

May 6, 2020

TO: Joe Steinmetz Skip Rutherford Steven Fulkerson
 Cam Patterson Cheryl May
 Laurence Alexander Corey Alderdice
 Christy Drale George Sabo
 Peggy Doss Marta Lloyd
 Mark Cochran Gina Terry
 Keith Pinchback Chaundra Hall
 Debbie Frazier Melissa Rust
 Chris Thomason JoAnn Maxey
 Lisa Willenberg Michael Moore
 Steve Cole Steve Wood
 Terisa Riley Ben Beaumont
 Margaret Ellibee Nate Hinkel
 Phillip Wilson Laura Cheak

FROM: Donald R. Bobbitt, President 

SUBJECT: May 4 Approvals Concerning COVID-19, All Campuses and Units

At its special video conference meeting held on May 4, 2020, the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas adopted the following resolutions:

Waiver of Certain Fees for 2020 Summer Terms:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas recognizes the unique circumstance facing each system campus in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Board voted on April 8, 2020 to continue social distancing measures and utilize online-only instruction for coursework during summer terms at institutions across the system; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to give the System and its institutions flexibility in addressing student needs during the summer terms;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS THAT the Board authorizes the President to waive certain fees for the summer 2020 terms in coordination with the Chancellors of the various campuses.

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University of Arkansas, Fayetteville / University of Arkansas at Little Rock / University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences / University of Arkansas at Monticello / Division of Agriculture / Criminal Justice Institute
Arkansas Archeological Survey / Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas / University of Arkansas Community College at Hope
University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville / Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas
University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton / University of Arkansas at Fort Smith
University of Arkansas – Pulaski Technical College / University of Arkansas Community College at Rich Mountain
Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts / University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service / University of Arkansas System eVersity

Resolution of Appreciation to UAMS:

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has called to action frontline and essential workers across the University of Arkansas System to respond to the needs of patients, students and others who have been directly impacted by the crisis; and

WHEREAS, the faculty and staff of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, from the emergency room physicians, nurses and other clinicians to the support staff and custodial team at the medical center have demonstrated outstanding courage and bold perseverance in their daily work fighting the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cam Patterson and his administrative team have worked tirelessly since the outbreak of COVID-19 in Arkansas in early March to not only prepare UAMS to serve as an essential healthcare provider to virus patients, but also to assist Governor Asa Hutchinson and the Arkansas Department of Health in developing and implementing a statewide plan to identify the disease through increased testing capacity and to mitigate the spread of the virus through health policy directives; and

WHEREAS, other workers across the UA System have also responded admirably to this crisis, from the custodial staffs who have worked to clean campus facilities to the faculty members and support staff who have spent extra hours preparing for and executing the move to online instruction; and

WHEREAS, each UA System institution and its administration has identified unique ways to help their communities and others across the state, including through donating excess supplies of personal protective equipment for healthcare workers, utilizing available technology to make face masks and shields, and offering the opportunity for displaced employees to temporarily fill personnel needs at UAMS; and

WHEREAS, all of the aforementioned individuals have brought honor and distinction to the University of Arkansas System through their selfless work;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS THAT the Board expresses its heartfelt appreciation and admiration for the employees across the UA System, including those at UAMS, who have led the effort to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board directs that this resolution shall be spread upon the minutes of this meeting, posted on the UA System website, and shared to the extent practicable with system personnel across the state.

Resolution of Appreciation to the Governor:

WHEREAS, Governor Asa Hutchinson announced the first known case of COVID-19 in Arkansas on March 11, 2020 and subsequently declared a public health emergency to facilitate and coordinate the state's multi-agency response to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, even before the first case was confirmed, the Governor and his administration, including the Arkansas Department of Health under the leadership of Secretary Nate Smith, took important steps to prepare for the arrival of the virus in the state; and

WHEREAS, Governor Hutchinson called a special session of the Arkansas General Assembly to convene on March 26, 2020 to set aside critical funding for the state to respond to the health care needs that have stemmed from the pandemic across the state; and

WHEREAS, Governor Hutchinson and Secretary Smith have provided daily briefings to the citizens of Arkansas regarding the social distancing measures needed to mitigate the impact of the virus across the state and the government's efforts to coordinate the procurement of the necessary supplies to treat those patients who have contracted COVID-19 and to identify the spread of the virus through increased testing; and

WHEREAS, Governor Hutchinson has called on Dr. Cam Patterson and the capable team at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences to play an active role in the state's coordinated response to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Governor Hutchinson has demonstrated calm and capable leadership in charting a course for the state's response to the pandemic that protects public health and provides support to Arkansans who have been impacted by the crisis;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS THAT the Board expresses its heartfelt appreciation and admiration for Governor Asa Hutchinson for his leadership during this critical time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board directs that this resolution shall be spread upon the minutes of this meeting, posted on the UA System website, and that a copy be transmitted to the Governor.

Resolution Concerning Fall 2020 Campus Operations, All Campuses and Units:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas recognizes the need to continue monitoring the impact of COVID-19 in Arkansas and to adhere to the public health guidelines and directives from the state and federal governments; and

WHEREAS, the state and federal governments have outlined steps for removing some physical distancing directives to facilitate a phased-in reopening of communities across Arkansas where UA System institutions are located; and

WHEREAS, President Donald R. Bobbitt has appointed a UA System task force including campus leadership and representatives from the system administration to identify the necessary steps to reopen institutions to students, faculty and staff for the fall 2020 semester; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the need for and encourages the task force and institutional leadership to create plans that include measures to protect the various campus constituencies from the spread and mitigate the impact of COVID-19;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS THAT the Board directs the President to work with the Chancellors and other chief executives across the UA System to prepare the various campuses, divisions and units of the system to reopen to students, faculty and staff for the fall 2020 semester;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board directs such plans be consistent with the health policy directives of the state and federal governments regarding the COVID-19 virus.

Revision to Board Policy 425.5, *Retirement Program*:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS THAT Board Policy 425.5 University of Arkansas Retirement Program, is hereby amended to delay the employee required contribution increase, currently scheduled for July 1, 2020, until July 1, 2021.

Resolution Concerning Sales Tax Extension, UAFS:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Westark College and the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas voted on December 15, 2000 for Westark College to join the University of Arkansas System as the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Sebastian County overwhelmingly voted on July 17, 2001 to dissolve the local community college district, repeal a 5.2 mills property tax for capital improvements for the college and adopt a 20-year, one-quarter of one-percent (\$.0025) county sales take to support maintenance, operation and capital improvements at UA-Fort Smith; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Smith community has experienced steady growth and development during the past 20 years with the university playing a key role in the economic and educational development of the region; and

WHEREAS, UA-Fort Smith today offers 51 bachelor's and associate's degrees, two master's degrees and 36 certificate programs that are aligned with local employment needs and designed to prepare students to explore, innovate and compete in the global economy; and

WHEREAS, UA-Fort Smith currently receives approximately \$6 million annually from the county sales and faithfully stewards those funds toward the maintenance, operation and capital needs of the campus; and

WHEREAS, the sales tax to support UA-Fort Smith is scheduled to sunset on January 1, 2022 but can be extended for an additional 10 years under Arkansas Law with a vote of the countywide electorate; and

WHEREAS, Act 1087 of 2013 gave UA-Fort Smith the legal authority to approach the Sebastian County Quorum Court to request a vote of the electorate to extend the sales tax for an additional 10 years until December 31, 2031; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees recognizes the vital importance of UA-Fort Smith to Sebastian County and to the overall mission of the system to provide higher education opportunities to all of the citizens of Arkansas;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS THAT the Board authorizes the Chancellor of UA-Fort Smith to take the necessary steps to petition the Sebastian County Quorum Court to consider placing the question of the sales

tax extension on the ballot for consideration of the residents of the county during the 2020 general election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Secretary of the Board is hereby directed to spread this resolution on the minutes of this meeting and transmit a copy to the membership of the Sebastian County Quorum Court and other officials in the community as requested by the Chancellor of UA Fort Smith.

Resolution Concerning Restructuring, UALR:
{as amended on May 6, 2020}

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS THAT the Academic Planning Retrenchment Proposal of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock presented by Chancellor Christina Drale and recommended by President Donald R. Bobbitt on May 4, 2020, pursuant to Board Policy 405.5, is hereby approved as presented.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Academic Restructuring Plan presented by Dr. Christina Drale and recommended by President Donald R. Bobbitt on May 4, 2020, pursuant to Board Policy 405.5, which includes the reduction in colleges from five to three as set out below, is hereby approved:

College of Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences, and Education
College of Business, Health, and Human Services
College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

You may proceed to implement these actions.