

The Board of Trustees of the University of Central Arkansas met via telephone conference at 6:00 p.m. Friday, September 14, 2001.

Mr. Jack Gillean, Vice President for University Relations, stated for the record that members of the press had been notified about the meeting at approximately 4:00 p.m today. Mr. Gillean further stated that no media representatives were present for the meeting.

Mr. Gillean informed members of the Board that President Thompson was present via telephone and that the following individuals were also present in the room:

Peggy Smith, Secretary to the Board;
John Smith, Vice President;
Melissa Rust, University Attorney;
Jim Bell, President of the Faculty Senate;
Darrell Walsh, Department of Athletics representative;
Jim Brosam, Director of Communications;

The following trustees participated in the call:

Chair:	Mr. Randy Sims
Vice Chair:	Mr. Rush Harding III
Secretary:	Mr. Kelley Erstine
	Mrs. Elaine Goode
	Mr. Rickey Hicks
	Mr. Scott Roussel
	Mr. Dalda Womack

constituting a quorum of said Board, at which meeting the following business was transacted, to-wit:

ACTION AGENDA

Football Game Scheduled for Saturday, September 15, 2001 which had been canceled due to the September 11 terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington D.C.

Mr. Randy Sims, Chair of the Board, acknowledged that America has suffered a horrible tragedy. Mr. Sims stated that the Board wanted to discuss whether or not the university wanted to support what the other schools in the Gulf South Conference were doing in regard to playing football on Saturday, September 15.

Mr. Rickey Hicks asked what the other schools are doing.

Mr. Rush Harding stated that he spoke today with Mr. Nathan Salant, Commissioner of the Gulf South Conference, who is encouraging Gulf South Conference schools to play. Mr. Harding explained that the main concern of the Gulf South Conference Executive Committee was that games not be played on the national day of mourning which is today, September 14. Mr. Harding stated that Mr. Salant issued an e-mail message Tuesday stating that it was the decision of each institution whether or not to play games scheduled for Saturday. Mr. Harding further stated that all other schools in the Gulf South Conference are planning to play except the University of North Alabama which was scheduled to play a non-league game that was canceled by its Division I opponent, Murray State University. Mr. Harding stated that all high schools within the State are planning to play this evening. Mr. Harding further stated that schools in the Lone Star Conference are playing, as are Missouri Division II schools. Mr. Harding stated that teams in the Southeastern Conference, as well as the National Football League, will not play.

Mr. Harding moved that the University of Central Arkansas follow the rest of the Gulf South Conference by playing its scheduled game against Ouachita Baptist University on Saturday, September 15. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hicks.

President Thompson stated that, based on information he had at the time, his decision to cancel the game was the appropriate decision for the institution and that he still believes it is the correct decision. President Thompson further stated that if the Board chooses to override that decision, obviously there is nothing he can do. President Thompson stated that he thought it was inappropriate to play a football game in so short a period of time after the horrendous tragedy. President Thompson, who was unable to return to Conway after serving on a North Central Association evaluation team in Arizona, stated that in his absence he asked staff members to speak with Dr. Andrew Westmoreland, President of Ouachita Baptist University. President Thompson stated that he was told that Dr. Westmoreland also preferred to cancel the game. President Thompson said that he instructed staff to wait until the Southeastern Conference had made a decision. President Thompson stated that after receiving further information, he instructed staff to close the university early on Friday in recognition of the day of remembrance and to cancel the game.

Mr. Harding stated that he appreciates President Thompson's sensitivity to the issue; however, following today's national day of mourning, he thinks the game should be played. Mr. Harding then called the question.

Mr. Womack stated that he regretted that the Board has to get involved in a decision regarding a football game because a decision of this nature would usually be an administrative one. Mr. Womack further stated that it is unfortunate that the Board has to override the President's recommendation during a time when the university is searching for a new president. Mr. Womack said that a decision to override the President's recommendation will not look good on the Board's record. However, he thinks the decision to cancel the game was too late and that we should go on with the process of living, therefore, he will support the motion.

The vote was taken on the motion stated above and passed unanimously.

President Thompson requested that the Board go into executive session, but because of time constraints, Board members requested that an executive session be delayed until President Thompson returns to Conway.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned upon motion by Mr. Harding with a second by Mr. Hicks.

Mr. Randy Sims, Chair

Mr. Kelley Erstine, Secretary