

President's Report

Board of Trustees

October 21, 2013

I. Capital Projects

Anders Hall (Round House) Phase II/Hammond Hall Restrooms

This project reconfigures space for the Art Department and provides general meeting space for campus use. It was bid on June 13, 2013 Forsyth Building Company of Anniston, AL was awarded the project. Phase I was complete in August. Phase II, work on the adjoining restrooms should be completed by October 25th.

Coliseum HVAC Improvements

Whorton Engineering is designing and preparing bid documents for the air conditioning of Pete Mathews Coliseum. Bids are scheduled to be opened on January 15, 2014, in order to start this project May 1, 2014.

Little River Canyon Pavilion

This project was completed by Hale Building Company on September 26, 2013. The University had a tax savings of \$6,821.49 from materials JSU purchased at a value of \$86,018.53.

Softball Field Locker Room and Dugouts

This project was bid on October 3, 2013 and Hale Building was the low bidder. The contracts were awarded on October 10, 2013 and work commenced on October 14, 2013. Work is scheduled for completion by February 7, 2014 before start of softball season.

Stephenson Hall Wellness Center

Substantial Completion occurred on February 13, 2012 and the Year End Inspection was held February 23, 2013. A final change order is still pending submission by the contractor, RFI. On April 1, 2013, the contractor requested a hearing before the Director of the State Building Commission concerning his claims for additional compensation. That hearing was held Tuesday, September 10, 2013 and we are waiting final dispensation from the Building Commission.

II. University Update

Changes in Pell Grants awards at the Federal level have significantly affected Alabama's four year and two year institutions of higher education. Since 2011 Federal income caps for eligibility to receive Pell Grants were dropped from a net family income of \$32,000 per year to \$23,000 and grants for summer were eliminated. The result is that eight of Alabama's fourteen four year universities experienced an enrollment decrease in triple digits this Fall Semester. Alabama's two year community colleges were impacted even more losing 3,233 students.

At Jacksonville State University 874 students have lost Pell Grant awards since 2011. This has continued to impact enrollment and is a significant factor in this fall enrollment of 8,693 which is a decrease of 468 students from last fall.

The scholarships which this Board has approved and other new programs offered by JSU have helped retain students and attract better students. This year's freshman class, although 173 students less than last year, continued the rise in average ACT scores that we have seen in the last three years. This year's average was 22.5 another record high.

A number of new strategies have already been put into place with our recruiting team for new students both undergraduate and graduate. Included in these are: the expansion of the in-state residency tuition rate for out of state scholarship students which you approved at the July Board meeting; JSU's Presidential Transfer Scholarship program has been expanded to allow any student who completes an associate's degree from an Alabama Community College and has a 3.5 GPA to receive a tuition scholarship to JSU; also there will be no recommendation to this Board for a tuition increase for next academic year, this will allow students to plan for the remainder of this year and next year at the current tuition and fee rate.

To retain students on campus a number of new initiatives have been introduced. Supplemental instruction for subjects that have traditional lower success rates especially with high risk students are now available through the Academic Success Center. STU 101 has been introduced to help retain first time freshman and Grades First has been implemented across campus as it had already been proven successful with student athletes.

To give you more details on the enrollment information and Strategic Plan accomplishments. Dr. Simmons, Executive Director of Planning and Research has a presentation that will include other staff. In this program will be more information about our SACS COC Self-Study for reaffirmation of accreditation which was completed and submitted in September. You have a copy among your material for your personal review. I have asked Dr. Louise Clark, Chair and Dr. Alicia Simmons, Co-Chair of the SACS Compliance Certification Committee to give you a brief review of what to expect for the remainder of this semester and the Spring of 2014.

Academic Affairs and Student Affairs

Dr. Rebecca Turner, Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs has prepared her report in your binder under “Tab 6.” which you may read at your leisure.

Athletics

Mr. Warren Koegel, Director of Athletics is not able to be with us today as Mrs. Koegel has surgery but Mr. Greg Seitz will provide a brief update on our Spring Semester Sports which is in your binder.

Business and Administrative Affairs

Mrs. Barker, acting vice president will be glad to respond to any questions about the audit report or annual budget.

Information Technology

Mr. Vinson Houston, Vice president for Information Technology will give you a follow-up report on activities on campus.

University Advancement

Dr. Charles Lewis, Vice President for University Advancement will update you on activities with the JSU Foundation Inc. and the Advancement Division.

William A. Meehan

President