The Board of Trustees of the University of Central Arkansas convened in a called meeting at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 6, 2008, in the Board of Trustees Conference Room in Wingo Hall with the following officers and members present:

Chair: Mr. Randy Sims  
Vice Chair: Mr. Rush Harding, III  
Secretary: Dr. Harold Chakales  
Mrs. Patricia Bassett  
Mrs. Kay Hinkle  
Dr. Mike Stanton

Mr. Scott Roussel was not present at roll call but arrived at the meeting about 5:30 p.m.

Chairman Randy Sims called the meeting to order. He stated that the purpose of the meeting was to gather information from various UCA constituencies in regards to the recent issues over the bonus paid to President Lu Hardin as well as a memo he had written.

Chairman Sims read two letters in support of President Hardin, which are attached to these minutes. The first letter was written by Brad Lacy, President of Conway Development Corporation. The second letter was written by Jack Bell, assistant to the Mayor of Conway.

Chairman Sims asked Mr. Jack Gillean to phone Dr. Roy Whitehead. Dr. Whitehead was on speaker phone and spoke in strong support of President Hardin. Mr. Rush Harding asked Dr. Whitehead if he was a tenured professor and Dr. Whitehead responded, “yes”. There were no other questions from Board members and the phone call was terminated.

Chairman Sims then asked Ross Honea, a UCA Foundation Board member and Harold Helton, a UCA Alumni Board member to speak. Both gentlemen spoke as individuals and not as representatives for the respective boards on which they serve. Mr. Helton said that the Alumni Board has agreed to remain neutral on these issues. Mr. Honea said that the Foundation Board had tabled a confidence vote for the President because there were several members absent at the last meeting. Both men said they strongly supported President Hardin.
Carol Daves, Staff Senate President, Drew Aylesworth, Student Government Association President and Kurt Boneicki, Faculty Senate President were the next speakers. Ms. Daves said that she believes the President can overcome these problems but that he must admit he erred and it would take time to regain the staff’s trust. She also read some comments from staff members. The remarks were both supportive and negative of the President. Mr. Aylesworth said that the President had done good things but there was concern on the students’ part because of the memo. Mr. Rush Harding asked Drew if he felt like the President was approachable and accessible to all students or if he felt like he was “approaching an ivory tower.” Drew responded that he had always found the President to be approachable and accessible. Dr. Boneicki said that several of the faculty members were very negative towards President Hardin. He felt like there would be a confidence vote when the faculty returned. He also stated that he was “heavy hearted” over this situation and did not relish being in this position.

Dr. Pam Spikes, an accounting professor for many years at UCA, was telephoned and asked if she supported President Hardin. Dr. Spikes was very supportive of the President.

Ms. Barbara Anderson, Executive Vice President, asked to speak in order to address several questions she had been asked in regards to the memo. Ms. Anderson stated that while she had not seen the memo, she did recognize several of the points that were made and she also said that she could recall several meetings that she was in with Jack Gillean and Paul McLendon, as well as Rita Fleming, to discuss the President’s compensation. Rush Harding asked her if she agreed with the last point on the memo, which referred to the bonus not being subject to the Freedom of Information Act. She responded that she did not agree with that point. She said that most of us have stumbled once or twice in our lives, but we were able to do so in private. The President stumbled in public. She also stated that she has forgiven him.

Attorney Frank Shaw was the last speaker. He referred to the last four presidents that the University has had and said that he knew them well. He said that UCA was better than it had ever been and it was due to the leadership of Lu Hardin.

Chairman Sims thanked everyone for their statements and asked for a motion to go into executive session. Ms. Kay Hinkle made the motion, Rush Hardin seconded. The vote was unanimous.

The Board returned from executive session and stated that no action was taken. Chairman Sims said that there would be another called meeting in September.
The meeting was then adjourned.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS

By: ______________________________________

Randy Sims, Chair

ATTEST:

By: _____________________________

Harold Chakales, Secretary