

The Board of Trustees of the University of Central Arkansas convened in a called meeting on Thursday, September 15, 2005, at 1:00 p.m. in the Hall of Fame Room in Estes Stadium with the following officers and members present:

Chair:	Dr. Michael Stanton
Vice Chair:	Mrs. Patricia Bassett
Secretary:	Mrs. Kay Hinkle
	Dr. Conrad Garner
	Mr. Rush Harding
	Mr. Scott Roussel
	Mr. Randy Sims

with the following absent:

None

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

ACTION AGENDA

State of Arkansas College Savings Bonds - The Arkansas Higher Education Technology and Facility Improvement Act 1282 of 2005 authorized the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in consultation with the Arkansas Development Finance Authority, to refer to the voters a request for the authority to issue up to \$250 million in college savings bonds for the improvement of technology and facilities in higher education. This issue will provide \$150 million to be allocated to the public institutions of higher education in Arkansas and \$100 million to refund/recall existing bonds. The additional issuance of the \$250 million in bonds will not require additional state funds or increase the annual debt service payment.

The University of Central Arkansas would benefit by the allocation of \$12,195,302 for the construction of educational and general classrooms and offices and \$804,698 for an expanded and improved access to the E-Corridor (web).

The following resolution was unanimously adopted upon motion by Mr. Sims with a second by Mrs. Hinkle:

“BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees hereby supports the resolution of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to issue College Savings Bonds and the accompanying distribution approved on July 29, 2005; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees will support the passage of this initiative by the voters of the State of Arkansas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the President is authorized to select an architect to develop plans and cost projections that will allow the construction of this educational facility to begin as soon as funds become available.”

SOUTHLAND CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP - President Hardin thanked Max Carranza, president of the Student Government Association; Kevin Hamilton, president of the Staff Senate; Chuck Seifert, president of the Faculty Senate; and, Bill Bandy, chair of the

Athletic Committee, for supporting UCA's move to Division I athletics.

Chairman Stanton introduced Mr. Tom Burnett, Commissioner of the Southland Conference, and invited him to address the Board.

Mr. Burnett thanked President and Mrs. Hardin, Vance Strange and his athletic staff and the campus and Conway communities. Mr. Burnett then spoke briefly about the Southland Conference and its decision to extend an invitation of membership to UCA. Mr. Burnett stated that the conference wanted to expand its membership only if it found universities that would enhance and improve the conference, i.e. universities with academic success, a history of athletic achievement, great facilities, beautiful campuses, community support, media attention, support from alumni, etc. Mr. Burnett stated that UCA met those requirements; therefore, as Commissioner of the Southland Conference and with unanimous approval of its Presidential Board of Directors, Mr. Burnett extended an offer of full membership to the University of Central Arkansas effective July 1, 2006.

President Hardin stated that the Southland Conference is a premier conference and it is an honor to be offered membership. He then presented the following agenda item for the Board's consideration:

In accordance with Article 5 of the Gulf South Conference Operating Manual and NCAA regulations, on July 1, 2005, the University of Central Arkansas officially entered into an exploratory year to examine moving from a NCAA Division II to NCAA Division I (Division I-AA in Football). After inquiries into various conferences in the region, it was determined that the Southland Conference was interested in adding two member institutions. Based on that announcement, several institutions of higher education expressed interest about membership in the Southland Conference. The University of Central Arkansas and one other institution were selected by the Southland Conference to make a formal presentation. During July 2005, the President and the Athletic Director made the formal presentation on behalf of UCA to the Southland Conference Board of Directors in Houston, Texas.

A Southland Conference site team made an official visit in August 2005. Southland officials indicated that they were "impressed with the numerous aspects of the institution and its athletic program, among them presidential initiatives and leadership, academic achievement, outstanding campus facilities and a history of athletic success." On August 25, 2005, the Southland Conference Board of Directors notified the university that it would extend an offer of full membership to the University of Central Arkansas. A response to that offer was requested no later than September 15, 2005.

Following brief comments by Board members, the following action was taken:

Based on the favorable review and approval by the Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, Student Government Association and other student leadership, the following resolution was unanimously adopted upon motion by Mr. Roussel with a second by Dr. Garner:

“BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees accepts the offer from the Southland Conference for the University of Central Arkansas to become a member institution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees authorizes the administration to take the necessary action to move from NCAA Division II to Division

I (Division I-AA in football) effective July 1, 2006.”

President Hardin stated that this is an historic day for the University of Central Arkansas and an honor to accept the invitation to join the Southland Conference. President Hardin announced that a press conference will be held immediately following the Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Dr. Michael Stanton, Chair

Mrs. Kay Hinkle, Secretary