

Board of Trustees
Friday, December 8, 2017
Reynolds 210
2:00 p.m.

The Board of Trustees met on Friday, December 8, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. in Reynolds 210. The following were in attendance: Trey Berry, Steve Keith, Edgar Lee, Therral Story, Lawrence Bearden, Roger Giles, Josh Kee, Donna Allen, David Lanoue, Shawana Reed, Jennifer Rowsam, Sarah Jennings, Jason Morrison (SAU Tech Chancellor), Gaye Manning, Valerie Wilson, and David McLeane. Guests included Sheryl Edwards, Jenny Sanders, Sarah Key, Aaron Street, Dan Marsh (SAU Communications) Mike McNeil (Magnolia Reporter) and John David Bailey (Banner News)

[00:00:45.22] Steve Keith: We will call the meeting of the Board to order. Welcome everybody here. It is good to see everybody. Mike and Dan, glad each of you are here. We have all Board members here except David Nelson. David Nelson father is in bad shape. Let's remember him and his family in our prayers and think about them often. At this time, we will ask the Board to review the minutes, if you haven't already, at the time you so choose, we will ask for a motion to approve them for October, August and August 11.

[00:01:31.22] Edgar Lee: So move.

[00:01:36.16] Therral Story: Second

[00:01:36.16] Steve Keith: We have a motion and second by Edgar Lee and a second by Therral Story.

[00:01:40.20] Lawrence Bearden: ""

[00:01:40.20] Therral Story: "I"

[00:01:40.20] Edgar Lee: "I"

[00:01:40.20] Steve Keith: Motion approved. At this time, we will ask Dr. Berry for his comments.

[00:01:46.11] Trey Berry: Good afternoon everybody on this first feeling winter day, finally. I have some positive things to tell you. I know that Dr. Morrison has some very positive things to tell you later. I want to start out by telling you a little bit about the freshman class. We are very excited because not only do we have a record freshman class this year, we have a quality freshman class. We have the highest average ACT among any freshman class in our history, which is also a good sign. The academic credentials, not just the numbers, are going up and that is something that we would really like to see. We also have a record number of sophomore class, we also have a record number of students living on campus, record number of students in our honors program. We are very excited about where we are and we are excited about what the future holds. I will tell you a little bit about our projected fall enrollment. Dr. Allen always gets a little nervous when I talk about this. I am not going to give any figures today and she said "thank you!" and so did Sarah Jennings. I will tell you that our applications for the fall are up significantly, I mean significantly. Tours were students come to campus for tours is up significantly for the fall. Our acceptance rates are up significantly so we will tell you that it is looking very, very promising. We also are looking that the possibility of very full dorms, very full residence halls. They are all great signs so we are extremely excited of the promise of what next year brings. I will tell that we are still working on the effects of lower international student enrollment. This is something that happened this year but it is happening all over the country. Literally in every university. We are trying to do somethings to diversify the country we recruit from. We also established a new group called the International Ambassadors. They are much like to President's Ambassadors. They are students from various countries. About 15 students from 15 different countries that is designed to help us recruit overseas in their home country. People they know and

they know their home country. We are using them to help us do some overseas recruiting to help us make up that shortfall.

We will give the update on the Ed.D., our first doctoral degree. Dr. Lanoue has been working on this tirelessly. We have jumped over our first hurdle for the Ed.D. We had first reading of the Ed.D. and our first comment period with the Arkansas Coordinating Board and with the other colleges and Universities in the state. I am happy to report that we had no negative comments. All positive comments at the Board meeting at Mountain Home back in the fall. We had a lot of questions, all very positive questions. Our next step now is to have consultants come in, independent consultants, to look at our readiness to have a Doctoral program. We are working on that right now. We hope in the early part of the spring or sometime during the spring, we will have some consultants to look at the University and to assess our ability to have a doctoral degree. We are still looking at the possibility of this starting, best case scenario, in the fall 2019. Again, the great thing about this if you look at this map, these are where all the doctoral programs are. We will be the first doctoral program in what we call education, which is education leadership south of Little Rock. We think that is an important thing for our region. We already see enormous interest from other colleges, from our University, from principals and superintendents so we think there is a great need for this degree program. We will keep you posted as we go along with that program.

Some things that are happening - I will just mention. I mentioned this to Steve earlier, we are trying to do more things for the students to have things for them to do on campus. This is the biggest thing in student activities right now. It is Frisbee golf or they call it disc golf. It is the thing right now. We have established an 18 hole Frisbee golf course, it is not a hole, it is a net and it is state-of-the-art. Our students are very serious about it. We have a disc golf team and they are not just out there to have fun. Our disc golf team just qualified for the national tournament in South Carolina and they will be going there in the spring semester. We are trying to do more things like that. We have established some sand volleyball courts all over campus which is another thing our students really like. We are doing things to have more activities.

You may have seen in the news, Mike McNeil has been waiting on me to tell them and the Banner News has as well, tell them what is going to happen here and we are happy to announce that Panda Express is coming to SAU. Yet, another great dining venue for our students and the community. We will be building, with the help of the city, an access off of University avenue that will come into the Village to the club house in the University Village Apartments. That's where the Panda Express will be. We think this will be a great thing for our community, for our students, for our campus and from what we understand, it will bring between 15 and 20 jobs to the Magnolia area.

Something is happening in Agri. We are moving forward the poultry studies back to SAU. Probably in a larger way than it was before. This is a mock-up of what that structure might look like. There is the current agri building there, this is what the front building will look like behind it with a state-of-the-art chicken house and they will sit on these plots of land. This is what it will look like from the street at an angle. The chicken house will for raising the chickens and this house, although it looks really nice, is the processing part. We are going to teach the students the entire run of the poultry industry from hatching all the way through processing. We are looking at some very serious financial partners in this and we hope to tell you something about that as the first of the year comes about. We are excited about this possibility for our agri students but also for this region of the country. There is nothing like in the region of Arkansas.

I want to tell you a little bit about our financial stability. We have several slides. I am most excited about this one here. This is our fund balance. This is current year here. As you see and I know you know this board, that is 2014-15, the State of Arkansas, Arkansas took about 4 million dollars from our fund balance. We have been working very hard to build that back up. Shawana Reed has been doing an incredible job telling me "No, you can't so that. We have to do our fund balance." Through many different things, we now have our fund balance up to 18 percent. This includes almost two million in cash. We are astounded by this and we are excited for what it means for our future.

Our endowment growth has really done some great things with the help of Josh Kee and his team and our SAU Foundation. As you see back here in 2015, we got about 29 million in our endowment. In 2016, we reached about 34 million and I am happy to tell you that as of today, it is over 35-million-dollar endowment. It keeps going up and that is very, very exciting for SAU and our future stability.

I also want to tell you about our fundraising for this year because we have hit a milestone folks. Again, with the help of Josh Kee and his wonderful team, we are now having the most successful fundraising year in the history of SAU. We are now, as you see, past the 5million dollar mark, past the 5.5-million-dollar mark, which is the largest in our history and the year is not over. December always proves to be one of our best months. We have 22 days left in December. We are excited where this is going and what this means for the future.

Some other things that are happening. This has been a two-year project. We now have an SAU Community playground. Mr. Aaron Street and Dr. Allen worked very hard on this. It took a lot of doing but a lot of our Alumni and community members stepped up on this project to help fund this. It is now open and I am here to tell you that it is already heavily, heavily used. It is a great place. Not just because it is a new playground, but it is kind of geared to really young kids and so our alumni and community members feel safe about this community playground. It is right by the duck pond, near the walking trail. Great, great atmosphere there.

Tennis, again, Dr. Allen and Coach Steve Browning have really been the drivers of this. I am here to tell you that we are bringing tennis back. It will come back as a sport in the fall of 2018. On January 2, 2018 we will begin demolition of the current tennis courts and restore those tennis courts. We will have a team recruited throughout the spring. I am hopeful by the end of the day today; I can tell you that we have hired a tennis coach. I think we have but we are going to verify that. We have a tennis coach that is coming on board, men and women's tennis and we are very excited about what this will do. Also, the community will be able to play on these new tennis courts.

Celebration of Lights was just a wonderful evening. We had a very big crowd that came out for that. A lot of people work so very hard. Our staff works so very hard to put up these lights and get us ready for the holiday season. We changed the bell tower back to its original red. In the centennial year we changed it to blue and we changed it back to the original red. This is another gift that we do for the community. It was a fun evening.

We are doing a lot more aggressive marketing. Aaron Street and his team are really doing great things on social media, on television - we have television commercials in Shreveport, in Little Rock, commercials in movie theaters, billboards, magazines - with our new slogan. This top billboard is in Benton now. This one here, the bottom, is between Jacksonville and Cabot and we also have about five other billboards that are in Texarkana, Vilonia, Minden, and several other places. We are real excited and I will tell you that our slogan is really catching on.

I want to show you this because this happened last night. La'Tricia Davis, Sheryl Edwards and Sarah Jennings helped us organize a really intimate dinner with the Magnolia High School Seniors. We have that down stairs and it was a wonderful, wonderful evening. We got to talk to them about what we are talking to you about today. Some of the great things that are happening at SAU and let them know that we would really, really like for them here on our campus as students next fall. We are excited about what possibilities we have with our Magnolia Seniors this year.

Then I want to show you this young lady here. This is Rheanna Kirby and she is from Ponotac, Mississippi. The reason I am showing you her picture today is because I received this card from her yesterday about noon and I want to read it to you. "Dear Mr. Berry, Yes, I am trying to pick a college and it has been very hard. SAU though as made it very easy. SAU is by far my top pick and I hope one day to become a Mulerider. The home like atmosphere won me over. Thank you for everything. See you very soon! Rheanna." So the feeling about: Home" is catching on. I met with some student from Heritage today and the reason they are choosing SAU is because they feel safe and they feel like home. Do you have any questions?

[00:16:56.00] Lawrence Bearden: What about the home for the President?

[00:16:57.09] Trey Berry: Well, we have trusses up, we have insulation board around it. They think they will have the decking up next week and they are still projecting that it will be finished sometime the end of May, first of June, weather permitting. They have been working really hard. We have still been having committee meetings about where we can cut cost and do somethings to make things better as we go along. We have been very happy with the progress so far and we have a great team out there working.

[00:17:33.12] Steve Keith: Thank you Dr. Berry...exciting report. Dr. Morrison?

[00:17:38.08] Jason Morrison: Alright, I have just a short window here. What I want to do today is meet one of our students. Give you some good news first, we found out Monday evening. Most of you know that we have been completing a financial monitoring report with HLC and no more monitoring is required.

I have a short video that I want to show you after I introduce our student, I want to give you a recap of what this fall semester has been like. Our Honors students, which are scholars before there is a scholar's program next year, put together a carnival called "Rockets Day." The carnival was set for special needs children and on that we had over 130 special needs kids on our campus and we made that day special to them. That was all done by our honors students and the leadership of Dean Sanders. I cannot tell you how touching that day to see the innocents and beauty of the special needs kids in our area. That was only from five schools. Next year we will have more schools and we will have a morning and afternoon session so we can celebrate these children and give them a day on a college campus. What our students learned from this event, because there where not only honors students, we had others students asking "Can I help?" They helped with the games, faculty and staff helped with the games, it was just a tremendous day for our campus. We impacted a lot of high school counselors for bringing the kids on campus that didn't necessarily have a positive view of us. We changed it that day. They said Tech is here and Tech is for real. What I would like to do right now is

introduce you to Sarah Key, she is one of our honors students and she is a great representation of what SAU Tech is all about.

[00:19:46.15] Sarah Key: Good afternoon! I just want to tell you a few things about Rocket Day. It was the most heart-warming thing you could ever see. Like you said, they are so innocent and just to see the faces when they came in. I actually got a message from one of them that said "I can't wait for Rocket Day!" That was the night before and I said, "Me either!" It was awesome, the students had fun and the whole point was to give the kids that don't have the same capabilities that we do and they just can't go to the fair and say, I want to get on this ride or this ride! I want to go over there...here they could. They had help from the students, the faculty and it was just an all-around wonderful amazing day. I have a few remarks from some of the honors students..."Madison Watkins "Honestly, that was far from what I imaged it would be. I learned leadership skills on just embracing others that I would have sadly overlooked originally." Another student said, Rocket Day got me involved in other students and help me acquire better communication and planning skills. Yet another student, "I began to take on a role of leadership inside the classroom, I participated in the hardest event but the most rewarding event ever." I feel that I got more out of it than the kids did. If I talk to long about it, I will get emotional. Special needs children have always been close and dear to my heart so when Mrs. Jenny came in with this idea, and we could not have done it without Mrs. Jenny Sanders. She did so much. We were like, "Yes, we want to do!" The whole class got on board and it was amazing! Thank you!

[00:21:36.27] Jason Morrison: So we are going to have a little recap of this fall semester in video because you know I can't talk to long. Video plays...

[00:24:40.02] Jason Morrison: That has kind of been what fall has been like. We have been just changing the landscape of SAU Tech. As I tell people, no longer will community college students be treated like second class students. If you come to Tech, you are going to get the same experiences that you get at a four- year university at a lower cost. As I tell people, we are a family and family protects family. As we move into next fall, we are super excited, (?) for financial are up, applications are up, housing applications for the fall are already coming in when

normally, they don't come in until next May. We are hoping this is a good sign and we are proud of being ranking 19th as affordable online education and we are proud to be ranked in the top 150 of all community colleges by the ASPEN Institute. Good things are coming to Tech. New relationships with SAU working with Dr. Lanoue on those. We have more to come with that. Our hyper-teaching program, our criminal justice program. In January, the forestry technician program. The cheer team received \$6000.00 and will receive \$6000.00 annually to fund scholarships for the cheer squad. New things are coming. If you have any questions?

[00:27:39.06] Steve Keith: At this time, we will call on Dr. David Lanoue for academic changes.

[00:27:43.01] David Lanoue: Good afternoon. A couple of changes for your consideration. One, set of change involves our Master of Public Administration program which has not been growing the way we want it to grow. We brought in new leadership, Dr. Amber Overholser, and she has done an incredible job. She has brought in energy and drive to it. The result of that is what you see in front of you today. We are doing a couple of things with the program. First of all, we are turning it into, as we did last semester with computer science, we are turning it into a four plus one program. Students can start their freshman year and complete a Master of Public Administration in just five years, from day one through the end. We think that will be a really good recruiting tool and allow student to get out there and start their careers a little faster. The other things we are putting the MPA entirely online and that is important because a lot of people we are trying to attract are already in careers and they are trying to move up in public service and they need a program that will respond to the times they are available and their ability to work and an online program responds to that. We are pretty excited about this. We think it will grow the MPA program and that is important to the region too because we are one of the major engines in producing people in public service in south and southwestern Arkansas. That is one of our major responsibilities and the MPA program is a large part of that. We think that the changes in the program including the course changes that you have in front of you, that will make a big difference and really put our MPS in the next level.

The second, we are very excited about, is the proposal for the bachelor of science program in public health. as you probably know, the health care professions are projected to be the most growing, the most jobs are going to be in the next 30-40 years and we want to play a role in that. The College of Science and Engineering got together and put together a program in public health. It is intended to train people to be first responders, health educators, restaurant inspectors, nutritionist, epidemiologist, work in public health departments, hospitals, insurance companies, healthcare management organizations, healthcare accreditors so there are a lot of job in this growing area and something that we are very excited to be a part of. In additional to that, we have a lot of students in pre-nursing who decide over the course of time that maybe nursing isn't quite right for them. Maybe they faint at the sight of blood, maybe they want to stay in the healthcare field, but maybe nursing isn't where they want to go. By having this program, we will create another option for them where they can stay in the healthcare field, and succeed in the healthcare field, but maybe nursing isn't where they want to go. By having this program, we will create another option for them where they can stay in the healthcare field, and succeed in the healthcare field throughout their time with a degree, go in the field, go to graduate school and be successful in that area and so we wish to add this program. A lot of courses are being added as well so we put both of these initiatives before you. Any questions?

[00:31:18.11] Steve Keith: Thank you David. Any questions? At this time, we will ask for a motion to approve these academic changes.

[00:31:29.06] Therral Story: Motion

[00:31:30.16] Lawrence Bearden: Second

[00:31:30.12] Steve Keith: We have a motion by Mr. Story and a second by Lawrence. those in favor?

[00:31:39.15] Edgar Lee: "I"

[00:31:39.15] Lawrence Bearden: "I"

[00:31:39.15] Therral Story: "I"

[00:31:39.15] Steve Keith: Motion approved. Thank you Dr. Lanoue. Valerie we ask for your report.

[00:31:47.07] Valerie Wilson: Good afternoon everybody. You have a total of six changes for academic programs at SAU Tech. We are still in the process of making revisions to our programs. One of the major revisions we are proposing is to the simulation and game design area of the multimedia technology. Our instructor, Brian Dixon, approached me late spring of this year about the possibility of participating in a boot camp for this emphasis area. He came out of that wanting to more focus the simulation and game design area. Right now it is like a generic type of area and he wants to more focus it and he thinks it will grow the enrollment and so we are changing that focus to environmental materials. When we said environmental materials, I was thinking about waste water, hazardous materials. It is not, environmental materials is just what it says, the environment. Like the patterns in the carpet, the trees and so when you do that graphically, how you make those patterns, and the contrasting of the colors, that in environmental materials. So are going to focus on that beginning fall 2018. We think it is going to increase the interest in that area is we focus on one area and plus, that is Mr. Dixon's area of specialty.

Another area, we got a new education instructor, to run the education department that started in July. She is making some changes to the paraprofessional educator and child development program. We are going to move the AAS degree back to a stand-alone degree and add a practicum to it and make some changes to the CVA - Certificate of Proficiency and rename it to Early Childhood Education. The other changes are very minor - we are replacing a course in graphic design area, making a small revision in the computer science program to make that a 60-hour program,

it was an hour short. We are also adding business calculus to our Business Administration degree. That's all our changes. Any questions?

[00:34:21.25] Steve Keith: Any questions? Ask for a motion to approve the changes?

[00:34:27.05] Edgar Lee: So moved

[00:34:28.13] Therral Story: Second

[00:34:28.13] Steve Keith: Motion by Edgar and second by Therral to approve these changes. All in favor?

[00:34:34.26] Edgar Lee: "I"

[00:34:35.06] Lawrence Bearden: "I"

[00:34:35.06] Therral Story: "I"

[00:34:36.01] Steve Keith: Motion carried. Thank you. Mr. Giles.

[00:34:48.20] Roger Giles: As all of you know the excitement for this event has already occurred. It was a wonderful event for those that had to opportunity to attend. Dr. Berry was able to, I guess, give Columbia County a surprise party. Mr. Blanchard really didn't know what was happening when he got here which a wonderful event. The event was to preserve the lasting recognition of being in the minutes of the Board of Trustees so they are historically part of the record. I would encourage you to pass this resolution as a part of the amen to the event and thereby making it a permanent record of this institution.

[00:35:43.06] Lawrence Bearden: So moved

[00:35:48.27] Therral Story: Second

[00:35:48.17] Steve Keith: We have a motion and second to approve this resolution. All in favor?

[00:35:50.17] Lawrence Bearden: "I"

[00:35:50.17] Edgar Lee: "I"

[00:35:50.17] Therral Story: "I"

[00:35:52.28] Steve Keith: Motion carried. At this time, we will call on Miss Reed to present the Legislative Audit for SAU.

To view the 2015-2016 audits for SAU and SAU Tech, please visit the links below.

SAU:

<http://www.arklegaudit.gov/pdf.aspx?id=EDHE10516>

SAU Tech:

<http://www.arklegaudit.gov/pdf.aspx?id=EDHE11516>

[00:35:47.03] Steve Keith: We need a motion to approve both audits. SAU first...

[00:52:00.01] Lawrence Bearden: So moved

[00:52:02.00] Therral Story: Second

[00:52:02.00] Steve Keith: We have a motion by Lawrence and a second by

Therral to approve the SAU Audit. Now we need a motion to approve the SAU Tech Audit.

[00:52:09.01] Edgar Lee: So moved.

[00:52:11.13] Therral Story: Second

[00:52:11.13] Steve Keith: We have a motion by Edgar Lee and a second by Therral. All those in favor.

[00:52:14.12] Lawrence Bearden: "I"

[00:52:14.12] Edgar Lee: "I"

[00:52:14.12] Therral Story: "I"

[00:52:14.12] Steve Keith: Motion approved. At this time, we will adjourn to Executive Session. (2:52 p.m.)

[01:16:57.29] Steve Keith: AT this time, we will reconvene. We have one more item on the agenda. At this time, I will ask for a motion to approve the personnel changes.

[01:17:08.19] Edgar Lee: I move that we accept the personnel changes.

[01:17:12.00] Therral Story: Second

[01:17:12.00] Steve Keith: WE have a motion and second the personnel changes. All those in favor?

[01:17:15.02] Edgar Lee: "I"

[01:17:15.08] Therral Story: "I"

[01:17:15.08] Lawrence Bearden: "I"

[01:17:17.28] Steve Keith: Motion carried. At this time, if there is no other business, we will ask for a motion to adjourn.

[01:17:42.22] Lawrence Bearden: So moved.

[01:17:45.11] Steve Keith: We have a motion and second. We are hereby adjourned.

Recorder of Record: La'Tricia Davis

Chair

Attest: _____
Secretary

