

Board of Trustees
March 6, 2020
Reynolds 210
2:00 p.m.

The Board of Trustees met on Friday, March 6, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. in Reynolds 210. The following were in attendance: Trey Berry, Lawrence Bearden, Therral Story, Monty Harrington, Gary Golden, Donna Allen, David Lanoue, Shawana Reed, Roger Giles, Jennifer Rowsam, Sarah Jennings, Jason Morrison (SAU Tech Chancellor), Gaye Manning, Valerie Wilson and David McLeane. Guests included Sheryl Edwards, Caleigh Moyer (SAU Communications), Dan Marsh (SAU Communications) and Mike McNeill (Magnolia Reporter).

[00:00:13.10] Lawrence Bearden: We will call the Board of Trustees meeting for March 6 to order. Thank you for being here. It has been a wonderful day to be part of the activities and festivities at the University. Seeing the old family homes restored has really been a treat. It has been a wonderful day. At this time, we will go into executive session for personnel. (2.03 pm)

[00:00:04.23] Lawrence Bearden: We are back in regular session (2:30 pm).

[00:00:25.11] Monty Harrington: We need to clarify. In the minutes, it said to clarify the Chairman is Lawrence Bearden, Vice Chairman, Monty Harrington, and Secretary, Therral Story. I make a motion that we add that amendment to the minutes.

[00:00:33.21] Therral Story: Second.

[00:00:33.21] Lawrence Bearden: Any other questions? All those in favor of accepting the minutes as amended, say "Aye"

[00:00:39.19] Gary Golden: "Aye"

[00:00:39.19] Therral Story: "Aye"

[00:00:39.19] Monty Harrington: "Aye"

[00:00:40.24] Lawrence Bearden: Motion approved, we will now hear from Dr. Berry.

[00:00:45.00] Trey Berry: The Board read a statement read by Mr. Giles, and it is something that we have been working on a little while now. It reads as follows:

External deadlines may require a short-time turn around on a document by an external agency or other unit. To meet this requirement the Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees is authorized to sign for the chair on matters approved by the Board for effectively responding to these deadlines. Should the Chair and Vice Chair not be efficiently available, the Secretary may sign in the place of the Chair or Vice Chair.

[00:01:28.27] Lawrence Bearden: Do I hear a motion to this effect?

[00:01:33.07] Gary Golden: So moved.

[00:01:35.02] Lawrence Bearden: Second?

[00:01:35.02] Monty Harrington: Second

[00:01:33.07] Lawrence Bearden: All those in favor, say "Aye"

[00:01:37.01] Monty Harrington: "Aye"

[00:01:37.01] Gary Golden: "Aye"

[00:01:37.01] Therral Story: "Aye"

[00:01:39.19] Lawrence Bearden: Motion carried. I'll ask for a motion to accept the personnel changes.

[00:02:02.11] Monty Harrington: So moved

[00:02:03.09] Therral Story: Second

[00:02:04.11] Lawrence Bearden: All those in favor say, "Aye."

[00:02:04.19] Monty Harrington: "Aye."

[00:02:05.12] Gary Golden: "Aye."

[00:02:05.12] Therral Story: "Aye."

[00:02:06.28] Lawrence Bearden: Motion carried.

[00:02:09.24] Trey Berry: Well, I have a very short presentation for you today. We have a new Board member as of Wednesday. Mrs. Erica Woods has been appointed by the Governor to our Board of Trustees. Erica, as you see is an SAU grad. As far as I know she is the first nursing grad we have had on the Board. She works at CHI St. Vincent in Little Rock as a Nurse. She is also a veteran. A much decorated veteran and she will be joining us at our next Board meeting. She was sworn in on Wednesday. We now have a full Board and that is great.

We had a lot of things happening this spring. Dr. Allen and her crew have been working really hard and been very busy. As the sun come out, so do students. They are all over the place. Actually on one of our rare sun days we have had, I noticed so much activity on campus it is just amazing to me to see students going into the Library studying, the classrooms studying, using the disc golf course, driving range, on the bicycles, just everywhere - it is just so good to see that life. We have so many opportunities for our students. Our fishing team is in a tournament right now. I haven't heard how they did yet, but they are doing well. Our eSports team continues to do really, really well - Nationally. We are really excited and there are a lot of people using the driving range. I think we had about \$500.00 in cash receipts they first full month it was open. As the weather gets better, it will improve. A lot of great things are happening in student life.

Academics - I am not going to steal Dr. Lanoue's thunder. He has some new things to talk to you about. In the College of Business, we received this week, the official, official letter from AACSB and we are now official, official MBA reaccredited in the College of Business. We continue to receive accolades to being the most affordable, accredited University in the nation. That is something we use in our recruitment. It is wonderful. Also, in the Rankin College of Business, they are planning a trip this summer to Greece. We have a donor that has generously given resources for this trip. It is great. We want our study abroad trips not just to be wealthy kid's trips. We want to this to be available for all students and we are excited about that.

In the College of Education, we have our first endowed professorship in Education. This came about through our alumni coming together and donating \$50.00 here, a \$1000.00 here, \$500.00 here to finally come up with \$200,000.00 to have our first endowed professorship in Education and that is Dr. Neelie Dobbins. She is a great teacher and she is well-deserving of the endowed professorship.

Also, in study abroad. The College of Education is taking their first trip to study aboard to England and Scotland. They are going to do the tourist thing as well as visit many k-12 schools during their visit to have comparison study about American schools and British schools.

Also, the College of Education, you may have noticed, they have finally got all of the landscape cleared, all of the piping done for the College of Education building so hopefully we will soon see concrete slab being poured. That is moving along and it is on budget. That lady right there is smiling.

College of Liberal and Performing Arts - We just finished a wonderful play called Wylie and the Hairy Man. It had a huge puppet that was created the Arkansas Arts Center in Little Rock and they donated to us. It was great play. We had both high schools and grade schools come out and watch the play.

We are having a new exhibit and partnering with the Smithsonian Institution and the Arkansas Humanities Council. The exhibit is called Voices and Votes: Democracy in America. It is about the history of democracy and voting in the United States. It is going to be displayed at our campus story in the big room behind the campus store. It will be open to the public and that should start in April and go all the way to the end of May. We are the first stop in the state of Arkansas for this display.

Some improvements in the College of Education. Thanks to Southern Aluminum, they donated some new tables for our classrooms in Wilson Hall. Many of these classrooms had furniture in them that dated back to the 60's. It was time and we were able to do that with our friends, Southern Aluminum.

College of Science and Engineering - We are going to be having, this summer, a rocket workshop. As you see we received \$25,000.00 from NASA to do this and it will be great for kids in Southern Arkansas. Then, a wonderful grant from the Department of Transportation, almost \$300,000.00 grant for us to do testing on using wood ash as a binder for asphalt. If this works out, it could be revolutionary thing for the paving of our highways, not just in Arkansas, but everywhere. We are

the chosen ones to experiment with our engineering department to see if this will work. That starts almost immediately.

Athletics - We have had a very busy, busy athletic season already. In the spring, this is that time when you have ten sports, all playing at the same time. We try to be at all of them, but they overlap. Our men and women's basketball have been in Bartlesville, OK at the end of the year tournament. We made the tournament, which is wonderful. They didn't make it past the first round, but we are proud of them.

Our softball team is ranked in one poll, number one in the nation. Our baseball is ranked 19th in the nation. I think we are 2nd in the GAC in baseball. Tennis is ranked number one. We have cross country in track happening. There is a lot of activity happening. I want to show you this end of the year in athletics. This past year, since we ended a decade, they GAC presented there All-Decade team of athletes. AS you see we have a lot of Muleriders that are ranked and named to the All-Decade teams. One thing that I want to show you is that our baseball and softball teams were ranked the team of the decade. We have had a really good spring so far.

Improvements in athletics - we are about to put the finishing touches on our player development center in baseball. If you remember, this was all done with private money. WE will be dedicating that the first of April. We have also added some space at softball for a covered bullpen for pitchers. This is going to be great facilities for our teams in softball and baseball. Any questions.

[00:10:44.09] Lawrence Bearden: I just have one. I think we need to make a statement that we are very proud of Columbia County Citizen of the Year which is Dr. Berry.

[00:10:59.05] Trey Berry: Thank you.

[00:11:04.25] Lawrence Bearden: Jason

[00:11:11.20] Jason Morrison: Alright, we have had a very, very busy spring semester. What's important about the spring semester, is enrollment. SAU Tech College Core enrollment was up over 12 percent. We might be one of the only institutions in the state of Arkansas that is up in enrollment. We are very proud of what is happening for our college - these are our freshman and sophomores students. Current enrollment, all though, it looks like we are down in the concurrent enrollment that is really an enrollment issue. 52 students were enrolled two days after the snapshot. If you take that number 377 and add 52, we are actually up in concurrent enrollment too. If you add that number in, we would have been up 11 percent overall as an

institution. Credit production, we were up about 3.9 percent. That is really a testament to our college when it comes to credit production,. When I first got here, we did a complete revamping of our schedule, led by Dr. Wilson and many of our faculty members. In revamping the college schedule as far as enrollment, it has led to a 9.7 percent increase in credit production since 2017. That is huge for our institution. It has helped us become more solvent as an institution. We have fought hard to be u in enrollment. When you are in the middle of an industrial park that has 400 jobs open and ou can be up in enrollment that is a testament to our staff, David McLeane and his people and student services.

We were just recognized as a military friendly school. We are very proud of our military friendly status. You remember last year, we opened up a veterans lounge - a very nice facility for our students to go to, a safe place for them to study or relax between classes. We are extremely proud of this military friendly status.

Also, we signed an agreement with Arkansas Economic Development Council called Future Fit. It is a grant opportunity to provide free employment training. We partnered with our Adult Ed and many other services in Camden are, Ouachita and Calhoun County area and may even come into Columbia County area as well to provide free employment training. Through this grant we are receiving over \$75,000.00 in equipment for training and we will be paid for the classes we conduct; four classes a year.

In January, we created a new workforce board. This replaced COBIC - we now have leaders from all over the park. Eric Perrin is the head of General Dynamics. We even brought in industries outside of Highland Park to make it a more southern based workforce advisory board. As you can see Georgia Pacific is also represented on that board. We look forward to the board providing more strength and guidance to the employment needs in our area beyond just the Highland Industrial Park.

We just finished up on a revamp on one of our classrooms in our advanced manufacturing building. Lockheed Martin has funded this whole project. This is the part of the exclusive training rights that SAU Tech received on the expansion of Lockheed Martin. They have put close to \$150,000.00 in this classroom for employee training.

We broke ground on a rainy, cold day for the new Arkansas Fire Training Dorm. We had about 150 plus in attendance. This is a very exciting day for the Fire Training Academy. They are steadily working through the weather to get this project up and rolling.

Meeting Student's Needs - Something that came out of our student planning process that Gaye

Manning is going to talk about a little bit later. This fall we are going to launch a Preschool on the campus of SAU Tech and in partnership with the South Central Co-Op. They have 15 spots available for our students, and five spots have already been taken. We see this one expanding year after year. This will help us to work and attract more non-traditional students because we will be providing child care on the campus of SAU Tech. It will be located in the old fire station on the corner of campus. We will be moving our law enforcement and that building will go through some revamps. This is something that we are very proud of in meeting the community needs and student needs. We are making it all happen with the partnership of South Center Co-op.

You know the welding academy is moving out of Magnolia. This will be the home of the welding academy of South Arkansas. The former automotive building located on the corner of campus on the corner of the advanced manufacturing building. It will be the home of the welding academy. They are inside working on updates and installing welding booths, electrical working will be starting soon and of course ventilation work will be starting soon as the semester is over. They will be taking ventilation out of the old welding academy and moving to the new academy. We look forward to having those 45 students on campus of SAU Tech. I know our director of housing is really looking forward to that.

Arkansas Leadership was on our campus for the second time for the second year in a row. It was great to have that leadership group covering the whole state to be on our campus to learn about SAU Tech and see the impact we are having in the Highland Industrial Park.

Softball season started. First ever softball season at SAU Tech took place and the first two games, we beat ASU. We have four of five homeruns that day. Over the weekend, we had played our second home stance against Williams Baptist University and knocked another five homeruns as we beat them in both games. If you have not been up to SAU Tech, you need to come up and see our facilities. We built a brand new softball field on the campus of SAU Tech. I promise you over 85 percent of the funding for this came from donations, in kind donations and people just giving their time on the community to help us get this softball field completed.

We had sophomore night and we got to recognize some of our sophomores. Halle is our academic all-star student. She is also a student ambassador, she is also the homecoming queen and she is also a Tech scholar student. Katie is also a student on our campus. Katie is from Nevada. Exzaviaun Monk, the first ever Rocket Man, is from Texarkana, another fine young man. We got to recognize our cheerleaders on sophomore night. We recognized Devena Smith, she was our lone sophomore for the women's basketball team. I expect in the coming weeks, we will have an announcement where she will be transferring to. We also got to recognize our guys Chicago, Louisiana, Connecticut, Kansas City and Indiana. Great group of guys. These are the

guys that came in originally with the team and they have set a tremendous precedence for SAU Tech Rocket basketball. These kids were recognized for all region - Devena Smith, second time to be on the first team, all region. Jaland Mitchell was on second team, all region and Sheldon Stevens, for the second year in a row is the greatest player in region II basketball. Two years in a row, he is the greatest player. First ever year of the program, and this young man got to take home the award. That's a testament to how good he really is and he will be heading off to Oral Roberts University this fall. Pretty much all of our kids will be heading to a DI school or high DII school after they leave SAU Tech.

We want to recognize one of our alumni, Shannon Jones. He lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He went through our Environmental Science program and he says all of his career is owed to SAU Tech. We appreciate the opportunity to recognize Shannon Jones.

We just recently had our Black History dinner. We had Sir Sidney Moncrief in attendance. He did a wonderful job with his presentation and this is one of the major events at SAU Tech. There were over 600 people in attendance.

Our choir did a wonderful job. I always like to highlight our choir because that is one of the new things at SAU Tech. Amazing, talented kids.

Well, Monday is D Day. HLC will be on our campus for our accreditation visit. Dr. Wilson, I want to acknowledge her for all of her work to get us ready for this visit. We hope she makes it through Monday. We are ready. In a minute, Gaye Manning will be talking about our new Strategic Plan that the Board will be approving.

We want to thank Jim Golden because at our first softball game, we had over 400 people in attendance. If you haven't been to a JUCO softball game, it is amazing. Jim Golden walked up to me and said "You need bleachers so come see me tomorrow!" I did and thanks to Jim Golden, he purchased a set of bleachers that can hold up to 104 people and they have already been installed. For our second home game, they were full and we had over 250 people at the second game. I am telling you for JUCO softball that is pretty big.

Also, coming up on April 18. Mark your calendar because Houston Nutt will be on campus. As of today, we have sold over 320 tickets of the 592 tickets available. Don't wait, get your ticket now to get the chance to hear from Houston Nutt.

Any questions?

[00:22:30.28] Lawrence Bearden: Looks like you all have been busy and we appreciate it.

[00:22:52.23] David Lanoue: I have a couple of informational items and then a couple of program changes that we want to submit for your consideration. Just to let you know, last year the Board voted to support of BFA Track in Art Therapy. When we present that to the ADHE Board in Little Rock, we are actually going to present that as a BFA in Pre-Art Therapy. As we mention when we presented last time, it is really a track from the BA. To actually be an Art Therapist, you have to have a master's degree and we didn't want to mislead any of our students coming in that once they completed their bachelors, they would be fully qualified. So, we changed the name to Pre-Art Therapy so that they will understand that this is a stepping stone to the master's degree which is the terminal degree for that program.

Second thing is that, we have been working very hard on what we call the 4+1 programs which are programs where students can complete both their bachelor's degree and a master's degree in five years. The way they do that is take the requirements for the master's degree during their senior undergraduate year so those courses count for both the undergraduate and graduate degree. That allows them to move more efficiently through and complete the masters and bachelor's degree in five years. It is a good way for us to encourage our students to stay at SAU and completes bachelor's degrees which will be helpful in their careers. It is certainly be helpful in terms of our enrollments. It is also a way to help them because we have a lot of of our students who are Pell eligible and they don't have a lot of resources and are taking out loans. If we can get them through the bachelors and the masters in one year, a year and half less then we normally take, they get to their career sooner and they do it with less of a debt load. We are pretty excited about the. We have that we are about to finalize in engineering, students who get the bachelors of engineering can move on to the MBA - Master of Business Administration. This is not is a two graduates in five years, it also creates opportunities for an engineering students who may want to take leadership positions on the business side of engineering so they will have the full side of engineering profession and they will have the understanding of business administration which will allow them to take leadership roles.

We have another one that is going from our undergraduate public health degree to our master in Public Administration which will then give the folks that have the understanding of public health issues and that deep understanding, the chance to work in government administrative leadership roles to help use that knowledge to assist the communities. Those are some of the things we have been working on and will present more of those to you as they develop. We are making a really big push right now to add new 4+1 programs and really give those opportunities to our students.

A couple of program changes that we want to bring to you and ask for your approval; one is a certificate in web design. This is being proposed by the department of art. A certificate program is a limited number of courses that you can take and then we certify that you have certain skills and that during your time you are getting your degree, you take that after you have your degree. It is one of those things that on top of any degree you have, especially if you are going into business there is always room for people who understand from the artist side and the computer side, how to develop good, eye catching, effective websites. Having that extra credential, I think, will make some of our students coming out with their degrees even more employable because they will have this extra skill set that they can bring to their jobs. That is the first proposal.

The other is a modification of an existing program. Right now we have a Master of Education: Curriculum and Instruction. What that does, it helps teachers that are already in the classroom be better teachers and learn the most up-to-date skills, learn best practices. It is not a licensure program which means it does not lead to any state licensing. Well, the department of elementary and secondary instruction has asked the University of Arkansas to develop a licensure program. The licensure program that allows teachers to become what they call teacher leaders. We are proposing to change the M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction to a licensure M.Ed. in Instructional Facilitator and Lead Teacher. The idea of the Lead Teacher is an already established teacher that gets this credential and can become a mentor to other teachers, get a promotion and make a little more money. I think the idea for the state is that you have a lot of teachers who are great teachers and they want to advance in their career, as everybody does. The only way for them to advance their career is to get out of teaching and going to an administrative role. Of course, we want great teachers to stay in the classroom but we also want them to fulfill their career ambitions. The idea of this degree is they can get licensure as a lead teacher, they stay in the classroom, they have this promotion, they make a higher salary and they can help to train other employed teachers to become better in their jobs and learn the skills that they already have. Those are the two proposals. One is for the certificate in web design and the other is for the M.Ed. to change with licensure in Instructional Facilitator and Lead Teacher.

Any questions?

[00:28:51.14] Lawrence Bearden: I have a motion to accept the changes.

[00:28:54.19] Monty Harrington: So moved.

[00:28:54.19] Therral Story: Second.

[00:28:55.28] Lawrence Bearden: All in favor say "Aye."

[00:28:57.11] Therral Story: "Aye."

[00:28:59.22] Monty Harrington: "Aye."

[00:28:59.22] Gary Golden: "Aye."

[00:28:59.22] Lawrence Bearden: Motion carried.

Okay, Gaye Manning, you are up next.

[00:29:05.09] Gaye Manning: Thank you. Good afternoon everyone. I am very pleased this afternoon to present to you SAU Tech's new strategic plan for the next five years. I am just a little bit relieved to bring this plan to you. Our final document is based on very thoughtful forward thinking for a great deal of individuals. We have input from our employees, from our students, from our business partners and from people in the community. This project was actually kicked off when a group of us went to the Higher Learning Commission Strategy Forum back in May of 2018. Upon our return to campus, several committees were formed and charges were communicated. The project was broken out into two phases. The first phase was the committee was to take a look at the institutional mission, vision, and core values. The work of this committee was completed in August of 2019 and it was presented to the Board for review and approval. The second part of this project was to take a look at the institutional goals, objectives and metrics. That is the part of the project that has just been completed. The new plan includes a total of six major board goals, 20 objectives and multiple measures and metrics throughout. Three of these goals are more student oriented, three of them are more resource and administrative oriented. All six represent a priority identified by the campus as a whole. Plus, all six directly correlate and link to the Arkansas Division of Higher Education goals and the Arkansas Community College Association goals. I am going to read these six goals. (Refer to Strategic Plan in Board of Trustees information for more details)

This is a five year plan and it will span from 2020-2025. It will be reviewed, evaluated each year and adjustments will be made accordingly. This will also be used as the guiding principal for all the departmental strategies and operation projects. I will be glad to answer any questions that you may have about the process we used or the content.

[00:33:01.01] Lawrence Bearden: I would like to say you all have been very busy and it looks like it is a good strategy plan. We look to see it develop in the next five years.

[00:33:21.26] Gary Golden: I move we accept it as presented.

[00:33:23.07] Monty Harrington: Second

[00:33:23.07] Lawrence Bearden: All in favor say "Aye."

[00:33:23.07] Gary Golden: "Aye."

[00:33:23.07] Therral Story: "Aye."

[00:33:23.07] Monty Harrington: "Aye."

[00:33:26.20] Lawrence Bearden: Motion carried. Being no further business by the Board, we are adjourned.

Board of Trustee

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Recorder of Record:

La'Tricia Davis