Trustees to order. I would like to welcome everyone here. We appreciate the facility. Everything looks good. The campus looks really good. Glad Mike McNeal with the Magnolia Reporter is here. We always like to see Mike. Good to see Lawrence here. Lawrence has been down. We appreciate you being with us.

[00:01:41.19] Lawrence Bearden: Good to be here.

[00:01:42.26] Steve Keith: At this time, we will ask for the approval of the minutes. You have had time to look over them.

[00:01:48.23] Edgar Lee: So moved.

[00:01:49.12] Steve Keith: We've got a motion.

[00:01:51.12] Therral Story: Second.

[00:01:51.12] Steve Keith: We have a second to approve the minutes. All those in favor?

[00:01:55.25] Lawrence Bearden: "I"

[00:01:55.29] Edgar Lee: "I"

[00:01:55.29] David Nelson: "I"

[00:01:55.29] Therral Story: "I"

[00:01:57.21] Steve Keith: Motion carried.

[00:01:58.03] Steve Keith: At this time, we will ask for comments from Dr. Berry.

[00:02:00.09] Trey Berry: My report is going to be very short today since we have a long agenda. I just want to give you a quick update on some things happening. I will have a longer update in our August/September meeting. As you know, because you participated in it, we graduated about 722 students between last Friday and Saturday. We ended up with about five softball athletes in Bentonville last Saturday.

A quick update on what things look like for enrollment for the fall. It is looking very positive. Our undergraduate is looking extremely positive. Our residence halls are getting pretty close to full. As you know, we have the two new dorms, Magnolia Hall and Columbia Hall and they are full. Fincher Hall is full, University Hall is full, University Village Apartments are full, University Court Apartments are full and our two residence halls, West Hall and Eichenberger Hall. West Hall is full and it is not even finished yet and it will be finished. It maybe the day before school starts but it will be finished. Eichenberger Hall, the Science and Engineering Living and Learning Center, right now, it is half full. It is only May. We are very encouraged by what we are seeing in our residence halls and in our undergraduate enrollment. We are still looking at our Graduate enrollment may be down a little bit just because of the uncertainty on the world stage. I think there have been a lot of changes across the nation They are having a down turn in some of their international and graduate programs. We are going to see what happens there. It is shaping up to be a very, very good fall and we are very excited about that. I will tell you also that when it comes to building, just yesterday, Josh Kee, Beth Anne Rankin and I were in Little Rock and the Arkansas Natural Cultural Resources Council awarded SAU a \$400,000.00 historic preservation grant to move and restore the Alexander House from outside of Magnolia to the center of campus. It will join the Ozmer House, which is being renovated now to a nice historical complex for events and all kinds of things. I will talk more about that in the fall as well.

Some leadership changes. We have a new business dean in the Rankin College of Business, Dr. Robin Sronce. She has her doctorate from Southern Illinois University, she is the Dean at Drury University in Missouri. She will be joining us on July 5 and we are excited about that. She is a very, very, very pleasant person with a lot of vision. We are excited about her addition to the campus. Scott McKay, our current dean of Science and Engineering will be leaving us for a Vice President and Provost position at Dakota State University in South Dakota. We have an interim

just appointed today, Dr. Abdel Bachri, who is actually the chair of Engineering department. He is also our current Honor Professor and you saw him carrying the mace this past graduation. We will be our interim dean. In the fall, we will conduct a national search for a new science and engineering dean. Then somebody you all know sitting here on the front row, Sheryl Edwards, has the dubious duty of being the assistant to the president and keeping me straight. She also taking on a new role, not just assistant to the president, she is also director of government relations. She is also going to take on the task during the legislative sessions of working with the legislature on our behalf and SAU Tech's behalf, the whole SAU system to try to get us some good things coming out of the legislature. She is going to be burning up the roads back in forth when the session is in. We are very excited. I thought I had energy - nah! She has all of the energy and we are excited.

One little thing we have been working on and we are still in negotiations, one of the things we what to do is continue to try to and bring the town and the campus together. We are looking at the possibility of starting a store on the square. It will be called, as you see, "SAU on the Square." It would sell our apparel on the square, it will also be a place where we can have continuing education classes, we could have student gatherings, we can even have credit classes at noon. There are a lot of things we would like to do to bring that connection even closer. So I will give you more information as it becomes available. We are pursuing this right now and I think it will be a great thing for the University. I think it will be a great thing for Magnolia and we are looking forward to that as well.

I want to end today talking a little bit about why we continue to prosper at SAU. I always give a spill all over the state and when people ask why is SAU growing? Why is it prospering? I have a little spill that I give about..."Well, we have new academic programs that are attracting people to our campus, we have affordability, but at the end of the day it is our people. The people of SAU have really grabbed hold of this feeling "The culture of caring and caring for each student." Today, I want to end with that and show you just what is going on and the reputation that SAU is getting out there. This is a headline from the Sentinal-Record in Hot Springs. It is a little blurry, but Keely Stofer, was the salutatorian when this article came out, but she has been elevated by the time we got it to Valedictorian. She has chosen SAU. She had options at Baylor, Vanderbilt, many other Arkansas Colleges, and she came to visit us and she fell in love with SAU. She fell in love with the personal attention that she received here. You can see that in the article. This is why she chose SAU. We are very excited that she is coming to campus. She is also Hallman Scholar - she is holding one of the Hallman Scholarships for this year. She is a top flight student and we are excited about her. She is here because of the personal touch of the people of SAU.

I want to end with a text that I received two weeks ago. This just really came out of the blue from a father of a prospective student in northwest Arkansas, in Fayetteville. He is a dentist in

Fayetteville and this is what he wrote me. Like I said, this just came out of the blue. This just shows you what we are talking about getting a statewide reputation and a regional reputation about caring.

"Dr. Berry,

My wife and I visited your campus with your daughter last Tuesday. We just received your card that you sent in the mail yesterday. I just wanted to thank you for taking the time to write the card and tell that we were very impressed with our visit to SAU. We are from the northwest part of the state and I must confess that I did not know anything about your University until someone from your admissions office reached out to my daughter. I was a little skeptical about sending her to a school that far away from home that we had never heard of before. I did a little research and asked around, we agreed to visit and consider SAU. I must say that two things stood out to my wife and I from the moment we arrived on campus. First, you appeared to be making substantial investment in upgrading your facilities and your campus presents itself nicely. In fact, I think some of your facilities are very impressive for the size of campus and I commend you and your staff for their appearance. Second, and most importantly, the people on your campus were extremely friendly and helpful. We interacted with folks from the financial aid department, admissions, housing, campus police, faculty and various others. Everyone to a person was patient, informative, seemed generally interested in getting things right for all of us. I mentioned to my daughter that you don't always get treated this way at larger universities and your example on campus with your people was stellar. In conclusion, as a business owner, I know to have so many positive interactions with such a wide range of people does not happen by accident. I commend you on how well your people represented themselves and your University and I am excited now to be sending my daughter to you in August as a Mulerider."

That's my report

[00:12:04.15] Steve Keith: We appreciate that. You know Dr. Berry is a letter writer. I had a family this week that said their son had decided to come to SAU because he received a personal letter from you.

Jason?

[00:12:42.10] Jason Morrison: I will keep you brief as well because I know you have because I know you have a long agenda. First, you noticed the campus as you came in today? A lot of that work was based on 26 people coming out of their offices and out of their comfort zone to clean the campus. It was two weeks ago today, we got out and we got to work on the direction of Mrs.

Gaye Manning. That showed me that there are people that care and what to see this institution looking better and looking favorable when students come to visit and when parents come to visit our campus. We are not done yet. We have more lists. We were without a landscaping crew on staff for four months. I appreciate the work. Now, the first time I presented to you, it was early on in my tenure here. We have steadily been moving forward. Under Valerie's directions, academic affairs have completed a review of all academic programs and will be making some recommendations to those programs in the fall on how we will be moving those programs forward and with growth.

We are in the process of hiring a graphics art instructor and those classes on the schedule are already full. That is a positive trend on that program. We are steadily moving forward on athletics. We have submitted our letter of intent to NJCAA on Monday. We are on track to start men's and women's basketball in the fall of 2018. We have seen a lot of excitement in the community, a lot of interest in people interested in coaching so we are excited about what that will contribute to our campus along with a cheer and pep band. In looking at other issues that we are facing on campus. We have done a complete rearrangement because of a recent resignation of our academic programs, we are no longer going to have a dean for this upcoming year. We are going to operate off of interim division chairs. Dean Bill Archer resigned a couple of weeks ago and moving to the private sector so we decided to go with an interim basis for the next year. Because of the size of our institution, we feel that division chairs will give faculty more representation and greater voice. With that, Workforce is now going to fall under the direction of Randy Harper, who is the director of the Arkansas Environmental and Training Academy. The ? House will fall under his direction as far as the CPT program.

So, we have had a lot of changes taking place. One thing I really want to touch heavy on today is the work being done of the Foundation side. Mrs. Becky Moore started about four and half weeks ago and comes originally from Hope and comes to us from the Dallas, Texas area and she has hit the ground running. As you know, we are starting a scholar's program in 2018. Looking for the best of the best in our area and going out and recruit to have students to be a part of a scholar's community. With that being said, we have been going out to get donations for that scholar's community. Right we have \$5000.00 a year committed and one individual has committed a \$5000.00 yearly donation. So, that brings us to \$10,000.00 at this point and we have only been out there actively out there for two weeks now getting contributions to the scholar's program. I see a lot of opportunity in our foundation. We have started an Alumni Association. I would say that the Alumni Association is less than a week old. As we wanted to get geared up for graduation. We have two members because I paid for the two members. It was an excellent opportunity. We were at graduation practice and we wanted to have a little fun with the graduates and I agreed to pay for a year's membership for two of our students and one of our students is a member of the military and armed forces. We were are happy to salute and honor our armed forces, so we have two members. We are steadily going out there and talking to

students, getting things in place and to make it enticing to join SAU Alumni Association. With the mantra "Tech Now, Tech Forever!" We look forward to building that community that will be a part that will support this institution along with other foundation support. In a sense we are starting from scratch when it comes to foundation. It is very new to our community and the need to support your institution. I brought everyone today a card so you too can support. You sense the excitement? I know what we have done in the first four months could not have been done without David McLeane, Valerie Wilson, and Gaye Manning as part of the leadership team. I want you to know that we are doing things that people are telling me that Tech has not done. We are presenting ourselves that we are not just a choice of an institution that you can get your education, we are going to be their first choice. I hate to tell SAU that, but our goal is we are going to make SAU Tech their first choice and then we are going to do what we can to transfer to SAU. I appreciate Dr. Lanoue. He and I have meet and talked about solidifying our articulation agreements between our two institutions. We have one here today that we can sign, so we are going to be actively seeking stronger agreements to our students can matriculate from SAU Tech to a four-year education, even in an applied science as well. We are in the talks about Forestry Harvesting Technician program. We are investigating a possibility of that program and we also submitted a letter of intent for a LPN-RN transition program which we hope will start in Fall 2019. So with the LPN-RN, with the growth of our graphics art program that we are going to put a full time instructor in place, we are fully committed to the programs have but, we actively pursuing other programs for this institution. We are doing it; we are going to get it done. I said last time, it may take us a little longer than I originally anticipated, but I am going to make sure and I know with great confidence with the team we have, we are going to get where we are going. We are going to make SAU Tech a force to reckon with in the state of Arkansas. If you look at some of the student we are recruiting in our welding program, they are coming from northwest Arkansas, they are coming from eastern Arkansas, our graphic arts program, we are pulling students from across the state. We just have to do a better job of selling ourselves and the work that we are doing. At this time, I will take any questions you may have.

[00:21:04.28] Lawrence Bearden: Just a comment. If we didn't know where we were coming today, building numbers are hard to find.

[00:21:17.27] Jason Morrison: Today is a great opportunity if anyone would like to put their name on a building. I have a card...we can make that happen. I know we have things we have to work on and improve. I promise you if you saw the facilities two weeks ago, before we did the clean-up, the transformation you see now is tremendous.

[00:22:09.21] Edgar Lee: Are you going to hire a grounds crew?

[00:22:12.18] Jason Morrison: We have replaced those people. We still have one open.

[00:22:23.08] Gaye Manning: We filled three and we probably will transition one other to the grounds area. I am also out there a lot.

[00:22:28.07] Jason Morrison: We found it difficult to replace some of these positions. The workforce is not there that can meet some of the requirements to be hired. We have those same struggles that a four year institutions have in hiring certain positions. If you have a private business, you know what I am talking about. Showing up to work on time, soft skills, etc. Any other questions? "Be great, Be Tech!"

[00:22:58.10] Steve Keith: Thank you Jason. At this time, we will adjourn and go into executive session. We will try to be brief.

[00:00:17.25] Steve Keith: We will call the meeting back into session. At this time, we are going to ask one of our Board members for a motion to approve our personal changes.

[00:00:30.28] Edgar Lee: I move to amend the list of personal changes by extending the contract for Dr. Berry by one year.

[00:00:41.03] David Nelson: Second

[00:00:43.18] Steve Keith: We have a motion and second. All those in favor.

[00:00:45.08] Edgar Lee: "I"

[00:00:46.19] Lawrence Bearden: "I"

[00:00:46.19] Therral Story: "I"

[00:00:46.19] David Nelson: "I"

[00:00:46.19] Steve Keith: Motion approved.

[00:00:52.05] David Nelson: I would also make a motion that we award Dr. David Ashby with a Faculty Emeritus status.

[00:00:59.21] Lawrence Bearden: Second

[00:00:59.21] Steve Keith: We have a motion and second. All those in favor.

[00:01:02.17] Edgar Lee: "I"

[00:01:02.17] Lawrence Bearden: "I"

[00:01:02.17] David Nelson: "I"

[00:01:02.17] Therral Story: "I"

[00:01:04.03] Steve Keith: Motion carried. At this time, we have a few resolutions we need to approve. I am going to ask Roger Giles to talk about the System Provisional Pool Position.

[00:01:29.06] Roger Giles: Each University has an appropriation act that gives funding authority and author for specific positions. Unfortunately, there are not enough positions in that act to cover positions that come up at universities. There are two ways that the state has adopted to solve that problem. One, the growth pool, which is you can request additional positions based on growth. We certainly meet the criteria for that. Pool positions are additional positions to your appropriation act and then they will generally will roll into your appropriation in the following biennium. The state has been very slow to add positions to the regular biennial because they want to keep everything the same, which is fine if you are not growing, but when you are growing, it does create some problems. The pool position resolution at SAU Magnolia is simply to allow us to request some additional position based on our growth and target it toward specific needs. Additional faculty, additional classified staff and additional support staff, and then non-classified support staff which is your mid-level managers and up to the president. That is the pool position.

Provisional positions are more to cover grants. We have several grants: the TRIO programs and other grants and the provisional positions primarily for grant programs and those who have staff. That is for both Magnolia and SAU Tech. The statute for provisional positions allow us 60 and SAU

Tech 40. We are requesting authorization to request up to that number as we need them over the next two years starting July 1.

[00:03:40.04] Steve Keith: We are going to ask for a motion to approve the resolution on system provisional and pool positions.

[00:03:46.26] Edgar Lee: So moved.

[00:03:47.29] David Nelson: Second.

[00:03:47.29] Steve Keith: Any discussion? All those in favor?

[00:04:00.15] Lawrence Bearden: "I"

[00:04:00.21] David Nelson: "I"

[00:04:00.21] Therral Story: "I"

[00:04:00.21] Edgar Lee: "I"

[00:04:02.06] Steve Keith: Motion carried.

[00:04:33.23] Steve Keith: Now we would like to consider the resolution for the Arkansas Highway Transportation Department.

[00:04:38.03] Roger Giles: There are three small partials of property that the Highway Department wishes to buy for the 82 bypass expansion. One of them is by the tunnel nearest the business park and the other two are near the stables, between the stables and Story Arena. The amount of land is less than a total acre when you look at it. It is a very small amount of land and they are working with us not to disrupt our farm operation any more than necessary. The only disruption would be, and we are trying to schedule that now, is the area near the arena that goes between the show barn and the new hay barn. We are working with them now because there will have to be some cattle movement to take place. We are trying to work the schedule so that the construction and the cattle movement will work out. The highway department has been very cooperative and working through all of this. You received information that included maps of the

exact location and we have requested the authority to substitute money for improvements on our property, which they can do less expensively than we can if they are doing it as part of the overall project. That is the one thing we generally accept the offer but allow the president to negotiate and they have indicated their willingness to look at some options, for instance, across from the stables entrance, because of the Pierce Street entrance has been somewhat of a hazard there, they have indicated that they may be able to widen the area for two cars instead of one. We are looking at safety provisions and improvements along the way. Their offer for \$5,000.00 an acre, there is not much acreage. Are there any other questions?

[00:07:16.27] David Nelson: This area, it will not affect that one last remaining entrance on the highway, will it?

[00:07:27.07] Roger Giles: We don't lose anything.

[00:07:33.04] Therral Story: I would like to make a comment, they paid \$10,000.00 on the 82 project so that may be a bargaining point.

[00:07:45.15] Roger Giles: We have a couple of things we would like them to do, so that well may be a bargaining point that would be helpful to us.

[00:07:53.24] Steve Keith: We need a motion to approve the resolution for the Arkansas Highway Transportation.

[00:07:57.10] David Nelson: So moved.

[00:07:59.10] Edgar Lee: Second.

[00:07:59.10] Steve Keith: All those in favor?

[00:08:01.10] Lawrence Bearden: "I"

[00:08:01.16] Edgar Lee: "I"

[00:08:01.16] David Nelson: "I"

[00:08:01.16] Therral Story: "I"

[00:08:06.16] Steve Keith: Resolution of Housing - Shawana?

[00:08:11.10] Shawana Reed: Before you for your consideration is a request to assume the loan of the Unverstiy Court apartments. It is located at 119 E. University. It right behind the Eichenberger Hall. There are three buidings with a total of 17 rooms plus one RA suite and a little over 13000 square feet. We would be assuming the loan of this property as we have been leasing it since 2012 when we saw that we had a need for housing. Our annual lease payment is about \$103,000.00 and that is after the discount they had awarded for us when we paid a year up front. Assuming this loan would bring our debt to service down to \$66,000.00 and that is about a \$40,000.00 savings. Are there any questions?

[00:09:20.10] Steve Keith: We need a motion to approve the Resolution for Housing.

[00:09:23.17] Therral Story: I make a motion.

[00:09:23.28] Lawrence Bearden: Second.

[00:09:25.15] Steve Keith: We have a motion and second. All those in favor?

[00:09:28.08] Lawrence Bearden: "I"

[00:09:28.20] David Nelson: "I"

[00:09:28.20] Therral Story: "I"

[00:09:28.20] Edgar Lee: "I"

[00:09:34.05] Steve Keith: Motion carried.

[00:09:37.02] Steve Keith: Now we will address the issue of the amendment to the Gift Acceptance Policy, Mr. Josh Kee.

[00:09:48.02] Josh Kee: What you have before you, is a proposed change in the University's Gift Acceptance Policy specifically dealing with section on pledges. Through the outstanding work of the Transition Committee, we are working to align the policies for both the Foundation and the University. The statement on pledges have been jointly developed and now reflect as parallel language for both the foundation and the University's policy. The Foundation Board of Governors adopted similar language at their meeting in April and now we request consideration for adopting the gift acceptance policy.

[00:10:25.14] Steve Keith: We need a motion.

[00:10:27.26] David Nelson: I make a motion

[00:10:28.06] Edgar Lee: Second

[00:10:29.10] Steve Keith: We have a first and second to approve the amendment to approve the gift acceptance policy. All those in favor?

[00:10:35.07] Edgar Lee: "I"

[00:10:35.15] Therral Story: "I"

[00:10:35.15] David Nelson: "I"

[00:10:35.15] Lawrence Bearden: "I"

[00:10:36.28] Steve Keith: Motion approved.

[00:10:52.08] Steve Keith: Now we are going to address the issue of the Resolution on Handguns. Dr. Berry is going to make a few comments on this.

[00:11:03.03] Trey Berry: As you know the Arkansas General Assembly passed a law that will allow handguns, conceal carry, on college campus. That will go in to effect, this new policy, new law will go into effect on September 1, 2017. This resolution just clarifies that our current policy of not allowing concealed carry on campus will continue until that date, September 1, 2017 to allow

our police force and our campus to prepare for that new reality on our campus. This is just a clarification that that policy does go into effect on September 1, but until that time, we need to clarify that we are training for that new law.

[00:12:00.26] Steve Keith: We need a motion to approve this resolution.

[00:12:03.26] David Nelson: I make a motion to approve the resolution on handguns.

[00:12:05.05] Edgar Lee: Second

[00:12:05.05] Steve Keith: We have a motion and a second. All those in favor?

[00:12:08.09] Edgar Lee: "I"

[00:12:08.09] Therral Story: "I"

[00:12:08.09] David Nelson: "I"

[00:12:08.09] Lawrence Bearden: "I"

[00:12:09.01] Steve Keith: Motion approved.

[00:12:18.25] Steve Keith: At this time, we will ask Shawana to come up and talk about our system budget for 2017-2018.

[00:12:32.03] Shawana Reed: For detailed information regarding the SAU budget, please refer to the 2017-18 budget book that is attached.

[00:22:11.04] Gaye Manning: For detailed information regarding the SAU Tech budget, please refer to the 2017-18 budget book that is attached.

[00:35:45.07] Steve Keith: At this time, we will ask for a motion to approve Southern Arkansas University Systems budget which includes SAU Tech and the Athletic program.

[00:35:59.13] David Nelson: So moved

[00:35:59.13] Edgar Lee: Second.

[00:36:00.06] Steve Keith: We have a motion and a second. All those in favor?

[00:36:04.01] Lawrence Bearden: "I"

[00:36:04.01] Therral Story: "I"

[00:36:04.01] Edgar Lee: "I"

[00:36:04.01] David Nelson: "I"

[00:36:08.22] Steve Keith: Motion approved.

[00:36:38.22] Steve Keith: If there is nothing further, I ask for a motion to adjourn.

[00:37:14.01] David Nelson: I make a motion to adjourn.

[00:37:15.09] Edgar Lee: Second.

[00:37:21.18] {End of Audio} Adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

David Nelson, Secretary
Board of Trustees

Steve Keith, Chair
Board of Trustees

Recorder of Recorded: La'Tricia Davis