

November 13, 2017

Dr. Maria Markham
Arkansas Department of Higher Education
423 Main, STE 400
Little Rock, AR 72201

Re: Board Training for 2017

Dear Dr. Markham:

Southern Arkansas University has assumed the responsibility for providing the statutory required training of the SAU Board this year. Each meeting during the year contains an update of specific information needed by the Board to perform their duties. This is accomplished in part during lunch sessions (no business is conducted) and at the regular meeting in briefings by both the Chancellor of SAU Tech and me. In addition, other staff such as the vice presidents present information in areas such as: issues in student affairs; budget, financial issues and bonding requirements, construction issues, funding formulas, legal concerns of higher education, strategic issues for boards in higher education; fiduciary duties; academic accreditation; academic programing, and human resource updates

Two books published by the Association of Governing Boards were provided to the Board of Trustees:

Top 10 Campus Legal Issues for Boards by Lawrence White (AGB Press)

Top Strategic Issues for Boards (AGB Press)

Specific information was provided about how SAU was handling the issues articulated by these two publications.

As our new practice is to spread out the training over the course of the year, a final year-in update will be provided at our December meeting. As the annual training requirement will have been completed by the December meeting, our Board has determined that attendance at the annual Trustee Conference is not required for them. Scheduling conflicts were causing attendance issues so this change has been helpful to the Board

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Trey Berry
President

November 7, 2018

Dr. Maria Markham
Arkansas Department of Higher Education
423 Main, STE 400
Little Rock, AR 72201

Re: Board Training for 2018

Dear Dr. Markham:

Southern Arkansas University has assumed the responsibility for providing the statutory required training of the SAU Board 2018 as it did in 2017. Each of the Board meetings contain an update of specific information needed by the Board to perform their duties. This is accomplished in part during lunch sessions (no business is conducted) and at the regular meeting in briefings by both the Chancellor of SAU Tech, vice presidents, and me. Information this year included discussion of issues in student affairs; budget, financial issues, construction issues, legal concerns of higher education, strategic issues for boards in higher education; fiduciary duties; academic accreditation; academic programing, and human resource updates. The Board received the same training as SAU faculty and staff in the areas of Title IX, Clery Act, FERPA, and ethics.

In addition, *Shared Governance in Times of Change* by Steven C. Bahls, a book published by the Association of Governing Boards was provided to the Board of Trustees and was discussed. This book articulates why shared governance is effective, alternative ways that it can work effectively, accreditation standards, barriers and best practices.

As the annual training requirement will have been completed the SAU Board has determined that attendance at the annual Trustee Conference is not required for them. Scheduling conflicts were causing attendance issues so this change has been helpful to the Board

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Trey Berry
President