Chair Dr. Greg Borse called the meeting to order at 3:27 p.m.

The minutes of the prior meeting were approved with a motion (Dr. Graber) and second (Ms. Campbell).

**Old Business** – none

**New Business**

Dr. Borse reminded the Assembly that officer elections would take place at the next meeting on April 21, 2014. Please email nominations to Becky Phillips, Secretary. He also stated that we needed volunteers to serve on the elections committee. Please email Dr. Borse if you are interested in serving on that committee.

Dr. Clayton gave an HLC update and stated that there are some new policies that are in place that will have an impact on UAM’s visit in October. One such change is a Survey of Student Satisfaction. This survey will be administered to students in the fall. It will not be used in scoring for UAM, but we will receive the results of the survey. Dr. Clayton stated that the committees continue to prepare for the October visit and that everything appears to be on track.

**Assembly Committee Reports**

**Academic Appeals** – The Academic Appeals Committee met on Monday, January 6 and Thursday, January 9. We considered one appeal via e-mail. A total of 36 appeals were considered. The results were:

- Appeals accepted: 17
- Appeals denied: 17
- No action taken: 2
- Total: 36

Submitted by:

Charles Dolberry, PhD
Chair, Academic Appeals Committee

**Academic Appeals** – COTC – no report

**Academic Appeals** – COTM – no report

**Athletic Committee** – no report
Curriculum and Standards Report –

The following proposals have been approved by Curriculum and Standards since the December 3 meeting of Faculty Assembly

Academic Affairs - One proposal approved. Addition of the newly created course, PSCI 3XX3 World Conflict and Terrorism, to the BA identity requirements.

School of Business - Two proposals approved. 1) Correction of a typographical error in a course number in the catalog under the Marketing concentration. 2) Adding ECON 2203 as a prerequisite for FIN 4623 International Finance

School of Education - One proposal approved. State mandated modification of transition points for K-6 and Middle Level education. The changes are basically as follows: raising the initial grade point average for entering the program to a 2.75; modifying courses of study to reflect changes approved in the Fall of 2013; making the language of the requirements more specific; requiring students to complete their content areas before their internships.

School of Nursing - Five proposals approved. 1) Alteration of pre-requisites for NURS 4153 Community Health Nursing to reflect that it will now only be offered to students in the BSN program. 2) Addition of NURS 4XX3 RN-BSN Community Health Nursing to be offered to students in the RN-BSN advanced placement track. 3) Modification of NURS 3064 Healthy Aging to NURS 4XX3 Healthy Aging. Modified course is an 8 week fast track hybrid course. 4) Addition of NURS 4XX2 Nursing Practicum II, a comprehensive full semester practicum. 5) Modification of the BSN major requirements. Removal of NURS 2211 Basic Skills Checkoff and increase of Nursing supportive requirements to 22 hours.

School of Social and Behavioral Sciences - One proposal approved. Addition of PSCI 3XX3 World Conflict and Terrorism.

W. Whitworth
Chair, Curriculum and Standards

Dr. Whitworth made a motion to accept the report as read and it was seconded by Dr. Clayton. Motion approved.

General Education Committee – no report

Technical Program Curriculum and Standards – no report

Faculty Research – no report

Library Committee – no report
Student Affairs – Scott Kuttenkuler reported that there were two new groups that wanted to be recognized organizations on campus. They are: Alpha Kappa Alpha and My Brothers Keeper. He made a motion that we recognize these groups as organizations. The motion was seconded by Dr. Graber. Motion carried.

Student Affairs – COTC – no report

Student Affairs – COTM – no report

Teacher Education – no report

Committee on Committees – no report

Administrative Reports

Vice Chancellors and Directors

Advancement/Development - Mrs. Linda Yeiser reported the following:

- The nursing program would be receiving a large gift of approximately $377,000 in the very near future.
- There are 2 or 3 spots available on the Centennial Circle remaining.
- The budgets have been finalized for scholarship and the information should be coming to the departments from Mary Whiting very soon.
- The second distribution of funds was made from the Centennial Circle in the spring. The next distribution will be made in the fall. They are considering making the distribution annually instead of bi-annually.
- UAM has received 2-3 new endowments.
- She will be working on decorations for commencement and is anticipating a “new look.”

College of Technology at Crossett – no report

College of Technology at McGehee – no report

Student Affairs - Mr. Jay Hughes reported on the following:

- Twenty-four students have been chosen for Who’s Who and will be honored at a banquet on April 21st.
- A wellness fair will be held Wednesday, March 19th from 10:00 – 1:00 in the UC Green Room.
- As part of the National Weather Service we will be participating in Storm Ready. This program gives you a score on how prepared you are for a storm.
- The final reminder for the NSSE Survey will go out March 19. Thank you for reminding your students to take this survey. We are currently at 19%.

Finance and Administration – Mr. Jay Jones reported on the following:

- Budget hearings have been going on recently and are about to be completed.
- There is a new committee from the Board of Trustees for Audit and Fiscal Responsibility.
• Approximately 98 percent of our funding comes from state appropriations and tuition and fees. The state is giving us $113,000 more in funds this year. These are Category B funds, so we are unsure if they will be distributed to UAM or not.
• Long-distance charges are being allocated to each department after a lengthy period of non-allocation. This will help cover the $70,000 of new maintenance costs associated with the phone system.
• Ricoh is looking into a print management program for UAM which would entail lower cost devices, volume discounts, and more uniform devices.

Provost and Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Dr. Yeiser reported that enrollment for spring was 3,539 down 61 students from spring 2013 number. He stated that last year was a record high enrollment for UAM.

UAM offers the Master of Fine Arts degree totally online. We have one of three such programs in the country. This program is unique in that part of the faculty and students are around the country. Online means we have faculty and students participating in our program that we could otherwise never reach. For example, we have one faculty member with a Bachelor’s degree from Harvard and a MFA from Stanford. She lives in southern California. It is highly unlikely UAM could ever afford or attract this person as a faculty member. Online, she is a very important and attractive part of our program.

This fall (2013) was our 1st cohort of students. We had an attractive pool and decided to limit enrollment and admit 16 students nine different states. UAM admitted: AR-5, TX-2, MO-2, NM-2, MI-1, TN-1, FL-1, LA-1, MA-1.

There is a complicated and expensive process for being eligible to offer online distance education across state lines. We are presently approved to offer courses in the following 24 states: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Georgia, Missouri, Kentucky, Hawaii, Indiana, Idaho, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Virginia, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin.

It seems that Arkansas annually ranks in the top three states in the country in the number of residents with hours toward a degree, but no degree. Commonly, our two and four-year institutions have students that enroll, take some classes and drop out. Many are eligible for an associate degree, but do not understand its value and never apply for the degree.

Our Governor challenged Higher Education to double the number of graduates by 2020.

Reverse Credit Transfer was a program that was on the news last year. Recently it made the news as Credit When It Is Due. In short, general education credits are shared between participating institutions for the award of an associate degree.
Two common situations exist: A student enrolls in a four-year institution, completes the general education requirements during the first two years, and during the junior or senior year drops out and never completes the four-year degree. This student is eligible for an associate degree.

The second example is a student enrolls at a two-year institution for less than two-years and transfers to the four-year institution to finish the general education credits and the degree. The student drops out and never completes the degree. This student is eligible for an associate degree, but never applies for it.

Under the new program: (1) the student signs a form when they are admitted that says it is ok for the appropriate institution to award the associated degree whether the student requests the degree or not and (2) the fewer general education credits are transferred to the institution where the greater general education credits are completed and that institution automatically confers the degree.

This past fall semester UAM conferred 269 Associate of Arts degrees. Last year we conferred 56 degrees. The previous largest year was 2007 with 210.

UAM advertises and recruits on KATV (Friday Night Touchdowns), KLRT television, on movie trailers at the Rave in Little Rock and the Monticello Malco movie theaters, and on billboards in North Little Rock, near the Crossett and the McGehee campuses. In North Little Rock you will see our billboard at the “Y” intersection of I-30 and I-40 across from the large Pentecostal Church. This billboard is very critically placed for maximum visibility.

Recently, UAM developed recruiting videos of which we are especially fond. I wanted to share these with you (Bryan Fendly, AC). Professionals performed the videoing but the script was developed and performed by UAM students.

We are investigating the development of a new home page for UAM. The page supports recruitment of new students and the retention of the students and our alumni.

**Chancellor**

Dr. Lassiter reported on the anonymous donation to the nursing program of approximately $400,000. These things help take the stress off the budget and helps support the lottery scholarship shortfalls.

There is a new member to the University Of Arkansas System Board Of Trustees Morril Harriman.

Dr. Bobbitt has informed the Board that he wants to cap tuition increases at 2%. He has convinced them that individual campuses should be able to plead what that percentage would mean for each campus. There is a priority for faculty and staff salaries.

The legislative session is over. The re-election season is upon us and approximately ½ of the senate and a majority of the house are up for reelection. Please be active in the election process. We received $2,000,000 from our legislature last year in restricted funds to repair things like the Music Building, etc.
There will be a Financial Aid Audit next week.

Several programs are undergoing reaccreditation or initial accreditation: Social Work, NCate, Nursing, Music, and Business. Also, the HLC accreditation is still moving forward toward the visit in October.

The proposed new home page is being looked at using an outside vendor.

The Jazz Band will leave tomorrow for China. Wish them luck!

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.