The Northark Board of Trustees met in regular session Thursday, November 12, at 3 p.m. at the Bennie Ellis Board Room. Chair Jones called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. Trustees David Evans, Bill Lovell, Matt Miller, Scott Miller, Sarah Jo Fendley, Jim Milum, and Jane Adair and were present. Trustee Kirk Campbell was absent.

Northark personnel attending included Dr. Jackie Elliott, Don Sugg, Tavonda Brown, Dr. Michael Wiggins, Dr. Rodney Arnold, Katie Vaughn, Jamie Stevens, Cheryl Keymer, Stacie Klott, Lori Currie, Micki Somers, Dr. Laura Berry, Kristin Griffin, and Trish Villines. Lee Dunlap and David Holsted represented the Harrison Daily Times. Russell Larimore was also in attendance.

Approval of Agenda:
Chair Jones requested a motion to approve the agenda. Trustee Lovell made a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Trustee Matt Miller and passed unanimously.

Regular Reports:
Finance Report: Don reviewed FY15-16 year-to-date revenue and expenses through October 31 compared to FY14-15 revenue and expenses. There was discussion regarding a slight decrease in student semester credit hours. He also reviewed the auxiliary year-to-date revenue and expenses compared to last fiscal year. He discussed a decrease in anticipated bookstore revenue which correlates to the decline in enrollment. He noted that the President’s Council and all Northark budget leaders are reviewing budgets for efficiencies to assist with the slight revenue decline.

President’s Report: Dr. Elliott discussed the Arkansas Department of Higher Education efforts to create a Master Plan and that Dr. Brett Powell had visited Northark in October. She discussed the area of focus for the Master Plan and noted that Dr. Powell had asked her to serve as Chair of the Student Success workgroup for master planning efforts. Dr. Elliott also discussed the recent formation of a Legislative Taskforce to Study the Realignment of Higher Education. Dr. Elliott asked Athletic Director Stacie Klott to provide an update on NJCAA tournament.

Athletic Director Klott discussed the planning team and the involvement of the Harrison Convention and Visitors Bureau in preparing for the event. There was discussion about any needed modifications to the gymnasium to meet the NJCAA expectations. It was noted that there are many institutional priorities for remodeling and modifications to determine before moving further. Dr. Elliott noted that she is communicating with the NJCAA to clarify expectations.

Approval of Consent Agenda:
Chair Jones requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda which included the October minutes and the review and acceptance of the June 30, 2014 Financial Audit Report with no noted findings. Trustee Milum made a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Trustee Matt Miller and passed.

Monitoring Reports:
1.8 Student Athlete Success — Stacie Klott reviewed Student Athlete GPA, Graduation Rates, and Retention Rates compared to the all Northark students. She discussed that student athletes consistently score higher in all areas that the general Northark student population. She reported recent and planned improvements in the athletics department for student success.

6.1 Fund Balance — Don Sugg reported Fund Balance as a Percent of Revenue from 2001 to 2015. Since 2001 the fund balance has consistently trended upward. He noted that the recent GASB 68 regulation required the College to book the unpaid portion of insurance premiums as a liability; therefore, the 2014 year was illustrated with and without the GASB 68 effect.

6.2 Expenditures Per FTE — Don reported Expenditures per FTE since 2010, which have slowly trended upward as a result of declining enrollment. There was discussion about ways to monitor expenses per FTE and planned improvements to work toward moving expenses downward.

6.3 Tuition & Fees — Don reviewed in-district, in-state, and out-of-state tuition & fees since 2011 compared to Arkansas two-year colleges. Northark has consistently remained below the two-year average. Operational efficiencies, student retention and graduation, recruitment and enrollment management, and program viability are all methods for ensuring Northark remains affordable.

6.6 Institutional Grants — Don reported the amount of grant dollars awarded since 2010 compared the average of grants received by all other Arkansas two-year colleges. Northark has consistently been awarded more grants that the state average. He announced that Northark had just been awarded $150,000 from the Blue and You Foundation.

6.7 General Improvement Funds — Don compared General Improvement Funds awarded to Northark compared to the Arkansas community college average. He reported then in the 2013-2015 biennium two colleges received about $3.5 million which skewed the data for that year. Don discussed continued efforts to secure general improvement funds. Trustee Lovell made a motion to approve the monitoring reports, which was seconded by Trustee Adair and passed.

New Business:
Chair Jones appointed Trustees Lovell, Matt Miller, and Kirk Campbell as the nominating committee for 2016 officers. He noted that the committee will present a recommendation at the December meeting.

Board Comments:
Trustee Matt Miller discussed the October 2015 ACCT Trustee Conference. There being no further business, Trustee Scott Miller moved to adjourn which was seconded by Trustee Lovell and carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.