

MINUTES OF MEETING
COSSATOT COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS BOARD OF VISITORS

March 2, 2026

Chair Mike Cranford convened the regular meeting of the Board of Visitors at 12:10 p.m. in the UA Cossatot Lockesburg Middle School Community Room, following a meal and an invocation.

Present:	Barbara Dixon	Dori Gutierrez	Joe Martinez
	Angie Walker	Brenda Tate	
	Dr. Glenn Lance	Mike Cranford	

Absent: Barbara Horn
Tim Pinkerton

Staff Reports

Dr. Cole opened with the Chancellor's report, focusing primarily on the institution's budget process. He explained that departments submit budget requests several months in advance, often including both essential needs and additional "wish list" items tied to strategic goals. This year, initial requests exceeded projected revenue by approximately \$2 million. Through ongoing adjustments and reductions, that gap has been lowered to about \$567,000, which still must be eliminated to achieve a balanced budget, as required. Revenue sources remain limited, consisting mainly of sales tax, state funding, tuition and fees, and auxiliary income such as events and concessions. A tuition and fee increase is expected, and the proposed budget includes a 2% raise for employees. Dr. Cole also noted rising costs, particularly a significant increase in workers' compensation premiums. The overall budget is projected at around \$14 million, with approximately 64.5% allocated to personnel. He emphasized the importance of limiting unnecessary spending for the remainder of the fiscal year and stated that updates would continue leading up to the May meeting. He also mentioned upcoming obligations, including attending a state budget session in Little Rock and the college's induction into the Arkansas Latino Hall of Fame.

Vice Chancellor Charlotte Johnson presented the Financial Report. The financial report indicated that revenues are nearly \$8 million, with expenditures close behind at \$7.9 million. Accounts receivable total approximately \$3 million, reflecting changes in how spring charges are accrued. Grant activity remains strong, with approximately \$6.5 million in active grants and several new awards recently initiated. Investments and CDs are performing positively, though interest earnings have slightly decreased. Endowment funds have increased, partially due to grant allocations.

Dr. Ashley Aylett presented the Academic Services Report. Dr. Aylett stated registration for Summer and Fall will open March 16. Enrollment data showed a slight overall increase, with some variation by county. Graduation rates reflected a small decline in the 150% completion rate but an increase in the 200% rate, indicating more students are taking additional time to complete their degrees. Dr. Aylett then shared recruiting information regarding the upcoming enrollment of high school seniors.

Tammy Coleman presented the Public Services and Workforce Development report, highlighting a

newly developed Motor Grader Operator Program that was launched and expanded into a three-part training series based on employer feedback, providing both foundational knowledge and hands-on skill development. Additionally, a Fiber Restoration Essentials course was created in partnership with electrical cooperatives to train workers in restoring damaged broadband infrastructure. The department is also pursuing a USDA planning grant focused on developing workforce training in precision agriculture, incorporating artificial intelligence and automation to support small and beginning farmers.

The college relations and foundation report by Madelyn Montgomery noted ongoing social media outreach promoting graduates, scholarships, job opportunities, and program deadlines. Scholarship applications for the upcoming academic year are being actively promoted, with a deadline of March 15. The foundation reported approximately \$504,000 and highlighted a successful effort to increase scholarship distribution from one recipient annually to three, improving the use of available funds. Community engagement efforts included student events, partnerships, and planning for upcoming activities such as Fiesta Fest. Athletics updates noted the conclusion of the men's basketball season and significant success by the shooting sports team, which earned top honors in recent competition.

Action Items:

No. 1 Approve Minutes of January 5, 2026, Board Meeting. Angie Walker motioned for passage and Brenda Tate seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 7-0.

With no further business, Chair Mike Cranford asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Angie Walker made the motion and with a second from Joe Martinez, Chair Mike Cranford adjourned the meeting at 12:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Walker, Secretary

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