

**Arkansas State University
Board of Trustees
November 18, 2002**

The Arkansas State University Board of Trustees met by telephone conference call on Monday, November 18, 2002, in the conference room of the President=s Office on the Jonesboro campus. Mr. Richard Bell, Chair of the Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order at 8:31 a. m. A roll call confirmed the presence of the following Board members: Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt, Vice Chair; Mr. Mike Medlock, Secretary; Ms. Florine Tousant Bingham, and Colonel Dallas Wood. Also joining by telephone from ASU-Beebe were Dr. Eugene McKay, Chancellor; Dr. Ruth Couch, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Mr. Jerry Carlisle, Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Affairs; Mr. Bob Jenkins, Assistant to the Chancellor, and Mr. Don Harlan, Director of Foothills Technical Institute. President Leslie Wyatt, members of the ASU staff and students, and the local media attended in person.

Mr. Bell presented Resolution 02-39, authorizing the merger of Foothills Technical Institute in Searcy with ASU-Beebe effective July 1, 2003. Mr. Bell asked for comments. Dr. Wyatt stated that he encouraged the Board to approve the resolution, but deferred to Dr. Eugene McKay for further comment. Dr. McKay said that over the past year, committees and senior staff worked together with Foothills Technical Institute on the merger and an agreement has been reached. This resolution must be approved so that Mr. Don Harlan can take it to the Workforce Education Board on December 5, 2002.

Upon motion by Congressman Hammerschmidt, second by Colonel Wood,
Resolution 02-39 was approved.

Ayes: Bell, Hammerschmidt, Medlock, Bingham, and Wood

Nays: None

Upon motion by Mr. Medlock, second by Ms. Bingham, the Board adjourned at 8:35
a.m.

Ayes: Bell, Hammerschmidt, Medlock, Bingham, and Wood

Nays: None

Mike Medlock, Secretary

Richard Bell, Chair

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contact: Dr. Eugene McKay, 501-882-8300

ACTION ITEM: Arkansas State University-Beebe (ASU-Beebe) requests approval to merge Foothills Technical Institute in Searcy with ASU-Beebe effective July 1, 2003.

ISSUE: The Board of Trustees must approve all mergers with ASU campuses before those merger plans can be approved by the Higher Education Coordinating Board and the State Board of Workforce Education and Career opportunities .

BACKGROUND:

Foothills Technical Institute Board of Directors voted on November 5, 2002, to merge with ASU-Beebe. This merger will enable the two campuses of ASU-Beebe to better serve the needs of business/industry in its service area. The two campuses will become one institution with two locations. The Searcy campus will be called ASU-Searcy and will continue to focus on high quality vocational/technical programs and such pre-college programs as the GED and the Area Technical Center Education programs. ASU-Searcy will continue to teach its current curriculum and any additional programs assigned to it; and it may teach these programs at any ASU-Beebe campus or center.

All property, assets, liabilities, diplomas, certificates, and programs will be transferred to Arkansas State University to be governed by the Arkansas State University Board of Trustees.

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION

Be it resolved that the Chancellor of Arkansas State University-Beebe is authorized and directed to execute the appropriate agreement of merger to effectuate the merger of Foothills Technical Institute into Arkansas State University-Beebe, the resulting campus to be known as Arkansas State University-Searcy, a Technical Campus of ASU-Beebe.

Mike Medlock, Secretary

Richard Bell, Chair