

MINUTES

**JOINT PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE**  
**MAC, Room A**  
**Little Rock, Arkansas**  
**Tuesday, November 12, 2019**

---

The Joint Performance Review Committee met on Tuesday, November 12, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., Multi-Agency Complex (MAC), Room A, Little Rock, Arkansas.

**Committee members present:** Senators Terry Rick, Vice-Chairman; Alan Clark, Jonathan Dismang, Trent Garner, Missy Irvin, and Bill Sample. Representatives Jimmy Gazaway, Chairman; LeAnne Burch, Jana Della Rosa, David Fielding, David Hillman, Mark Lowery, Josh Miller, John Payton, Johnny Rye, Brandt Smith, and Dan Sullivan

**Also attending:** Senators Gary Stubblefield and Mark Johnson. Representatives Fred Allen, Stan Berry, Karilyn Brown, Cindy Crawford, Roger Lynch, Austin McCollum, Tippi McCullough, Ron McNair, Stephen Meeks, Matthew Shepherd, Les Warren, and Danny Watson

Senator Rice called the meeting to order. He recognized Representative Gazaway for remarks.

Representative Gazaway thanked the members for attending the meeting. He expressed the meeting would focus on issues at the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts (ASMSA).

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2019, MEETING MINUTES [EXHIBIT C]**

**Senator Sample made a motion to approve the September 11, 2019, meeting minutes. Representative Fielding seconded the motion, and without objection the motion carried.**

**OVERVIEW OF THE (ASMSA) [EXHIBIT D]**

**Mr. Corey Alderdice, Director, ASMSA, Dr. Donald Bobbitt, President, University of Arkansas System (U of A System), and Ms. Melissa Rust, Vice President, Government Relations, U of A System,** were recognized.

**Mr. Alderdice** provided a brief overview of ASMSA and discussed its mission and residential program. He noted ASMSA has been a central figure in the Governor's Computer Science Initiative. **Mr. Bobbitt** expressed ASMSA is a wonderful contributor to the University of Arkansas System and is considered to be a valuable part of the System. Efforts have been made to ensure students that graduate remain in Arkansas.

After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Alderdice rejected the claim he misappropriated funds, noting there was an in-depth internal review conducted by him and the University of A System against other claims that were unfounded, particularly those of bullying, harassment and intimidation. Regarding his personal leadership style, Mr. Alderdice has incredibly high expectations for the institution.

Representative Lowery questioned the veracity of the external review and expressed his concerns with some of the complaints and concerns that were made. Regarding the internal review, it was

stated the individual that conducted the internal review is a retired attorney who has a great number of years doing these types of investigations. Mr. Bobbitt felt that the report was extremely thorough and found many areas where they can improve.

At the request of Representative Gazaway, Ms. Rust discussed and addressed the following issues of the independent evaluation and the actions that have been taken:

- alleged sexual assault
- unreported drug related activity
- preferential treatment of certain students
- racism, classism, bullying and mistreatment by residential life staff
- required participation in the activity known as the “privilege walk”
- lack of communication between parents and administration
- enforcement of rules not in handbooks
- attempt to start a Young Republican’s Club denied
- fear of retaliation towards faculty and students from administration
- lack of transparency from school administration
- concerns about residential life
- March 9, 2019, drug incident
- issues regarding contact with parents, professional development programs
- issues pertaining to Director Alderdice’s leadership

Regarding the issues of the independent evaluation, Mr. Alderdice noted that changes have been made and are ongoing.

Representative Lowery requested that the testimony/letter provided by Mrs. Valerie Carpenter, former ASMSA Director of Recruiting, be entered as part of the meeting record. Mr. Alderdice will provide the funding source that was used to purchase the four electric car chargers to committee staff.

Senator Irvin gave a compelling personal testimony of a family member that attended ASMSA. Sadly, the family member died of a drug overdose in his freshman year of college. She stressed that random drug testing should be a part of ASMSA policy.

Senator Rice thanked the committee members and guests for attending the meeting.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.