

**Academic Council Minutes**  
**October 10, 2007**  
**2:00 p.m.**  
**Library Conference Room A**

Present: Mr. David Ray; Dr. Debbie Bryant; Dr. Ranelle Eubanks; Mr. Mark Spencer; Dr. Louis James; Dr. Peggy Doss; Dr. Richard Kluender; Dr. Morris Bramlett; Dr. Trey Berry; Dr. Kelly Bryant; Dr. Jim Roiger; Ms. Annette Hall; Ms. Pamela Gouner; Ms. Sandra Campbell; Ms. Linda Rushing; Reporter: Ms. Rita Hyatt.

The Council approved the September 26, 2007.

Dr. Trey Berry reported on the Dean's meeting at UCA on October 1. Dr. Berry stated that Governor Mike Beebe will be primarily focused on Remediation, Retention, and Graduation Rates for the coming year.

Mr. Ray reminded the Council to submit reports on Professional Development Opportunities for K-12 Teachers offered by UAM programs to the Provost's Office as soon as possible. We have to submit the report to ADHE by October 15.

Mr. Ray asked the Council to be creative with the summer class schedule. Mr. Ray reminded the Council that a course had to meet for 2250 minutes. Some universities are going to four (4) days in the summer. The Council discussed that some classes cannot be taught in less than 22 days and to be careful that classes don't conflict with other classes. Dr. Debbie Bryant suggested that each unit offer at least one (1) evening class per semester.

Mr. Ray reminded the Council of pre-registration on November 5-16.

Mr. Ray reminded the Council to provide information on remediation, retention, and graduation rates to Dr. Lassiter as soon as possible. He is working on a presentation for a legislative subcommittee concerning programs and activities directed at remediation, graduation and retention.

Mr. Ray talked to the Council about the Legislative Task Force. This committee is concerned with the number of baccalaureate degrees awarded to students in Arkansas. Mr. Ray stated that Arkansas is at the bottom of list in awarding degrees to students. The Council discussed high school students who could not complete college-level courses due to taking fundamental classes. The earlier a student declares a major the more likely the student will stay in school. Mr. Ray asked the Council to discuss setting some goals to improve our graduation rates at our next meeting. The number of degrees offered and how long it would take to award degrees will be discussed. What can we do to promote retention of students will also be considered.

Mr. Ray formed a special committee to make recommendations on creative approaches and use of schedule to attract students to participate in UAM Summer School 2008.

Ms. Pam Gouner, Chair

Dr. Peggy Doss  
Dr. Morris Bramlett  
Dr. Trey Berry  
Mr. Mark Spencer

Mr. Ray provided the Council with a copy of the Children's Education Activity Leave (Act 1028 of 2007). The purpose of the leave is to allow employees an opportunity to participate in their children's educational activities by granting eight (8) hours of children's educational activity leave per calendar year.

Mr. Ray reminded the Council of these upcoming dates:

Board of Visitors meeting, October 11  
UAM Homecoming, October 13  
Completed Faculty Self-Evaluations submitted to the Unit Head for  
Category II, October 15  
Early Retirement of Faculty requests due to Provost's Office, November 1  
Text-book Adoption Form, November 1  
Promotion and Tenure, December 1

The Council adjourned at 3:55 p.m.