



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
AT MONTICELLO

April 2018

UAM Faculty and Staff:

After my UAM Two Year State of the University communique that I sent out in December, I heard from many of you. There were some questions as well as expressions of gratitude for the update. In addition, several of you requested that I provide such updates on a more regular basis. With that said, I am providing this update to highlight the work being done, as well as the opportunities and challenges we face.

I thought days went by quickly as I was moving through the ranks in the academy! However, time seems to be accelerated as I work with the UAM Leadership team.

Last week, the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees met on the University of Arkansas at Monticello campus. We met on Wednesday and Thursday morning in the Green Room of the University Center. You would have been proud of your University as we welcomed many visitors from our sister institutions, as well as the Board, to Monticello. The grounds crew and custodial staff had the campus shining, and with the advent of spring blooms, the campus was truly a sight to behold. The ongoing construction of the Student Success Center and the University Police and Information Center reinforced that UAM is moving forward. And, the comments from Board members emphasized their support for the work our faculty and staff are doing.

Another milestone at the Board Meeting was the approval of the newly configured Board of Visitors after legislation was passed changing the appointment process of the board. Several members of the new Board of Visitors were guests and were recognized at the meeting.

It is hard to believe that another semester is half over – spring break was the week of March 20. The students have returned and are in full speed ahead as we move closer to graduation ceremonies on May 11.

Summer and Fall Pre-Registration started April 2 and goes through April 13, 2018. I continue to be amazed at the dedication and commitment all of you show for UAM and our students. Whether it is serving on a work team or taking an extra duty within your department, your service is greatly appreciated.

Given that we are all doing an enormous amount of work, I wanted to take this opportunity to provide an overview of where we are and next steps with several items:

1. **Budget:** Executive Council has discussed the process and the priorities. All were in agreement that classroom technology upgrades and replacement plans are needed to keep our quality instruction competitive with others and should be a priority. I am working with the associate vice chancellors in Finance and Administration to prepare the budget requests that will go to the Board of Trustees for consideration in May. Unit leaders will be notified of final decisions once discussions are complete.
2. **Physical Plant and Maintenance Needs:** Executive Council also agreed that we must find ways to allocate dollars toward special projects to address our deferred maintenance needs.
 - Some issues that have been addressed in the last year include:
 - Chiller replacement at the Math and Science Center
 - Chiller replacement at the Library including valve replacements to support the main loop of campus
 - Main water line to the University repaired
 - AC units in residence halls replaced
 - Replacement of Field House roof and repair of Science Center roof
 - Issues that will be getting needed attention soon or in progress:
 - Replace roofs at FAC and repair roofs at MCB, UC, Administration, and Library. The list for repairs is currently being prioritized with a plan for full roof replacement over the next ten years.
 - Electrical box repair and replacement at the Fieldhouse to accommodate the new roof work.
 - Conversion of hot water system to boilers and elimination of steam which will address other ongoing issues. Furthermore, steam is an antiquated system and costly to repair.
 - Entry and Exit Doors and Frames—we have many in need of replacement and repair since they are at the end of their life cycle.
 - Issues that are being reviewed for future attention:
 - Sewage and drainage system
 - Electrical conduits underground
 - FAC basement area and water intake
 - Wells Hall basement flooding
 - BBC basement flooding
 - BBC lift
 - Road repairs
3. There is an enormous amount of work being conducted by many faculty and staff. Here is a brief update on a few of the groups:
 - EAB Student Success Collaborative led by Brian Hairston is encouraging all advisors to enroll in the Campaigns in order to assist with student appointments for advising.

They are also working with various offices to install scanners to track student visits. The Deans are reviewing dashboard data in Dean's Council as well as identifying success milestone courses in order to develop retention and completion strategies.

- EAB Connecting the Student Success Dots is a newly formed group being led by Emily Ashley and Bryan Fendley to review procedures and processes within student services. The result will be that students can move through the life cycle of completion (enrollment to graduation to alumni status) in a fluid and efficient manner. This group is just beginning to address the tasks before them.
- A proposed UAM Degree Pathway plan is being developed by the Division of Academic Affairs with input from faculty leadership, deans, Enrollment Management, and the Executive Council. The proposed plan is a significant step in redefining open access and developing a model that directs students to the degree/certificate entry point that is most likely to ensure their initial academic success based on their ACT Composite and sub-test scores or scores from other tests such as the SAT or Accuplacer. It has been reviewed by the Curriculum and Standards committee and will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees in the fall.
- The Higher Learning Commission Accreditation Task Force continues to prepare for the Four-Year Assurance Review scheduled for June 2019. Currently, they are updating the university's successful 2014 Self-Study. Using the report of the HLC Visiting Team identified strategic planning and assessment/student learning outcomes as areas that needed attention. With the release of the Strategic Framework last fall, UAM has addressed the issue of strategic planning. The Team is addressing assessment and learning outcomes as we move forward.
- The Declining Balance work team addressing the declining balance meal plan is being led by Thomas Bedward. They are meeting regularly to be ready for fall implementation. At present, they are in the testing phases with technology and financial aid.
- The Student Orientation Team made up of individuals across campus with oversight from Renea McClendon, has developed a link on the UAM Homepage to update students, faculty and staff. Meetings are ongoing to prepare for Fall Welcome Week and Orientation.

Everything we are doing is laying the groundwork to address the areas of student success, enrollment and retention, and infrastructure. As you can see, with your help, we are making things happen at UAM.

Thank you,

Karla Hughes, Ph.D.
Professor and Chancellor