

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

May 4, 2026

Chair Mike Cranford convened the regular meeting of the Board of Visitors at 12:00 p.m. in the UA Cossatot Lockesburg Middle School Community Room, following a meal and an invocation.

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

Absent:	Barbara Horn	Joe Martinez
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Staff Reports

Dr. Steve Cole presented the Chancellor's Report, focusing primarily on the strategic vision for revitalizing the Nashville campus. He shared concerns regarding declining on-campus activity and enrollment despite the campus's modern facilities and emphasized the need for a comprehensive, data-driven approach to identify enrollment barriers and expand academic and student opportunities. Dr. Cole discussed several initiatives under consideration, including the addition of academic programs aligned with workforce needs, expanded student life opportunities, potential athletic programs, housing, enhanced food service, and increased agriculture programming. Dr. Cole also reported on several campus improvement projects, including construction of a new nursing simulation laboratory at the Ashdown campus utilizing grant funds. He emphasized that while Nashville remains a strategic priority, the college continues investing in all campuses to support student success and workforce development.

Vice Chancellor Charlotte Johnson presented the Financial Report. Charlotte reviewed the college's unrestricted and auxiliary revenues and expenditures through March 2026, reporting that the institution remains financially stable with revenues exceeding expenditures. Accounts receivable total approximately \$1.2 million, down 136,000 from this time last year. In Grants & Other Restricted programs the total award is 7.3 million. This includes a new NIFA AG & Vet Tech Grant that was added March 1st. The college has over 5.1 million in the bank in the Schedule of Bank Accounts. Investments and CDs are performing positively and have a total of 1.1 million. Endowment funds have increased, partially due to grant allocations. Charlotte then shared the quarterly financial reports that are submitted to the UA System. During discussion, Dr. Cole also updated the Board regarding the institution's approval to participate in federal direct student loans and explained that implementation has been delayed due to a technical issue within the federal processing system that is currently being addressed with assistance from state and federal officials.

Dr. Ashley Aylett presented the Academic Services Report. She highlighted the continued success of the Arkansas Transfer Achievement Scholarship, noting that 106 students have benefited from the program since its inception. She also provided updates on transfer partnership discussions with the University of Arkansas at Monticello and the University of Arkansas–Fort Smith to expand

bachelor's degree opportunities on UA Cossatot campuses. Dr. Aylett reminded the board of the upcoming Commencement that is scheduled for May 15th at 6:30 at the De Queen Amphitheater. For Spring 2026, we are expecting a total of 502 awards to be awarded and a total of 241 grads. Enrollment data for Fall 2026 showed a slight overall increase, with 253 high school students.

Tammy Coleman presented the Public Services and Workforce Development Report. She reported continued implementation of Workday Student for Workforce and Continuing Education, increased funding for the Career Pathways Initiative, YouthBuild outcomes, and successful completion of the new Motor Grader Operator Training Program. Discussion included opportunities to partner with Arkansas counties to expand heavy equipment training and increase workforce development opportunities throughout the service area.

Dr. Cole also provided an update regarding Foundation fundraising efforts to support athletic scholarships. He shared plans to increase corporate sponsorships, community partnerships, and fundraising events to ensure long-term sustainability of scholarship support while reducing reliance on Foundation reserves.

Action Items:

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

No. 2 Review Board of Visitors Meeting Schedule for 2026-2027. Barbara Dixon motioned for review. Brenda Tate seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

No. 3 Review Operating Budget for 2026-2027. Tim Pinkerton motioned for review and Brenda Tate seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

No. 4 Review Tuition and Fees for 2026-2027. Barbara Dixon motioned for review. Brenda Tate seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

No. 5 Review Career Service Award for 2026-2027. Tim Pinkerton motioned for review and Dori Gutierrez seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

No. 6 Review Salaries for 2026-2027. Barbara Dixon motioned for review. Brenda Tate seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

No. 7 Review College Policy 404: Hiring. Tim Pinkerton motioned for review. Brenda Tate seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Chair Mike Cranford asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tim Pinkerton made the motion and with a second from Brenda Tate, Chair Mike Cranford adjourned the meeting at 1:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Walker, Secretary

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