President Kate Stewart called the meeting to order at 3:21 P.M.

**Old Business:** none. The **Assembly Committee Reports** commenced with **Academic Appeals**. Chair Sandra Watson reporting that the committee had met four times on campus and had conducted business via e-mail four times since the last Assembly meeting. During the May meetings, 40 appeals were heard: 17 were denied, 12 were approved and no action was taken on the remaining 11. During the August meetings, 19 appeals were heard: 12 were denied and 7 were approved.

The **Athletic Committee** had no report.

**Curriculum and Standards** Chair Bob Stark reported that the committee had met five times this semester and approved five proposals to be presented to the Assembly for approval: two from Academic Affairs and three from Arts and Humanities. AA 1 would reduce UAM’s minor hours from 24 to 18. AA 2 would add a Department of Military Science that would offer an eight-course minor under a non-host agreement with UAPB. A&H 1 and A&H 2 would delete, respectively, an English Major and an English Minor for Prospective Teachers. A&H 3 would add an English practicum for editing and producing the Foliate Oak.

Dr. Stark, responding to several questions concerning the Military Science Minor proposal, first clarified the host/nonhost distinction by noting that under this proposal faculty at Pine Bluff (who are Army officers paid by the Army) would become adjunct UAM faculty and the courses offered would be UAM courses. These courses, offered in sequence, are now taught at UAPB (with 11 students currently enrolled). The proposal would offer a maximum of four courses per semester. Dr. Stark further observed that the advantages of this proposed arrangement to UAM are that 1) taking ROTC courses at UAM would be less expensive for our students than taking them at UAPB, 2) these courses meet our minor requirements and 3) all UAM has to provide is the space for the classes ($20K has already been budgeted for this proposal). Dr. Stark referred to the ROTC packet to clarify other questions about course content and prerequisites.

Discussion of the rationale behind the 18-hour minor proposal ensued. Dr. Stark observed that a four-year graduation target and an 18-hour minor bring UAM into compliance with institutions across Arkansas and across the U.S.

A motion from the floor was made and carried for the Assembly to consider each of the Curriculum and Standards five proposals individually. Members approved the AA 1 proposal. Members approved AA 2 with two dissenting votes. Members approved A&H 1, A&H 2 and A&H 3.

The **Faculty Equity and Grievance Committee** had no report.

The **Faculty Research Committee** Chair Chris Sims reported that the committee had received 13 research proposals that totaled $23,000. Since the research money available is only $15,000, all proposals cannot be funded. Dr. Sims estimated that the review of the proposals will be finalized by November.
The **Library Committee** Chair Sandra Campbell distributed a copy of the 2004-2005 Library annual report, noting that library circulation is up from almost 400 a day (or fewer) in the previous year to an average of 500 a day (sometimes reaching 600 a day). She also reported that ERIC is now available only online. Expressing library committee concerns that the funds available for periodicals and newspapers have not kept up with cost increases, Ms. Campbell stated the unanimous consensus of the committee members that during the next budget process the library budget will be increased to bring it into alignment with comparable state-supported institutions.

**Teacher Education Committee** Chairman Peggy Doss reported on their September 12th meeting in which a number of issues were addressed: the complexity of the program review process involving a number of organizations, the status of current Education programs, probable changes in the MAT program, pending proposals to C & S regarding changes in course offerings, the upcoming NCATE visit (Fall 2008), the new ERZ (Education Renewal Zone Project), and the petition process for admittance to the Education program.

**New Business:**

**Salary Parity Committee:** Assembly President Stewart reported that the work of this seven-faculty-member committee (appointed by the Chancellor) will be completed by February 15, 2006 so that the results can be included in the budget process, adding that input from all Assembly members is welcomed. Chancellor Lassiter pointed out that the work of the committee is to evaluate all salaries across ranks and positions as well as what makes up the differences between salaries. Dr. Lassiter added that as soon as we know what *our* structure is and compare this to peer institutions in the state, the annual budget process will address the findings of the Salary Parity Committee with the objective of making UAM the best among peer institutions.

**Evaluation Committee:** President Stewart announced that Mark Spencer will chair this *ad hoc* Assembly committee whose mission is to review all evaluation forms. An important concern is to look at how to use instructors and adjunct faculty. (The Faculty Handbook presently states that these faculty cannot serve on Assembly or university committees). Anyone wishing to serve on this committee is encouraged to volunteer (except instructors and adjunct faculty?).

**Administrative Committee Reports:**

Dr. Clay Brown Chair of **Student Affairs** discussed the Homecoming schedule and distributed a handout listing the events from Thursday, October 20 - Sunday, October 23. Dr. Brown also announced that UAM had experienced its largest Parent Day participation ever and discussed CHANCE, tutoring services targeting student athletes.

**Finance and Administration** Chair Dr. Mark Davis observed that the restoration of Willard Hall will be completed by January, and that the university audit will be completed soon.

**Provost and Vice Chancellor Ray** reported
- the Strategic Planning Meeting is scheduled for November 9th
- Assessment: Ranelle Eubanks will be attending an assessment conference
- academic units have submitted their 8-semester plans
- Fall 2005 semester enrollment/classes
  - student enrollment is 2959 (just 41 shy of 3000 – a record)
  - 664 classes verified by the Registrar
- 42 classes at Crossett
- 57 classes at McGehee
- 62 night classes
- 45 faculty teaching distance education classes
- 15 online courses
- 18 CTV classes

**Chancellor Lassiter** reported
- Community Summit is scheduled for strategic planning with 56 community leaders
- Strategic Planning Retreat scheduled for November 9th with outside facilitator
- Master Plan has been adopted (it is a "vision")
  - project books will be placed in the library
- the vision has been prioritized
  - roadway changes (with some removals)
  - Wells & Sorrels will have a common elevator w/ utilization of all 3 floors
- Weevil Pond: walkway, excavation and aerating fountain
- exterior elevator installed in BBC
- band and indoor exercise facility
- heating/cooling renovations, sprucing up in Science Center
- work center in Forest Resources building
- move (tear down/rebuild) the Agriculture barn
- entrance to university renovations, including a marquee
- How do we pay for the Master Plan?
  - $9 million Bond
  - depend on private gifts for Phase I
- Still do not have a candidate for Vice Chancellor for Advancement:
- Establishment of a Hazardous Waste Committee (for identifying and removing same)
- Establishment of an Emergency Procedure Review Committee
- UAM has 8 "Katrina students" enrolled (229 enrolled in AR institutions)
- College Savings Bonds election December 13th --important to get out the vote
  - allows higher ed institutions $300 million; UAM could receive $4.2 million
  - can vote early starting November 28th
  - urged all members of university community to vote on or before December 13th

**Announcements**: President Stewart announced the annual meeting of the Consortium of University Senate & Assembly Presidents that will take place at AR Tech.
Also Rockefeller Distinguished Lecturer Pulitzer Prize author Seymour Hirsch March 9th.

Assembly adjourned at 4:52 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy E. Everts
Assembly Secretary