The University of Central Arkansas Board of Trustees convened at 10:00 a.m., August 8, 2024, with the following officers and members present:

Ms. Amy Denton – Chair
Dr. Michael Stanton – Vice Chair
Mr. Jim Rankin, Jr. – Secretary
Mr. Curtis Barnett
Dr. Terry Fiddler
Ms. Kay Hinkle

Mr. Kelley Erstine was absent.

MINUTES

With a vote of 5-0, the board approved the minutes of the May 21, 2024, board meeting and the June 27, 2024, teleconference meeting as submitted upon motion by Terry Fiddler and second by Curtis Barnett. Michael Stanton entered the meeting after this vote was taken.

REPORTS

President's Report – President Davis recognized the Student Orientation Staff as the recipient of the Bear C.L.A.W.S. award. During the report, Kevin Carter provided a facilities update. Following this update, the board discussed a feasibility study to determine the cost to repair versus replace the Farris Center. President Davis provided a fall enrollment update.

UCA Commitment Update – Kevin Thomas provided an update on the status of UCA Commitment.

Financial Report – Terri Canino introduced Mr. Allen Stanley as the new Associate Vice President for Finance & Administration. The financial report provided to the board is attached to the original minutes.

ACTION AGENDA

Contract Review Procedures – Board Policy No. 416

Pursuant to Board Policy No. 416, Contract Review Procedures, the administration must seek board approval for any contract that requires the university to expend funds in excess of $500,000.

The administration is seeking board approval for the university to enter into contracts with the following companies/organizations:

1. Caldwell and Gregory, LLC.
2. Stuart B. Consultants, Inc. DBA Birnbaum Interpreting Services

The board unanimously adopted the following resolution upon motion by Curtis Barnett and second by Michael Stanton:

"BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees authorizes the administration to enter into the contracts with the companies/organizations listed above and on the following page."

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UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS
REASON FOR REQUIRING BOARD REVIEW AND ACTION
(Board Policy No. 416)

Contract exceeds $500,000

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1. Vendor/Party: Caldwell and Gregory, LLC.

Amount: Approximately $520,000 (total amount for five years).

Summary of Contract Information: This agreement is to provide washer and dryer units for student housing areas. Caldwell and Gregory was the vendor from 2017 to 2024. Throughout the term of the contract, the university can add additional machines as needed which will impact the total cost.

Term: September 1, 2024, to June 30, 2029.

2. Vendor/Party: Stuart B. Consultants, Inc. DBA Birnbaum Interpreting Services.

Amount: Approximately $978,000 (total amount for seven years).

Summary of Contract Information: This is a contract for remote transcription services for students who are deaf and hard of hearing. Services from the vendor will include providing the proper equipment, transcriptions, and customer support.

Term: August 23, 2024, to June 30, 2027. The initial term is for three years, but the contract may be extended in one- or two-year increments not to exceed a total contract length of seven years.

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NOTIFICATIONS/DELETIONS

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Notification: Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement between Hendrix and UCA

UCA has entered into an MOU with Hendrix College. The MOU allows eligible undergraduates at Hendrix College to enroll in graduate courses in UCA's MAT program. This is accomplished through UCA's existing dual enrollment policy, which allows undergraduates to take a certain number of graduate hours without being admitted to the program. Eligible Hendrix students can apply the graduate credit earned at UCA towards completion of their bachelor's degree. Upon

graduation, students may apply to the UCA MAT program, and UCA will waive the application fee. Students who are admitted to the MAT program will only need to complete the remaining graduate courses to earn the MAT degree.

Notification: New Bachelor of Science in Education (BSE) in Science and Technology by Reconfiguration of Existing Programs

The College of Science and Engineering at UCA, in collaboration with the College of Education, proposes to reconfigure coursework from the BS degrees in Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, and Physics, as well as coursework from the Teaching and Learning minor with updated courses in secondary science education, to create a new BSE in Science and Technology with content knowledge tracks in Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, and Physics. The new BSE will replace the now discontinued STEMteach program and offer students interested in teaching science or technology at the secondary level a path towards a degree and teacher licensure.

Notification: New Bachelor of Science (BS) in Software Engineering by Reconfiguration of an Existing Program and Deletion of the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Computer Engineering

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering at UCA is seeking to replace the BS in Computer Engineering with a BS in Software Engineering to better meet student demand and the qualifications of existing faculty. The BS in Software Engineering is being reconfigured from the existing BS in Computer Science by replacing 21 of the 120 required credit hours, including 15 credit hours of new courses. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the overall employment of software developers, quality analysts, and testers is projected to grow 25 percent from 2022 to 2032, much faster than the average for all occupations. In addition, about 153,900 openings for software developers, quality assurance analysts, and testers are projected each year, on average, over the decade. Indeed.com lists about 300 Software Engineer jobs in Arkansas at this time.

The BS in Computer Engineering program has suffered from a lack of qualified faculty to teach the curriculum resulting in lower than desired enrollment. Since its inception in Fall 2017, only seven students have graduated, falling short of the required three-year average viability threshold. Last year, the program had no graduates. There are currently 14 students enrolled in the program and all have been notified of the deletion. The expected graduation date of the last student is May 2027, though we anticipate that most students will switch to one of the other BS programs (Computer Science, Cybersecurity, or Data Science) or the new BS in Software Engineering. For those who do not switch, we will accommodate curriculum requirements with substitutions from related programs.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board unanimously declared an executive session to consider employment, appointments, promotions, demotions, disciplining and resignations of employees, upon motion by Michael Stanton and second by Kay Hinkle.

OPEN SESSION

The board unanimously approved the following motion made by Terry Fiddler and second by Michael Stanton:

"I move that all appointments, adjustments to salary and title, and other matters set forth on the personnel action list discussed in executive session be approved."

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned upon motion by Curtis Barnett and second by Kay Hinkle.

The University of Central Arkansas Board of Trustees

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Amy Denton
Chair

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Jim Rankin, Jr.
Secretary