



ARKANSAS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY

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ARKANSAS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
MARCH 22, 1985

The March 22 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority was called to order by the chairman, Louis Ramsay, at 1:00 p.m. Members present were Dr. Jocelyn Elders, Dr. Phyllis Garnett, Mr. Bart Lindsey, Mr. Charles Mimbs, Dr. Joe Nix, Dr. Paul Noland, Mr. Louis Ramsay, and Mr. Win Thompson.

The minutes of the January 25, 1985 meeting of the Board of Directors were approved as mailed without objection.

John Ahlen reviewed the draft annual report of the Authority. The draft annual report had been mailed to members of the Board for comment. The nature of the comments received were to point out missing words, typographical errors, and places in the text that were awkward. Dr. Ahlen indicated that corrections would be made and that several changes in language would address the awkwardness. A sample cover of the annual report and several pages of text were displayed showing the two color format of the report. Another comment about the annual report suggested that a state seal and photographs of the Governor and the Authority's executive director be added to the inside front cover. A photograph of the chairman for 1984, Dr. Ronald W. Hart, was also suggested. The Board unanimously approved the format and content of the annual report with the corrections and additions as indicated on a motion by Mr. Lindsey, seconded by Dr. Elders.

Alice Smith reviewed the legislation concerning the Authority. She reported that Senate Bill 452 (the same as House Bill 601), the amendments to the Authority's enabling legislation, was signed by Governor Bill Clinton and is now Act 409 of 1985. There was a short discussion about the possible schedule for Governor Clinton to appoint the new 11-member Board of Directors which succeeds the 16-member Board which met this day. Ms. Smith also reported that Senate Bill 269 (the same as House Bill 395) had become Act 469 of 1985. She further reported on the status of four appropriation bills which had passed both houses: Senate Bill 233 appropriates approximately \$1.1 million for maintenance and operation of the Authority through the biennium, Senate Bill 615 appropriates \$1.8 million for basic and applied research grants and \$1.9 million for a business incubator program, and House Bill 963 appropriates \$1.8 million to the Authority's new investment fund for seed capital investments. The Board discussed these appropriation bills in some detail. The Board specifically

indicated that the Authority's staff should find out the mechanisms for transferring the interest on the state's daily balance to the investment fund. Some members of the Board pointed out that there was considerable interest on their campuses about the basic and applied research funds. They suggested that the Authority's staff mail preliminary information to Arkansas colleges and universities about this program. John Ahlen noted the support of members of the Board of Directors for the Authority's legislation, particularly that of Representative John Lipton. Lastly, Ms. Smith reported on House Concurrent Resolution 9, sponsored by Representative John Lipton and dealing with the old Veterans Administration Hospital as a location for a clinical toxicology center. The resolution has passed both houses and directs the Authority to prepare a report on this subject under the direction of the Director of the National Center for Toxicological Research, the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences Campus, the President of the University of Arkansas system, and the Chief of Staff of the John L. McClelland Veterans Administration Hospital.

During the Executive Director's report, Dr. Ahlen pointed out that the February 1985 monthly report has a memorandum on clinical toxicology appended. There is a need for a detailed engineering and architectural study of the old VA Hospital and, alternatively a new building at a different location, by a disinterested third-party investigator. Work under HCR 9 is progressing, but without any additional funds to support the efforts. Dr. Ahlen said that the attempt to schedule a meeting of the four individuals has been postponed until after the legislative session. Dr. Ahlen indicated that most of the staff's activities are reported in the January and February monthly reports but pointed out the good job that Alice Smith did in monitoring the Authority's legislation during the session.

Mr. Ramsay reported that, given the new Act 409, he expected this to be the last meeting of this 16-member Board of Directors. He expressed his confidence that the Authority is on solid ground and will reach its goals. He thanked the Board members for their faithful attendance at Board meetings and thanked Board members and staff for their support of the Authority's activities.

Mr. Mimbs took this opportunity to discuss technological development in southwest Arkansas. He pointed out that at General Dynamics in 1982 there were about 550 employees. By 1984 that figure had climbed to about 1,560 employees. Vought has roughly

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doubled employment. Mr. Mimbs pointed out that General Dynamics spends more on employee training and retraining than the company intended. He pointed out that a new employee with no training will spend 60 hours in classroom instruction and 20 hours of project work before going to work on the job. General Dynamics trains approximately 1,200 people and spends 27,000 hours in training and retraining. This activity is not inexpensive. He indicated that this level of training and retraining is a reflection of the labor pool nationally and is not unique to Arkansas.

The Board adjourned at 2:30 p.m.