

**Arkansas State University
Board of Trustees
March 14, 2003**

The Arkansas State University Board of Trustees met on Friday, March 14, 2003, in the auditorium of the Center for the Arts on the ASU-Newport campus. Mr. Richard Bell, Chair of the Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order at 10:07 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. President Leslie Wyatt, members of the ASU staff, students, and local media also attended. Reverend Alan Ford with the First Presbyterian Church in Newport delivered the invocation.

Mr. Bell stated the first item of business was the approval of minutes.

Upon motion by Mr. Medlock, second by Ms. Bingham, the minutes of December 13, 2002, were approved.

Ayes: Bell, Hammerschmidt, Medlock, Bingham, Wood

Nays: None

Mr. Bell then called for the election of officers. He said that he had contacted the other board members regarding the slate of officers for the coming year, and had the following recommendation: John Paul Hammerschmidt, Chair; Mike Medlock, Vice Chair; and Florine Tousant Bingham, Secretary.

Upon motion by Colonel Wood, second by Mike Medlock, the slate of officers was approved.

Ayes: Bell, Hammerschmidt, Medlock, Bingham, Wood

Nays: None

Mr. Hammerschmidt then called on Dr. Wyatt to deliver the president's report. Dr. Wyatt expressed his appreciation to Mr. Bell for his leadership as chair. He then asked Dr. Larry Williams, Chancellor of ASU-Newport, for his report. Dr. Williams welcomed everyone to the campus, and introduced Mr. Kaneaster Hodges, President of the Northeast Arkansas Charitable Foundation and a member of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Mr. Hodges has been instrumental in the growth and success of ASU-Newport. Dr. Williams stated there are many exciting things going on at the Newport campus. One of the cornerstone programs of the campus is the commercial driver training program. Dr. Williams provided copies of the March 14 issue of the *Newport Independent* newspaper, which included an article concerning the donation of two Freightliner tractors by P.A.M. Transportation Services, Inc. With this contribution, ASU-Newport will have a fleet of 26 tractors. These two tractors, valued at \$15,000 each, will contribute to the status ASU-Newport has attained in being the home of the state's largest and most successful driver training program. Dr. Williams also introduced the officers of the Student Government Association and expressed his appreciation to them for their involvement with many community projects.

He also recognized Dana Potts, a nursing major, who was featured in the 2003 edition of Arkansas *Next* magazine. Ms. Potts' article stressed the value and importance of two-year colleges. Dr. Williams continued his report by stating that last fall's enrollment increased by 21%, and this spring the increase was 19% for a total of 894 students, who represent 37 counties in Arkansas, 187 of the total attend from areas outside the state. He thanked Steve Owens, Vice President for University Advancement and Executive Director of the ASU Foundation for working with ASU-Newport and Bridgestone Firestone in obtaining the donation of \$12,000 of tires for the Commercial Driver Training Institute. In addition, the campus has acquired approximately 26¾ acres of land on the north side of the road adjacent to Walton Hall, and hopes to add 9½ more acres for future expansion and growth. This will bring the total to 76 plus acres for the total campus. Dr. Williams concluded his report by saying a resolution is being presented to approve capital bonds. The revenue bond is not to exceed \$5 million, and will be used to build a facility that will house a student center and, revenue permitting, additional classrooms and other capital improvements. Dr. Williams said that they have been working with the Stephens Group and that Friday, Eldridge, and Clark are the bonding attorneys. He acknowledged one of the attorneys, Mr. Jim Buttry, who was present to answer any questions. In addition to approving the resolution, the Board will be asked to authorize a trust indenture in customary form and designate the bonds as bank qualified.

Dr. Wyatt then called on Dr. Eugene McKay, Chancellor of ASU-Beebe, for his report. Dr. McKay began by saying that these are tough economic times, and as a

result ASU-Beebe has received \$1 million less in funding during the past two years; however, enrollment is up over 18% for a total of 3,503 students at all ASU-Beebe locations. ASU-Beebe has 2,267 headcount, up 12% FTE over last spring semester. ASU-Heber Springs has 383 headcount for an increase in FTE of 42%. He said that Foothills enrollment numbers could not be included until after July 1, 2003, and that there are approximately 300 students who are involved with ASU-Jonesboro bachelors' and masters' programs on the Beebe campus. He also relayed that the master plan for ASU-Heber Springs has been completed. Copies of the plan were given to the Board and Dr. Wyatt. The plan will be presented at the September board meeting in Heber Springs. In addition, Dr. McKay noted that the merger of ASU-Beebe and Foothills Technical Institute is on schedule with a completion date of July 1. North Central Accreditation will make a focus visit on May 5 and May 6, but Dr. McKay does not anticipate any problems that would delay the merger.

Dr. Ed Coulter, Chancellor of ASU-Mountain Home, was called on for his campus report. Dr. Coulter said over the last four years ASU-Mountain Home has experienced a 65% growth increase. This year the campus has seen a 2% growth increase, but this low figure is due to funding and the lack of space. Enrollment has outstripped the institution's ability to offer adequate facilities and instructional staff. He reported that a new tradition, Lunch for 10, has been established. Ten outstanding students are invited to lunch with the Chancellor and with leaders in the student's proposed profession. This concept has been a great success.

Dr. Coulter is optimistic that the Legislature will address the equity problem with the two-year institutions. He said recent articles in the *Democrat-Gazette* have been very supportive. He was pleased to report that a \$1.1 million federal grant from Health and Human Services had been awarded to ASU-MH, along with a \$900,000 grant from HUD. Dr. Coulter said that Dr. Linda Beene, Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, had been selected as the May 12 commencement speaker. He also noted that the date for the North Central Accreditation team visit to Mountain Home has been changed to Monday, April 28, because of the Easter holiday. Dr. Coulter then referenced the new 2003-2008 Strategic Plan and Vision for ASU-Mountain Home, copies of which had been given to members of the board. He stated that this plan had been developed over a seven-month period with many constituent groups. Dr. Coulter concluded by thanking Dr. Kathy Brittain White for creating the Horizon Institute, and because of this, two programs at Mountain Home have been approved.

Dr. Wyatt began the ASU System report with an update of programs approved by the Board at the December 2002 meeting. The joint Doctor of Philosophy in Communication Sciences and Disorders degree proposal has been sent to the Department of Higher Education, but is being held because the proposal needs work and there is a lack of funding. In addition, the proposal to offer the existing Bachelor of Science Education in Early Childhood at East Arkansas Community College in Forrest City, Arkansas, has been forwarded to the Department of Higher Education and has been introduced to the Legislature for funding. The Legislature also has been asked to approve funding for a Systems budget separate from the Jonesboro campus budget, as

well as separate funding for the ASU-Technical Center at Marked Tree. In addition, an Associate of Arts in General Technology at the Searcy Technical Institute, which will become ASU-Searcy, has been proposed and forwarded to the Department of Higher Education. Legislation also has been introduced to create the entity which will be known as ASU-Searcy, a technical center of the Beebe campus. Dr. Wyatt said this issue came before the legislative committee several weeks ago, and was applauded because of the collaboration between the campuses and the foresight of future benefits to that area of the state.

Dr. Wyatt remarked that the reception held in Little Rock for legislators was a successful event, and called on Robert Evans, Executive Director for Governmental Relations, for an update on legislative issues. Mr. Evans distributed reports relating to bill status and priorities for the Jonesboro and two-year campuses. He anticipates that the Legislature will be in session until the end of April, and that they will recess and reconvene in the fall. Mr. Evans said he thought the Legislature would address the pressing revenue needs that have already been alluded to by the respective campuses prior to adjourning. Some of them may be addressed before the recess, such as immediate funding needs for prisons and Medicaid, and then in September the Legislature will address education issues. During the Session a record number of 3,000 Bills have been introduced, of those approximately 2,000 are appropriation Bills, a testament to the importance of funding revenue needs. Higher education alone introduced 222 bills, both appropriation and non-appropriation. Mr. Evans relayed that,

historically, the General Assembly is very supportive of higher education, and he is optimistic that the legislators will produce positive results at the appropriate time.

Dr. Wyatt proceeded to give the Jonesboro campus report. He reported that the Jonesboro campus also had an enrollment increase for spring. Other areas of interest he mentioned included: The Bioscience/Bioresearch Institute has been awarded \$1.8 million using Arkansas Biosciences Institute funding for an internal research grant for faculty to develop and produce reports directly related to health and wellness. The campus has received federal approval of \$1 million in additional funding for the Caraway Overpass project; however, Dr. Wyatt stressed more is needed before the project can begin. In addition to these events, several future activities are scheduled. The Jonesboro campus will host the Delta Blues Symposium IX: Defining the Delta on March 27-29 with Dr. Bill Ferris, the former chair of the National Endowment for Humanities, as one of the presenters. On April 14, the Jonesboro campus will host the premiere of the Hallmark Hall of Fame movie adaptation of John Grisham's best selling novel, *A Painted House*. The fund-raising event will benefit the Heritage Studies program.

Dr. Wyatt also mentioned the accreditation visits conducted by the Higher Learning Commission. The Jonesboro campus visit was a success, with the Commission recommending continued accreditation for the next decade. They acknowledged strengths of the campus, and gave advice and counsel on areas needing improvement. Dr. Wyatt then recognized and thanked Dr. Lynita Cooksey, Associate

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, for her leadership and guidance throughout this lengthy process.

Dr. Wyatt remarked that all the university campuses continue to work with the same difficult budget circumstances. He indicated that Arkansas is not alone in these trying economic times, but that all states, except Wyoming, are experiencing the same budget difficulties. One of the areas affected is scholarships. The Jonesboro campus has a current budget of \$6 million annually for scholarships. Considerable demand for scholarship money has outstripped the pool of money reserved for that purpose. As a result, the Jonesboro campus must suspend offering any additional scholarships. Dr. Wyatt was firm in the commitment to honor existing scholarships and those who have already received scholarship award offers. However, he stressed that ASU-Jonesboro can no longer afford to extend scholarship offers to students in the coming year. He mentioned that Mr. Greg Thornburg, Director of Financial Aid, was present and available for questions.

Dr. Wyatt then asked Dr. Rick Stripling, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, to introduce Dr. Lonnie Williams. Dr. Stripling welcomed Dr. Williams as the new Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs on the Jonesboro campus.

Dr. Stripling then introduced Mr. Sach Oliver, SGA President, for the purpose of a presentation to Dr. Williams. Mr. Oliver welcomed Dr. Williams on behalf of the students and presented him with an A-State Express card. Dr. Wyatt expressed his appreciation to Mr. Oliver for his service and leadership as President of the Student Government Association, and concluded his report by introducing Ms. Shelley LunBeck

as the incoming Student Government Association President, and Mr. Jake Hampton as Vice President.

Mr. Hammerschmidt then moved to the Consent Agenda. He stated that Dr. Wyatt had met individually with board members prior to the board meeting and the issues had been discussed and questions answered. The first item on the Consent Agenda was Resolution 03-01 Authorizing Arkansas State University to amend the Resolution of April 7, 1967, to Allow Employees to Exercise Deferral Limits to 457(b) Plans and 403(b) Plans.

Upon motion by Colonel Wood, second by Mr. Bell, Resolution 03-01 was approved.

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

Nays: None

Resolution 03-02 Authorizing ASU-Jonesboro to Initiate a \$35 per Student and \$25 per Parent Fee for Attending New Student Orientation Sessions, was then presented by Mr. Hammerschmidt. Dr. Wyatt explained that this new two-day session is an addition, and not a replacement for current new student orientation. Five traditional orientation sessions will be held this summer with two sessions being two-day events. In addition, students who attend and complete the two-day session will receive one hour academic credit with completion of online coursework. The concept of two-day sessions was the result of feedback from both students and parents.

Upon motion by Mr. Medlock, second by Ms. Bingham, Resolution 03-02 was approved.

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

Nays: None

Resolution 03-03, Authorizing ASU-Jonesboro to Establish Room and Board Rates for the 2003-2004 Academic Year, was the next item of business.

Dr. Wyatt said this proposal is another of the annual increases that is proposed each year to keep pace with the rising cost of maintaining the facilities on the Jonesboro campus. These are modest increases, which were reviewed by Sach Oliver and the SGA.

Upon motion by Mr. Bell, second by Colonel Wood, Resolution 03-03 was approved.

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

Nays: None

Mr. Hammerschmidt proceeded to Resolution 03-04, Authorizing ASU-Jonesboro to Change the Name of the Bachelor of General Studies to Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies. Dr. Wyatt explained this name change is an opportunity to bring the program into more contemporary times, and is done with the full support of the faculty.

Upon motion by Ms. Bingham, second by Mr. Medlock, Resolution 03-04 was approved.

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

Nays: None

The next item of business was Resolution 03-05, Authorizing ASU-Jonesboro to Change the Name of the MSE and EdS in Educational Administration Programs to Educational Leadership. Dr. Wyatt said that again this is a name change to better reflect the program, and is done with the support of the faculty.

Upon motion by Ms. Bingham, second by Mr. Medlock, Resolution 03-05 was approved.

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

Nays: None

Mr. Hammerschmidt proceeded to Resolution 03-06, Approving Participation in the Museum Assessment Program at ASU-Jonesboro. Dr. Wyatt explained that the museum goes through a periodical review by a national organization. It is a requirement for participation in the program that approval from the board be obtained.

Upon motion by Mr. Bell, second by Colonel Wood, Resolution 03-06 was approved.

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

Nays: None

The next item for consideration was Resolution 03-07, Approving the Master of Accountancy at ASU-Jonesboro. Dr. Wyatt explained that there is a strong program at the bachelor's level on the Jonesboro campus and a need for advanced studies in accountancy. Again, this recommendation is with the full support of the faculty.

Upon motion by Mr. Medlock, second by Mr. Bell, Resolution 03-07 was approved.

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

Nays: None

Mr. Hammerschmidt continued with Resolution 03-09, Approving the ASU-Jonesboro College of Education and the Teacher Education Program to Institute a Diverse Experiential Plan for ASU-Mountain Home and Apply a Student Fee for Participation in Field II and Field III Semesters.

Dr. Wyatt said that the Jonesboro and Mountain Home campuses have worked well together to offer this program. It has been suggested that an opportunity be provided for those students in their practice teaching to experience a more diverse student population than is provided in Baxter County. This proposal will provide the mechanism to allow students to attend schools to enrich their educational experiences during their practice teaching segment.

Upon motion by Mr. Bell, second by Mr. Medlock, Resolution 03-09 was approved.

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

Nays: None

Mr. Hammerschmidt then presented Resolution 03-08, Approving the Existing Bachelor of Science Management Program at ASU-Beebe Beginning Fall 2003, which was skipped in the order of consent items. Dr. Wyatt said this was another opportunity to extend another baccalaureate program from the Jonesboro campus to the Beebe campus. There has been extraordinary success with these offerings in the past and this

is an opportunity for students in central Arkansas to take advantage of instructional opportunities at the Beebe campus.

Upon motion by Colonel Wood, second by Ms. Bingham, Resolution 03-08 was approved.

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

Nays: None

The next item for consideration was Resolution 03-10, Approving ASU-Jonesboro to Offer an Associate of Applied Science in Crime Scene Investigation and an Associate of Applied Science in Law Enforcement Administration.

Dr. Wyatt explained that within Arkansas there is an extraordinary entity called the Criminal Justice Institute, which is a component of the University of Arkansas System. While it is based in Little Rock, the Institute has statewide responsibilities in criminal investigation. This program works closely with correctional facilities, police agencies, emergency responders, all of whom will work with first responders on homeland security issues. The Criminal Justice Institute has approached several institutions throughout the state to extend their presence to campuses of universities, which are some distance from Little Rock. There is an opportunity with the approval of the next few agenda items to join with this component of the University of Arkansas in this collaborative effort, much as we do now in similar associative relationships with the Division of Agriculture

and the Arkansas Archeological Survey just south of the Jonesboro campus and other collaborative efforts with the University of Arkansas System.

Upon motion by Ms. Bingham, second by Mr. Bell, Resolution 03-10 was approved.

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

Nays: None

Mr. Hammerschmidt then presented Resolution 03-11, Approving ASU-Beebe, ASU-Mountain Home, and ASU-Newport to Offer an Associate of Applied Science in Crime Scene Investigation and an Associate of Applied Science in Law Enforcement Administration.

Upon motion by Mr. Bell, second by Mr. Medlock, Resolution 03-11 was approved.

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

Nays: None

Next, Resolution 03-12, Approving ASU-Beebe, ASU-Mountain Home, and ASU-Newport to Offer a Technical Certificate in Law Enforcement Administration and a Technical Certificate in Crime Scene Investigation.

Upon motion by Ms. Bingham, second by Mr. Bell, Resolution 03-12 was approved.

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

Nays: None

Mr. Hammerschmidt continued with Resolution 03-13, Authorizing ASU-Mountain Home to Increase Out-of-State Tuition. Dr. Wyatt said that the Mountain Home campus is the last of the ASU campuses to raise out-of-state tuition to \$95.00 per credit hour. This increase will apply to students who will enroll in the coming year, and in order to establish the new rate, it must be implemented by July 1, 2003.

Upon motion by Mr. Medlock, second by Mr. Bell, Resolution 03-13 was approved.

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

Nays: None

Resolution 03-14, Authorizing ASU-Mountain Home to Establish a Per Hour Fee for Online Courses in Hearing Healthcare and Opticianary. Dr. Wyatt deferred to Dr. Ed Coulter for explanation. Dr. Coulter explained these programs will be offered nation-

wide. He said that there are expenses incurred in these programs for on-line instruction, and that this fee will help to off-set that cost.

Upon motion by Colonel Wood, second by Mr. Bell, Resolution 03-14 was approved.

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

Nays: None

Mr. Hammerschmidt introduced Resolution 03-15, Authorizing ASU-Mountain Home to Offer the Existing Associate of Applied Science in Hearing Healthcare via Internet-based Instruction. Dr. Ed Coulter explained that approval for the program is already in place, but that the Arkansas Department of Higher Education requires additional approval for on-line programs.

Upon motion by Ms. Bingham, second by Mr. Medlock, Resolution 03-15 was approved.

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

Nays: None

Mr. Hammerschmidt proceeded to the final resolution, Resolution 03-16, Authorizing ASU-Newport to Issue up to \$5 Million in 25-year Fixed Rate Bonds. Dr. Wyatt asked Dr. Larry Williams, Chancellor of ASU-Newport, for an explanation of the

use of the funds. He also recognized Mr. Jim Buttry for his work on the process. Dr. Larry Williams, said that Mr. Buttry has asked that the terminology, "Authorizing a trust indenture in customary form and designating the bonds be bank qualified," be included in the approval of the resolution. There is a need for a one-stop student facility. A facility that will house financial aid, business office, registrar, academic affairs, all of the offices where students can find all of the services in one location. There is a need for an expanded multi-purpose area, which could be used for classrooms or meeting rooms. Dr. Williams said this effort will help contribute to the growth of the institution. Mr. Bell then asked for the definition of bank qualified. Mr. Jim Buttry said in 1986 the Internal Revenue code was amended to tighten the requirement to the effect that you could not borrow money and pay interest or deduct interest to use the money borrowed to invest in tax-exempt bonds, deduct the interest on bond money and treat it as tax exempt the interest on the exempt bond. That taxable exception was made to allow financial institutions to invest in tax-exempt bonds. This is an important part in allowing those financial institutions to treat as tax-exempt bonds that are currently called bank qualified. They are allowed to do this if: 1) they are designated, and 2) that the expectation for the current calendar year tax exempt obligations for this issue will not exceed \$10 million. It is a small issue exception, but it provides a better interest rate.

Upon motion by Mr. Bell, second by Mr. Medlock, Resolution 03-16 was approved.

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

Nays: None

With no further comments or questions, Mr. Hammerschmidt stated that the board would recess for Executive Session and reconvene to vote on any action items discussed during that time.

Upon motion by Mr. Medlock, second by Mr. Bell, the board recessed into Executive Session at 11:25 a.m.

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

Nays: None

Mr. Hammerschmidt reconvened the board at 12:42 p.m. Mr. Medlock thanked Mr. Bell for his service as chair.

Upon motion by Mr. Bell, second by Colonel Wood the academic appointments for the Jonesboro campus were approved.

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

Nays: None

Upon motion by Ms. Bingham, second by Mr. Medlock, the non-academic appointments for the Jonesboro and Newport campuses were approved.

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

Nays: None

Upon motion by Mr. Medlock, second by Mr. Bell, the reassignment of duty for the Jonesboro campus was approved.

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

Nays: None

Upon motion by Colonel Wood, second by Mr. Bell, the contract extension for the Jonesboro campus was approved.

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

Nays: None

Upon motion by Ms. Bingham, second by Mr. Bell the tenure recommendations for the Beebe campus were approved.

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

Nays: None

Upon motion by Mr. Medlock, second by Mr. Bell, the board adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

Florine Tousant Bingham, Secretary

John Paul Hammerschmidt, Chair

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contact: Jennus Burton 870-910-8200

ACTION ITEM: Arkansas State University wishes to expand its current tax-sheltered annuity program to include raising the 403(b) contribution level and implementing governmental section 457.

ISSUE: Arkansas is one of twenty states currently with nonconforming state income tax laws. This means that changes to federal tax laws do not automatically flow through to the state tax laws.

BACKGROUND:

- The United States Congress enacted January 2, 2002, the Economic Growth and Tax Policy Reconciliation Act (EGTRRA). This legislation allowed institutions of higher learning in 30 states to raise the limits on employee contributions to tax sheltered annuity plans. Arkansas was one of twenty states that needed an act of the legislature to provide this benefit to its higher education employees. Senate Bill 107 provides such legislation.
- There is no cost to Arkansas State University to offer this benefit.
- Arkansas State University wishes to take advantage of this opportunity to allow its employees to significantly increase their contributions.

RECOMMENDATION

Be it resolved that Arkansas State University is authorized to amend the resolution of April 7, 1967. The amended resolution will allow employees to exercise deferral limits applicable to 457(b) plans and 403(b) plans.

Florine Tousant Bingham, Secretary

John Paul Hammerschmidt, Chair

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACTION ITEM: Arkansas State University-Jonesboro requests approval of a \$35 per student and \$25 per parent fee for attending New Student Orientation sessions beginning May 2003. Monies collected from this fee will be designated for and used exclusively to provide operating costs for newly created two-day orientation sessions.

ISSUE: Arkansas State University-Jonesboro requests additional revenue sources to fund the expenses for conducting comprehensive two-day new student orientation sessions for entering freshmen and transfers, and for their parents. Additional revenues will assist in funding the ongoing operational costs for programming, lodging, meals, public relations materials, and peer counselor training and stipends.

BACKGROUND:

- Prior to 1997, ASU-Jonesboro provided new student orientation activities as a festive occasion where all incoming freshmen and transfer students could meet. This one time per year event was usually held one or two days prior to classes beginning in the fall semester. The event was all encompassing and was an attempt to introduce all new entering students to each other and to faculty and staff. Additionally, the event provided a brief campus orientation to inform students of building locations, academic colleges, and service areas. These activities were provided at no cost to the entering student.
- In 1998, ASU-Jonesboro modified new student orientation to a twelve one-day summer session format to provide more personalized contact with new entering students. Also, two one-day orientation sessions were provided to new students entering during the spring semesters. More attention was given to key transitional issues affecting ASU's first-generation college student population and their parents. Additionally, much attention was given to strengthen the academic advising and registration portion of orientation. These additional services were provided at no cost to the entering student.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The current goal is to establish a comprehensive two-day orientation program for entering students as well as a support mechanism for their parents. The student who attends and completes the two-day session will build a foundation for completing one hour of academic credit online.
- Need for the change: (1) This format would place ASU-Jonesboro in a more competitive stance with other institutions to secure commitments from entering students; and (2) research indicates that individuals are more likely to commit to on-campus living and are more likely to experience an increase in retention.
- Monies collected from this fee will be designated for and used exclusively to provide operating costs for two-day orientation sessions. The associated costs and attendance would provide one-hour academic credit for the entering student and competition of online coursework. This credit would be applied toward graduation.

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved that Arkansas State University-Jonesboro is authorized to issue a \$35 per student and \$25 per parent fee for attending two-day New Student Orientation Sessions beginning May 2003.

Florine Tousant Bingham, Secretary

John Paul Hammerschmidt, Chair

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACTION ITEM: Arkansas State University-Jonesboro requests authorization to establish room and board rates for the 2003-2004 academic year.

ISSUE: Each February or March the Board of Trustees sets the rates for housing and meal plans for the coming year.

Action at this time allows for the accurate information provided to students during the Residence Life "Early Sign-up" held in March for the following year.

BACKGROUND:

- Utility prices are expected to increase significantly and were budgeted accordingly.
- Establishment of a new meal plan called the Flex 7, which is \$200 declining balance and seven meals a week.
- Proposed room and board rate increases are as follows for the 2003-2004 academic year.

Meal Plans—3.6%

Residential Rates—8.3%

Overall Increase—6.7%

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved that Arkansas State University-Jonesboro is authorized to increase room and board rates, effective Fall 2003.

Be it resolved that the administrative staff is authorized to establish room and board rates for the summer school terms of less than one semester's duration.

Florine Tousant Bingham, Secretary

John Paul Hammerschmidt, Chair

Arkansas State University
Board of Trustees
March 14, 2003
Resolution 03-04
Contact: Dr. Susan Allen 870-972-2030

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACTION ITEM: Arkansas State University-Jonesboro requests approval to change the name of the Bachelor of General Studies to Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies, effective fall 2003.

ISSUE: The Board of Trustees must approve the offering of any new degree or any new option of an existing degree prior to submission to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

BACKGROUND:

In keeping with a more contemporary trend, the change in name to Interdisciplinary Studies will increase interest in and marketability of this degree program.

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved that Arkansas State University-Jonesboro is approved to offer the Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies, effective fall 2003.

Florine Tousant Bingham, Secretary

John Paul Hammerschmidt, Chair

Arkansas State University
Board of Trustees
March 14, 2003
Resolution 03-05
Contact: Dr. Susan Allen 870-972-3030

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACTION ITEM: Arkansas State University-Jonesboro requests authorization to change the name of the MSE and EdS Educational Administration programs to Educational Leadership effective July 1, 2003.

ISSUE: The Board of Trustees must approve the offering of any new degree or any new option of an existing degree prior to submission to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

BACKGROUND:

This change reflects current literature. Nationally, school administration/leadership preparation programs are becoming more inclusive; programs are preparing, in addition to principals and superintendents, program directors. For example, Arkansas now has five new administrative/program director licensure areas: Vo-Tech, Curriculum Specialist, Special Education, and Gifted/Talented. Hence, the word leadership tends to be more encompassing than the word administration.

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved that Arkansas State University-Jonesboro is authorized to change the name to MSE and EdS in Educational Leadership effective July 2003.

Florine Tousant Bingham, Secretary

John Paul Hammerschmidt, Chair

Arkansas State University
Board of Trustees
March 14, 2003

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACTION ITEM: Arkansas State University-Jonesboro requests approval to participate in the Museum Assessment Program (MAP) governed jointly by the American Association of Museums and the Institution for Museum and Library Services.

ISSUE: A requirement for participating in the Museum Assessment Program stipulates Arkansas State University must have approval from its governing body.

BACKGROUND:

The MAP assessment program is governed jointly by the American Association of Museums, which is the professional association that currently accredits the ASU Museum, and the Institution for Museum and Library Services, which is a federal agency in support of governance assessment. These agencies provide a self-study process designed to assist the ASU Museum in an ongoing cycle of strategic planning and evaluation to meet its primary objectives: 1) to develop a museum system that will make best use of ASU=s resources to provide museum services at all four sites operated by ASU, 2) to improve education programs and outreach to the Arkansas Delta Communities through the ASU Museum system in partnership with other regional and local museums, and 3) to use the ASU Museum system to support educational programs and economic development (including heritage tourism) in the Arkansas portion of the Mississippi Delta.

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved that Arkansas State University-Jonesboro is approved to participate in the Museum Assessment Program (MAP) governed jointly by the American Association of Museums and the Institution for Museum and Library Services.

Florine Tousant Bingham, Secretary

John Paul Hammerschmidt, Chair

Arkansas State University
Board of Trustees
March 14, 2003
Resolution 03-07
Contact: Dr. Susan Allen 870-972-2030

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACTION ITEM: Arkansas State University-Jonesboro requests approval to offer the Master of Accountancy effective fall 2003.

ISSUE: The Board of Trustees must approve the offering of any new degree or any new option of an existing degree prior to submission to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

BACKGROUND:

The Master of Accountancy Program will: (1) provide those with undergraduate training in accounting with knowledge and skills needed to advance beyond the entry-level stage in the accounting profession; (2) provide students who have undergraduate training in accounting with the in- depth understanding of accounting issues needed for success on licensure and certification examinations; and, (3) serve as foundation work for those who may choose to pursue advanced graduate work.

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved that Arkansas State University-Jonesboro is approved to offer the Master of Accountancy effective fall 2003.

Florine Tousant Bingham, Secretary

John Paul Hammerschmidt, Chair

Arkansas State University
Board of Trustees
March 14, 2003
Resolution 03-08

Contact: Dr. Susan Allen 870-972-2030

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACTION ITEM: Arkansas State University-Jonesboro requests approval to offer the existing Bachelor of Science Management program at Arkansas State University-Beebe beginning fall 2003.

ISSUE: The Board of Trustees must approve the offering of any new degree or any new option of an existing degree prior to submission to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

BACKGROUND:

Arkansas State University-Jonesboro is proposing to offer the Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Management at ASU-Beebe. The degree program will have the same course requirements as the program offered on the Jonesboro campus. The program is being proposed as a means of extending university accessibility to persons living in the east central region of Arkansas.

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved that Arkansas State University-Jonesboro is approved to offer the existing Bachelor of Science Management program at Arkansas State University-Beebe beginning fall 2003.

Florine Tousant Bingham, Secretary

John Paul Hammerschmidt, Chair

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACTION ITEM: The Arkansas State University-Jonesboro College of Education requests permission to institute a plan for student teachers on the ASU-Mountain Home campus to gain appropriate and diverse educational field experience in their Field II and III semesters and to implement a student fee of \$140 for each student participating in these diverse educational field experiences.

ISSUE: The Board of Trustees must approve the offering of any new student fee.

BACKGROUND:

The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) has mandatory expectations for diversity throughout the curriculum; however, given its unique location, ASU-Mountain Home does not have the capability to provide the diverse field experiences that students in our teacher education program are expected to have. Therefore, ASU plans to ensure that the ASU-Mountain Home campus students gain appropriate field experience in diverse educational settings. There is not a funding mechanism currently in place to cover, in part or whole, the expense of the diversity plan; therefore with approval of the ASU Board of Trustees, the College of Education will implement this diversity plan and a \$140 fee will be charged for each student participating in the Field II and III teacher education program.

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved, that the ASU-Jonesboro College of Education and the Teacher Education Program is approved to institute a diverse experiential learning plan for ASU-Mountain Home and apply a student fee of \$140 for each student participating in the Field II and III semesters.

Florine Tousant Bingham, Secretary

John Paul Hammerschmidt, Chair

ASU Board of Trustees
March 14, 2003
Resolution 03-10
Contact: Susan Allen 870-972-3030

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACTION ITEM: Arkansas State University-Jonesboro (ASU-J) requests approval to enter into a collaborative agreement with the University of Arkansas Criminal Justice Institute to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Crime Scene Investigation and an Associate of Applied Science in Law Enforcement Administration.

ISSUE: The Arkansas State University Board of Trustees must approve the offering of any new degree program prior to submission to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

BACKGROUND:

On February 3, 2003, the Criminal Justice Institute made a presentation for the purpose of proposing a partnership with state institutions to help in the law enforcement community. The proposal allows for students to take the criminal justice courses from the Criminal Justice Institute and the general education courses from ASU-J. The added program of study will be a benefit to students and will not involve additional expenses from the ASU budget. However, as part of the agreement, institutions are requested to charge tuition but to waive fees of participating students. As this is the current practice at the ASU-J Paragould and ASU Technical Center (Marked Tree) sites for lower level course work (1000-2000 level), students will be restricted to enrollment at these sites for participation in these programs.

A Memorandum of Understanding will be developed at a later date and will detail the number of courses taught by each campus for each certificate or degree. It is expected that the degree will contain at least 27 hours of general education courses.

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved that Arkansas State University-Jonesboro is approved to offer the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Crime Scene Investigation and Associate of Applied Science Degree in Law Enforcement Administration beginning August 2003.

Florine Tousant Bingham, Secretary

John Paul Hammerschmidt, Chair
Arkansas State University
Board of Trustees
March 14, 2003
Resolution 03-11

Contact: Dr. Ruth Couch 501-882-8230
Dr. Pat Bailey 870-508-6287
Dr. Brenda Sullivan 870-512-7841

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACTION ITEM: Arkansas State University-Beebe, ASU-Mountain Home, and ASU-Newport request approval to enter a collaborative agreement with the University of Arkansas Criminal Justice Institute to offer an Associate of Applied Science degree in Law Enforcement Administration and an Associate of Applied Science degree in Crime Scene Investigation.

ISSUE: The Arkansas State University Board of Trustees must approve the offering of any new degree program prior to submission to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

BACKGROUND:

The Associate of Applied Science in Law Enforcement Administration and in Crime Scene Investigation degrees are cooperative degrees in partnership with the University of Arkansas Criminal Justice Institute in Little Rock. Students will take the criminal justice courses from the Criminal Justice Institute and the general education courses from ASU-Beebe or any of its instructional sites, ASU-Mountain Home, or ASU-Newport. A Memorandum of Understanding will detail the number of courses taught by each campus. It is expected that the degrees will have approximately 62 hours and that at least 27 hours will be general education courses.

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved that Arkansas State University-Beebe, ASU-Mountain Home, and ASU-Newport are approved to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Law Enforcement Administration and the Associate of Applied Science in Crime Scene Investigation beginning August 2003.

Florine Tousant Bingham, Secretary

John Paul Hammerschmidt, Chair

Arkansas State University
Board of Trustees
March 14, 2003
Resolution 03-12
Contact: Dr. Ruth Couch 501-882-8230
Dr. Pat Bailey 870-508-6287
Dr. Brenda Sullivan 870-512-7841

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACTION ITEM: Arkansas State University-Beebe, ASU-Mountain Home, and ASU-Newport request approval to enter a collaborative agreement with the University of Arkansas Criminal Justice Institute to offer a Technical Certificate in Law Enforcement Administration and a Technical Certificate in Crime Scene Investigation.

ISSUE: The Arkansas State University Board of Trustees must approve the offering of any new degree or certificate program prior to submission to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

BACKGROUND:

The Technical Certificate in Law Enforcement Administration and the Technical Certificate in Crime Scene Investigation are cooperative certificates in partnership with the University of Arkansas Criminal Justice Institute in Little Rock. Students will take the criminal justice courses from the Criminal Justice Institute and the general education courses from ASU-Beebe or any of its instructional sites, ASU-Mountain Home, or ASU Newport. A Memorandum of Understanding will detail the number of courses taught by each campus. It is expected that the technical certificate will have approximately 36 hours and that at least 15 hours will be general education courses.

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved that Arkansas State University-Beebe, ASU-Mountain Home and ASU-Newport are approved to offer a Technical Certificate in Law Enforcement Administration and a Technical Certificate in Crime Scene Investigation beginning August 2003.

Florine Tousant Bingham, Secretary

John Paul Hammerschmidt, Chair

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY Contact: Lyndle E. McCurley 870-508-6100

ACTION ITEM: Arkansas State University-Mountain Home requests an increase in the out-of-state tuition rate.

ISSUE: Arkansas State University-Mountain Home wishes to increase the hourly tuition rate for out-of-state students from \$76.00 per credit hour to \$95.00 per credit hour.

BACKGROUND:

- § Currently, ASUMH has an out-of-state tuition rate of \$76.00 per credit hour. That hourly rate has not changed since it was established in July 1992.
- § Arkansas State University-Beebe and Arkansas State University-Newport currently have an out-of-state tuition rate of \$95.00 per credit hour.
- § ASUMH wishes to implement the new rate beginning July 1, 2003.

RECOMMENDATIONS/RESOLUTIONS:

Be it resolved that Arkansas State University-Mountain Home is authorized to increase the out-of-state tuition rate from \$76.00 per credit hour to \$95.00 per credit hour.

Florine Tousant Bingham, Secretary

John Paul Hammerschmidt, Chair

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contact: Lyndle E. McCurley 870-508-6100

ACTION ITEM: Arkansas State University-Mountain Home requests the establishment of a per hour fee for online courses offered in the Hearing Healthcare and Opticianary programs.

ISSUE: Arkansas State University-Mountain Home wishes to establish a fee of \$10.00 per credit hour for selected online courses.

BACKGROUND:

- § ASUMH has two new academic programs, Hearing Healthcare and Opticianary that are expected to be predominately delivered online.
- § Because of the additional expense to prepare, deliver, and supervise these instructional programs a new fee is essential.

RECOMMENDATIONS/RESOLUTIONS:

Be it resolved that Arkansas State University-Mountain Home is authorized to establish a fee of \$10.00 per credit hour for online courses offered in Hearing Healthcare and Opticianary.

Florine Tousant Bingham, Secretary

John Paul Hammerschmidt, Chair

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACTION ITEM: Arkansas State University-Mountain Home requests the authority to offer the existing Associate of Applied Science in Hearing Healthcare via distance technology effective in Fall 2003. The program will be offered through Internet based instruction.

ISSUE: The Arkansas State University Board of Trustees must approve all new degree programs before they can be submitted to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

BACKGROUND:

The A.A.S. in Hearing Healthcare will be offered online to meet the growing need for trained workers in this profession and to be more accessible to students. Like the existing degree, the online program will be 60 semester hours. These hours include 15 hours of general education and 45 hours specific to the hearing healthcare degree. Because this degree is one of two in the nation, it is important for students interested in this profession to have access to training that will allow them to immediately enter the workforce upon completion of the degree and prepare them to pass the licensure exam. In the past, hearing aid fitters and dispensers were trained on the job. Trainees were required to complete a three-year internship and also expected to study for the licensure exam without formal instruction. Because of this system, many apprentices sitting for the licensure exam did not pass. The other problem with this system was that the apprentice was not a productive part of the hearing healthcare office for three years or more. The A.A.S. in Hearing Healthcare degree has solved these problems for students and employers because, upon completion of the degree, the graduate is trained and ready to be immediately a part of the team and is academically prepared to sit for and successfully pass the licensure exam.

The WebCt server and fees for the first two years of online courses were purchased through a federal grant awarded to support the online degree in hearing healthcare. Since online technical and academic support is available, there will not be additional expenses for the program that the online fee, lab fee, and tuition will not cover.

Budget reallocation will not be necessary to support the online program. Sources of funding will be tuition and fees.

RECOMMENDATIONS/RESOLUTIONS:

Be it resolved that Arkansas State University-Mountain Home is authorized to offer the existing Associate of Applied Science in Hearing Healthcare degree through Internet based instruction.

Florine Tousant Bingham, Secretary

John Paul Hammerschmidt, Chair

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACTION ITEM: Arkansas State University-Newport requests approval to issue up to \$5 million in 25-year fixed rate bonds to develop and finance a Student Center and for other construction purposes as necessary to make improvements to the campus.

ISSUE: ASU-Newport has the need to provide adequate facilities to accommodate the needs of its students. Existing facilities are inadequate to provide for all the services a student should be provided through their education experience.

BACKGROUND:

- The primary purpose for this project will be to construct and equip an approximate 35,000 square foot student center that will house a one-stop service center for the campus.
- The facility will contain business offices, student services offices, advisement, registrar, academic affairs offices, book store, foodservice, and some multipurpose classroom and meeting facilities.
- The balance of the bonds will be used to improve and renovate existing infrastructure, and to add additional classroom space.
- The bonds will be secured by a pledge of revenues from student tuition and fees from ASU-Newport.

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION

Be it resolved that Arkansas State University-Newport is authorized to issue up to \$5 million in new bonds to develop, construct, and equip a new student center and for other capital improvements on the campus, at a rate not to exceed 6.5% for 25 years. Furthermore, the Chair of the Board and the Chancellor of ASU-Newport are authorized to execute any such writings as may be required to cause the bonds to be issued. ASU-Newport also is authorized to engage the services of Friday, Eldredge & Clark as bond counsel, and the services of Stephens, Inc. as investment banker.

Florine Tousant Bingham, Secretary

John Paul Hammerschmidt, Chair