

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

July 13, 2026

Chair Mike Cranford convened the regular meeting of the Board of Visitors at 12:07 p.m. in the UA Cossatot Lockesburg Middle School Community Room, following a meal and an invocation.

Present:	Barbara Dixon	Tim Pinkerton
	Brenda Tate	Joe Martinez
	Mike Cranford	

Absent:	Barbara Horn	Angie Walker
	Dr. Glenn Lance	Dori Gutierrez

Staff Reports

Dr. Steve Cole presented his report and discussed several current challenges and priorities facing UA Cossatot. A primary concern is the number of full-time positions currently vacant across the College. Dr. Cole explained that the College has experienced a combination of retirements and employees leaving for positions in the public school system. While the College supports employees pursuing opportunities that are beneficial to their families, the vacancies create operational challenges, particularly in positions that directly affect student services and academic programs. Dr. Cole identified several of the positions currently open, including Public Safety Officer, Workforce Coordinator, Food Service Manager, Cybersecurity Instructor, and Agriculture Instructor. He emphasized that some vacancies are more difficult to absorb than others because of their direct impact on students and the College's operations. Dr. Cole explained that the College's compensation packages include significant benefits that may not be fully recognized by prospective employees when reviewing job advertisements. As an example, an entry-level position with a salary of approximately \$35,000 may have nearly \$12,000 in additional annual value when the College's contributions toward health insurance, dental insurance, Social Security, Medicare, and retirement are considered. Dr. Cole reviewed the College's financial position and emphasized that maintaining a balanced budget provides the College with the ability to control expenditures if financial conditions require additional action.

Vice Chancellor Charlotte Johnson presented the Financial Report. For May, unrestricted and auxiliary revenues were approximately \$12.6 million, while expenditures were approximately \$12.2 million. Charlotte reported that revenues remained ahead of expenditures for the period. Accounts receivable was also reviewed. Although the College has generally been reducing its outstanding accounts receivable, the May balance increased because summer student charges began posting during the month. Charlotte stated that the College has improved its collection efforts on older receivables and that the use of a collection agency has been beneficial. The College also received approximately \$40,000 through state income-tax setoff collections. Grant activity was reviewed, with the College having approximately \$7.4 million in grants and approximately \$3.7 million earned as of the end of May. Several grants are multi-year awards. The Board also reviewed the College's cash position. Approximately \$4 million was held in bank accounts at the end of May, representing a decrease from the previous year. Charlotte stated that rebuilding cash reserves would

be a major financial priority during the coming year. Certificates of deposit totaled approximately \$1 million and had increased from the prior year due in part to interest earnings. Pooled investments totaled approximately \$583,000 at the end of May. The investments had increased approximately \$15,000 from the beginning of the year. Endowment funds totaled slightly more than \$260,000, compared with approximately \$209,000 at the same time the previous year. Charlotte explained that the increase was primarily attributable to Title III funds previously awarded to the College for the purpose of strengthening the endowment. Because that grant has ended, future growth is expected primarily through interest earnings and additional contributions.

Dr. Ashley Aylett presented the Academic Services Report noting that the spring semester resulted in 239 graduates who had officially completed their requirements, including completion of grades. Graduation numbers have remained relatively stable over the past several years. The College has also increased the number of degrees and certificates awarded, which is beneficial because state funding is tied in part to completed credentials. The College recently hired a new transfer advisor. Dr. Aylett noted that advising transfer students is a significant responsibility and that the new advisor quickly became involved with students and the enrollment process. The position is expected to improve outreach to students who have not yet enrolled and help students address outstanding balances and other barriers to registration. Dr. Aylett also discussed the continued increase in high school graduates participating in concurrent education opportunities. The State of Arkansas is encouraging increased participation in concurrent courses and credential opportunities for high school students.

Dr. Cole also provided an update regarding Public Services and Workforce Development Report informing the board of changes occurring within the state's workforce development system. Dr. Cole reported that the College had been notified that certain subsidized workforce programs, including fiber optic-related programs, would need to be discontinued under the current funding structure. Because the College owns the equipment associated with the programs, including trucks and other specialized equipment, efforts are being made to determine whether the programs can be redesigned and offered as short-term training opportunities outside the current subsidized structure. Dr. Cole stated that the College is exploring ways to continue utilizing the equipment and existing instructional expertise rather than simply eliminating the training opportunities.

Action Items:

No. 1 Approve Minutes of May 4, 2026, Board Meeting. Joe Martinez motioned for passage and Brenda Tate seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

No. 2 Review College Policy 415: Instructional Staff. Barbara Dixon motioned for review. Brenda Tate seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

No. 3 Review College Policy 501: Student Appeals & Complaints. Tim Pinkerton motioned for review and Joe Martinez seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

No. 4 Review College Policy 504: Attendance. Brenda Tate motioned for review. Tim Pinkerton seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

No. 5 Review College Policy 646: Testing & Verification of Student Identity. Tim Pinkerton motioned for review and Brenda Tate seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

No. 6 Review College Policy 650: Calendar and Schedule. Brenda Tate motioned for review. Joe Martinez seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

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 1:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Walker, Secretary

Wg