

The University of Central Arkansas Board of Trustees convened at 10:00 a.m., February 28, 2025, with the following officers and members present:

Dr. Michael Stanton – Chair
Mr. Kelley Erstine – Secretary
Mr. Curtis Barnett
Ms. Amy Denton
Dr. Terry Fiddler
Ms. Kay Hinkle

Mr. Jim Rankin, Jr. was absent.

MINUTES

The board unanimously approved the minutes of the December 6, 2024, board meeting as submitted upon motion by Terry Fiddler and second by Kay Hinkle.

REPORTS

President's Report – President Davis recognized Cooper Horton and Dylan Silverman-Barnes as the recipients of the Bear C.L.A.W.S. award.

Audit & Finance Committee Report – Kelley Erstine, chair of the Audit and Finance Committee, informed the trustees of the business that was discussed by the committee.

Enrollment Update – Kevin Thomas provided an update on enrollment for upcoming academic year. His report is attached to the original minutes.

Financial Update – Terri Canino introduced Jeremy Bruner as the new associate vice president for finance. She then provided a financial report which is attached to the original minutes.

ACTION AGENDA

Resolution of Appreciation – Amy Denton

The board unanimously approved the following resolution upon motion by Kelley Erstine and second by Terry Fiddler:

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS Amy Denton of Roland, Arkansas, was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the University of Central Arkansas by the Governor of the State of Arkansas, Asa Hutchinson, in February 2021 for a term of seven years; and

WHEREAS Ms. Denton graduated from the University of Central Arkansas in 1996 and 1998; and

WHEREAS Ms. Denton served as chair of the Board of Trustees in 2024 and attended many university events and functions in her capacity as chair; and

WHEREAS, during her term as chair of the Board, the university made significant progress by (a) achieving the highest freshman enrollment increase in more than 25 years, (b) welcoming the first-year cohort of UCA Commitment, (c) maintaining an A2 Stable Moody's rating, (d) completing a successful search for provost & executive vice president, (e) renaming the College of Natural Science & Mathematics to the College of Science & Engineering, (f) renaming the HPER Center to the Thomas C. Courtway Student Recreation Center, (g) raising a record amount during UCA's Day of Giving, and (h) approving a feasibility study for the Jeff Farris Health and Physical Education Center; and

WHEREAS Ms. Denton served with honor and distinction, and because of her leadership, the university had a very successful year in 2024.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the University of Central Arkansas does hereby extend its sincere appreciation and gratitude to Amy Denton for her service as chair of the Board of Trustees during 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be made a part of the minutes of the University of Central Arkansas Board of Trustees meeting.

Michael Stanton
Chair

Kelley Erstine
Secretary

Reimbursement of Expenses for Official Board of Trustees Duties – Board Policy No. 211

Arkansas Code Annotated 25-16-901 et seq. provides that boards and commissions may, during their first regularly scheduled meeting of each calendar year, authorize expense reimbursement for each board member for performing official board duties. The law states that the expense reimbursement must not exceed the rate established by state travel regulations for state employees. The law covers expense reimbursement for all board functions. This action is consistent with Board Policy No. 211, Reimbursement of Expenses for Official Board of Trustees Duties, and Arkansas Code Annotated 6-67-102.

The board unanimously approved the following resolution upon motion by Curtis Barnett and second by Amy Denton:

“BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees approves the following statement concerning reimbursement of expenses for official board duties for 2025:

The UCA Board of Trustees authorizes reimbursement of expenses for each of its members for performance of official board duties, to include attendance at board meetings, fulfillment of board training requirements, and any other official board duties. The expense reimbursement authorized herein must not exceed the rate established by state travel regulations for state

employees, including special travel authorization. The board also authorizes the president to approve the reimbursement of travel expenses of board members that are in conformance with this policy.”

**UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS
BOARD POLICY**

Policy Number: 211

Subject: Reimbursement of Expenses for Official Board of Trustees Duties

Date Adopted: 10/92 Revised: 02/96

The University of Central Arkansas Board of Trustees authorizes reimbursement of expenses for each trustee for performance of official board duties, to include attendance at board meetings, fulfillment of board training requirements, and any other official board duties. The expense reimbursement authorized herein must not exceed the rate established by state travel regulations, including special travel authorization. The board also authorizes the president to approve the reimbursement of travel expenses of board members that are in conformance with this policy.

Extracurricular Camps – Board Policy No. 653

Board Policy No. 653, adopted pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. 6-62-401, authorizes the Board of Trustees to grant permission to employees to conduct, on and in campus facilities, certain outside work for private compensation, which is to be engaged in only after their employment responsibilities to the university have been fully discharged. These camps are designed to bring future students to campus who might decide to enroll as a result of their exposure to university facilities, personnel, and programs.

In order to approve these private camps, the Board must determine that:

- (i) the activity in question involves no conflict of interest with the mission and purpose of the university;
- (ii) the activity proposed will bring to the campus a significant number of persons who are potentially future students who might tend to enroll as a result of their exposure to the university’s facilities and personnel while engaged in this activity; and
- (iii) the activity will, as a part thereof, generate funds to be paid to the university for housing, meals, and for the use of other university resources which will produce significant revenues in support of the auxiliary functions of the university serving enrolled students.

The camps will pay the same costs and fees for use of facilities, housing, food services, and other resources as established by the university for other camps. The exact dates, times, requirements, agreement terms, and policies shall be determined by the administration in accordance with existing university policy. The proposed camps are listed on the following page. These camps are distinct from university-sponsored camps and private camps operated by entities other than employees.

The board unanimously approved the following resolution upon motion by Kelley Erstine and second by Amy Denton:

“BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees makes the above findings and authorizes the administration to enter into agreements with employees to conduct the private camps listed below on and in campus facilities, effective through June 30, 2026.”

Program	Employees	Facilities
Baseball	Baseball coaching staff	Bear Stadium
Football	Football coaching staff	Estes Stadium and Practice Facility
Men’s Basketball	Basketball coaching staff	Farris Center
Women’s Basketball	Basketball coaching staff	Farris Center
Men’s/Women’s Golf	Golf coaching staff	
Men’s/Women’s Soccer	Soccer coaching staff	Bill Stephens Field
Softball	Softball coaching staff	Farris Field
Tennis	Tennis coaching staff	Tennis Courts
Volleyball	Volleyball coaching staff	Prince Center
Beach Volleyball	Volleyball coaching staff	Beach Courts and Prince Center
Strength/Conditioning	Strength/Conditioning coaching staff	Indoor Center
ACC Choir Camp	Music faculty and staff	Snow Fine Arts Center
Cheer/Stunt	Cheer/Stunt coaching staff	Farris Center and Prince Center

*Each camp may utilize housing, food services, student health clinic, meeting spaces, HPER, and other campus facilities and resources at applicable rates and subject to university policies.

Property Acquisition – 306/308/310/312 Farris Road, Conway, Arkansas

Mr. Robert Dyson and RBD Properties LLC own the four duplexes located at 306/308/310/312 Farris Road. The duplexes were built in the 1980s, and the property is approximately 1.5 acres. This property is in a prime location on Farris Road. It is adjacent to Buffalo Alumni Hall and Stadium Park Apartments. The duplexes initially will be used for student housing.

The university has a signed agreement with the owner to purchase the property for \$1,310,000. The closing of the proposed acquisition is conditioned upon obtaining a valid warranty deed and the approval of the Board of Trustees.

The board unanimously approved the following resolution upon motion by Terry Fiddler and second by Curtis Barnett:

“BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees approves the transaction described above with Robert Dyson and RBD Properties LLC or its successor, for the sale and purchase of four duplexes with street addresses of 306/308/310/312 Farris Road, Conway, Arkansas, and the president and such other officials of the University of Central Arkansas, as the president may from time-to-time designate, are hereby authorized and directed to enter into and execute such other documents, agreements, and instruments as are necessary and required to consummate the foregoing purchase.”

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, at any time, in excess of \$500,000.

The administration is seeking board approval for the university to enter into contract with the following company/organization:

1. BSN Sports, LLC, and NIKE USA, Inc.

The board unanimously approved the following resolution upon motion by Curtis Barnett and second by Amy Denton:

“BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees authorizes the administration to enter into contract with the company/organization listed above and on the following page.”

**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:** BSN Sports, LLC, and NIKE USA, Inc.

Amount: A minimum of \$400,000 per year.

Summary of Contract Information: This agreement is to continue our existing relationship with BSN Sports and Nike for procurement and sponsorship of athletic apparel, footwear, and uniforms. The actual amount spent each year will depend on the amount of athletic apparel, footwear, and uniforms needed. The university currently spends approximately \$430,000 per year.

Term: July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2030. The initial term is for five years, but the contract may be extended for two one-year terms not to exceed a total contract length of seven years.

Fees – Room and Board – Board Policy No. 632

The current room and board rate is \$9,110 per year (based on a double-occupancy room and the Total Access meal plan with \$250 declining cash balance “DCB”).

The recommended increase in board plans is an average of 5.0%. The increase in the board plans should generate an additional \$494,690 overall. These funds will be available to help cover the planned 3.6% increase in the Aramark contract and allow for necessary service enhancements and upgrades. The Department of Housing and Residence Life completed a review of board plan rates from public institutions within the state. The proposed 2025-2026 board plan rates place UCA near the midpoint of the rates for other Arkansas universities.

A 5.0% increase is recommended for room rates. This increase is primarily related to the continuing effort to maintain and upgrade housing facilities. Recommended repairs to the residence halls and university-owned apartments exceed \$10 million. The estimated annual revenue from the proposed increase for the housing room rates is \$918,512. The proposed 2025-2026 room rates place UCA near the midpoint of the rates for other Arkansas universities.

The proposed room and board rate for 2025-2026 is \$9,566 per year, based on double-occupancy room and the Total Access meal plan with \$250 DCB, for an overall increase of 5.0%. This increase will result in a student paying an additional \$456 per year. For the 2025-2026 academic year, Housing anticipates an annualized occupancy rate of approximately 95%.

The proposed schedule of room and board rates was presented to the Student Government Association (SGA) at their February 10, 2025, meeting.

The board unanimously approved the following resolution upon motion by Amy Denton and second by Curtis Barnett:

“BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees hereby approves the following revisions to Board Policy No. 632, Fees – Room and Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees hereby approves the schedule of room and board rates presented below.”



Residence Halls/Greek Village

	Double Room Rate Per Semester	Single Room Rate Per Semester
TIER 1: Arkansas Hall, Bernard Hall, and RA Room	\$2,604	\$3,305
TIER 2: Baridon, Bear, Carmichael, Conway, Hughes, State, BUCs/Kappa Sigma	\$2,770	\$3,670
TIER 3: Farris Hall and New Hall	N/A	\$3,745
TIER 4: Donaghey Hall, The 425 House, GV Phase I & II	\$3,113	\$4,233

*Single rooms are only available when space permits typically in the Spring semester.

Apartments

TIER 1: Stadium Park, Oak Tree, Georgetown	\$2,935	\$3,735
TIER 2: Erbach, Torreyson, Bear Village, The Edge	\$3,113	\$4,233

*Single rooms are only available when space permits typically in the Spring semester.

Break Housing

	Double Room Rate	Single Room Rate
Winter Break	\$475	\$650
Spring Break	\$150	\$225
May Intersession	\$575	\$575
Summer I & II per five week term	\$635	\$835
August Intersession	\$185	\$185
Nightly Rate used for approved early arrivals, late stays, camps, and other special circumstances	\$23 per night	\$30 per night

NOTE: Apartments, Donaghey Hall, and Greek Village are open during Winter and Spring Breaks.

Meal Plans

Residence Hall Meal Plan Options

	Rate per semester
Total Access (in the cafe) + \$250 Dining Dollars	\$2,179
200 Block meals + \$250 Dining Dollars	\$2,472

Apartment Meal Plan Options

ONLY Apartments, Greek Village, and Donaghey Hall:

\$800 Dining Dollars (+ \$35 Bonus DD)	\$800
\$1100 Dining Dollars (+ \$75 Bonus DD)	\$1,100
\$200 Greek Village Dining Dollars (Greek Village ONLY)	\$200

IMPORTANT: Freshmen are required to live on campus. Apartments are available to students who are entering their second academic year. Single rooms are limited and upgrades are available space permitting. Meal plans are mandatory for all residents and may only be changed before classes begin each term. Any resident can choose a Residence Hall meal plan. You must be in an Apartment, Donaghey, or Greek Village to choose from the All Dining Dollar plans. Unused Dining Dollars will expire at the end of the Summer II term. Unused Block meals do not carry over from fall to spring. The residence halls close for break periods with housing available for additional cost. Apartments, Donaghey, and Greek Village are open during winter and spring breaks. Summer Housing is available in one of the residence halls.

Distinguished Professor Emeritus Awards

The Distinguished Faculty Emeritus/Emerita Committee has unanimously recommended that retired UCA professors, Dr. John Murphy and Dr. Michael Rubach, receive the status of Distinguished Professor Emeritus. The professors were nominated for the honor by the faculty in their departments and have the support of all appropriate academic councils and administrators.

The board unanimously approved the following resolution upon motion by Terry Fiddler and second by Amy Denton:

“BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees hereby approves the recommendation that Dr. John Murphy and Dr. Michael Rubach receive the honor of Distinguished Professor Emeritus.”

RESOLUTION

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR EMERITUS ~ DR. JOHN MURPHY

WHEREAS Dr. John Murphy served as a professor of School Psychology at the University of Central Arkansas from 1995 to 2022; and

WHEREAS Dr. John Murphy has a long, outstanding record of excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service at the university; and

WHEREAS Dr. John Murphy contributed to the vitality of his department, college, and the university through local, state, national, and international recognition in his field; and

WHEREAS Dr. John Murphy was dedicated to the success of students by serving as an educator, clinical supervisor and mentor to his students; and

WHEREAS Dr. John Murphy was unanimously recommended by the tenured faculty of the Department of Psychology and Counseling; and

WHEREAS Dr. John Murphy was unanimously recommended to receive the Distinguished Professor Emeritus Award by the Faculty Emeritus Committee.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the University of Central Arkansas does hereby bestow the honor and status of Distinguished Professor Emeritus on Dr. John Murphy in recognition of his leadership in and his service to the Department of Psychology and Counseling at the University of Central Arkansas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be made part of the minutes of the February 28, 2025, University of Central Arkansas Board of Trustees meeting.

Michael Stanton
Chair

Kelley Erstine
Secretary

RESOLUTION

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR EMERITUS ~ DR. MICHAEL RUBACH

WHEREAS Dr. Michael Rubach served as a professor of Marketing and Management at the University of Central Arkansas from 1997 to 2023; and

WHEREAS Dr. Michael Rubach has significantly contributed to the university's academic community through his leadership, teaching, research, and service; and

WHEREAS Dr. Michael Rubach was instrumental in the growth of his department while serving as Chair from 2003 to 2010 and 2017 to 2021, as well as MBA Director from 2010 to 2017; and

WHEREAS Dr. Michael Rubach was deeply committed to teaching and mentored his students across challenging subjects; and

WHEREAS Dr. Michael Rubach was unanimously recommended by the tenured faculty of the Department of Marketing and Management; and

WHEREAS Dr. Michael Rubach was unanimously recommended to receive the Distinguished Professor Emeritus Award by the Faculty Emeritus Committee.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the University of Central Arkansas does hereby bestow the honor and status of Distinguished Professor Emeritus on Dr. Michael Rubach in recognition of his leadership in and his service to the Department of Marketing and Management at the University of Central Arkansas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be made part of the minutes of the February 28, 2025, University of Central Arkansas Board of Trustees meeting.

Michael Stanton
Chair

Kelley Erstine
Secretary

NOTIFICATIONS/DELETIONS

Notification: New Post-Master's Certificate in Change Leadership

UCA proposes to offer a Post-Master's Certificate (PMC) in Change Leadership. The PMC consists of 15 credit hours from the existing PhD program in Change Leadership. The PMC is needed for

two reasons: (1) it will allow us to offer an additional option for those wanting only the post-master's graduate credential, creating the opportunity to recruit new students not wanting to pursue a PhD degree, and (2) the certificate provides a graduate credential to existing students who complete the 15-credit-hour Leadership Core but do not go on to complete the entire PhD in Change Leadership program. Like the PhD in Change Leadership program, the PMC will only be offered 100% online.

Notification: Bachelor of Science in Psychology Online Degree-Completion Program

UCA proposes to offer 50% of the BS in Psychology degree online. The BS in Psychology online degree-completion program is intended for students who have an associate degree or who have completed at least 60 credit hours and the state minimum core. The program is designed to assist students who have encountered life circumstances -including work, family needs, and health - that prevent on-campus class attendance in the completion of a four-year degree. This program will also serve students who wish to complete one of the eight 2+2 agreements in Psychology that we have with our 2-year partners without having to relocate. The BS in Psychology online degree completion program consists of the same coursework required to earn a BS in Psychology in person.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

OPEN SESSION

The board unanimously approved the following motion by Amy Denton and second by Kelley Erstine:

“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 Terry Fiddler and second by Curtis Barnett.

Michael Stanton
Chair

Kelley Erstine
Secretary