

MINUTES OF MEETING
COSSATOT COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS BOARD OF VISITORS
January 6, 2025

Chair Mike Cranford called the regular meeting of the Board of Visitors to order at 12:09 p.m. following a light meal at the UA Cossatot Lockesburg Community Room.

Present:	Mike Cranford	Dori Gutierrez	Dr. Glenn Lance	Angie Walker
	Barbara Dixon	Joe Martinez	Brenda Tate	

Absent: Barbara Horn
Tim Pinkerton

Staff Reports

Chancellor Cole greeted the Board to the January meeting. Chancellor Cole continued to report the need for Student Loans. In the past the college had decided to not participate in offering Federal Student loans to our students. We are the only public college in the state of Arkansas that does not offer Federal Student loans. In 2019 a discussion was started in possibly offering federal student loans and at that time our faculty and staff as well as our Board members were opposed to offer them due to the default rate. This time around as a college we are going to do our due diligence and research the possibility of offering student loans and survey our student population to see what they think about moving in this direction. After we have our student inputs, we will bring this issue to the board to move forward. We have added more programs that have substantial costs associated with them, making it difficult for students to pay their tuition and fees. The college also offers student housing and meal plans, making access to Federal Students Loans a necessity in our changing landscape.

Vice Chancellor Charlotte Johnson provided the latest financial report to the board. The Summary of Unrestricted & Auxiliary revenues at the end of November stands at \$5.1 million, a decrease compared to the same time last year. Expenditures have also decreased from last year, totaling \$4.9 million. In Accounts Receivable, the college is up compared to last year. For Grants & Other Restricted Programs, the college has been awarded \$9 million in grants, with \$2 million earned to date. According to the Schedule of Bank Accounts, the college holds \$3.9 million, which is a decrease from last year. Charlotte also reported that the total for the Schedule of Investments-Certificate of Deposits is \$1 million, an increase of \$50,000 from the previous year. Pooled investments have risen to \$549,000. The total endowment funds amount to \$130,000, this includes Title III deposits.

Vice Chancellor Dr. Ashley Aylett presented the Academic Services report, highlighting the diverse programs available at UA Cossatot. Dr. Aylett informed the board about the state's only combined Automotive Diesel Technology program, which is offered on the De Queen campus. Unlike most colleges that offer the two programs separately, UA Cossatot has integrated them to equip graduates with a broader skill set, improving their employability. High school students can also take courses during their school day through the Secondary Career Center. The Cosmetology program offers affordable services to the public Monday through Thursday, providing community members with

low-cost services while giving students hands-on experience. Students also visit local nursing homes to offer services to residents. Additionally, the college offers short-term, single-semester programs in Esthetics and Nail Technology. Dr. Aylett also highlighted the Cybersecurity program, which is offered in partnership with UA-Hope/Texarkana, allowing students to earn certificates in Cybersecurity. The college's Agriculture program is the only two-year program of its kind in Southwest Arkansas, and it transfers seamlessly to the University of Arkansas. In the spring, students can gain experience in the greenhouse. Dr. Aylett shared that efforts are underway to establish a Veterinary Technician program. Finally, the Secondary Career Center, which helps high school students jumpstart their careers, was discussed. Through this program, students can earn college credit toward a technical degree while still in high school.

Tammy Coleman presented the Public Services & Workforce Development report, highlighting several key updates. She introduced Marty Allen, the new Fiber Network Engineer instructor, who has been doing an excellent job developing curriculum and building industry partnerships. The list of partners continues to grow, now including two international vendors and local electrical/telephone cooperatives. In October and November, the college provided training to 129 individuals, with 88 actively participating in the Career Pathways Initiative. Tammy also mentioned the college's free Career Readiness Certification services, which have already assisted 44 individuals. Additionally, 50 students are enrolled in the YouthBuild program, with a new quarter starting in January and a fresh cohort of participants joining in February. Lastly, Tammy informed the board that Workforce and Continuing Education staff are preparing for the transition to Workday Student, a new student information system set to go live in spring 2025.

Madelyn Jones provided an update on the College Relations department. She shared that during Giving Day, the college raised \$9,696.94, which was allocated across four different funds. Madelyn also announced a generous \$100,000 donation for the Britt Family Scholarship. This scholarship will be awarded for the next 10 years, providing two students each year with full tuition and fees for an academic year. Looking ahead, Madelyn highlighted the upcoming Fiesta Fest fundraiser on May 3rd, which will celebrate the event's 10-year anniversary.

Action Items:

No. 1 Approve Minutes of November 4, 2024, Board Meeting. Brenda Tate motioned for passage and Dori Gutierrez seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 7-0.

The board approved the following Action Items #2-22 as a group.

Angie Walker motioned for review and Barbara Dixon seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

- No. 2 Review College Policy 103: College Governance and Policy Development.
- No. 3 Review New College Policy 209: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.
- No. 4 Review College Policy 306: Institutional Research Approval.
- No. 5 Review College Policy 401: Statement of Guiding Principles and Code of Ethics.
- No. 6 Review College Policy 404: Hiring Authority.

- No. 7 Review College Policy 412: Community and Educational Restrictions.
- No. 8 Review College Policy 413: Staff Hours.
- No. 9 Review College Policy 415: Instructional Staff Teaching Load.
- No. 10 Delete College Policy 418: Faculty Hiring.
- No. 11 Delete College Policy 449: Recognition of Accrediting Bodies.
- No. 12 Review College Policy 447: Educational Assistance Plan.
- No. 13 Review New College Policy 448: Tuition Discount Waiver.
- No. 14 Delete College Policy 508: Waiver of Non-Resident Tuition for Native Americans.
- No. 15 Review College Policy 512: Placement of Students in College.
- No. 16 Review College Policy 515: Honors, Awards, and Scholarships.
- No. 17 Review College Policy 516: Student Financial Aid.
- No. 18 Delete College Policy 517: Additional Scholarships.
- No. 19 Delete College Policy 519: Tuition Fee Waivers.
- No. 20 Delete College Policy 542: Club Sports Student Eligibility.
- No. 21 Delete College Policy 543: Club Sports.
- No. 22 Review College Policy 599: Student Catalog.

Chair Mike Cranford asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Joe Martinez made the motion and with a second from Barbara Dixon, Chair Mike Cranford adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Walker, Secretary

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