

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Regular Quarterly Meeting
February 4, 2005

Minutes of Meeting

The February 4, 2005 regular meeting of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board was held in the Jeff Banks Student Union Ballroom on the campus of the University of Arkansas For Medical Sciences in Little Rock, Arkansas. Chairman Phil Ford called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. with a quorum of Board members present.

Coordinating Board present:

Phil Ford, Chair
Kaneaster Hodges, Vice Chair
Jodie Carter
Bob Cheyne
Col. Jim Creech
David Damron
Dr. Dan Grant
Bill Johnson
Dr. Lynda Phillips Johnson
David Leech

Coordinating Board absent:

Betsy Thompson
Dr. Anne Trussell

Department staff present:

Dr. Linda Beene, Director
Dr. Steve Floyd, Deputy Director
Dr. Karen Wheeler, Associate Director of Academic Affairs
Cynthia Moten, Coordinator of Academic Affairs
Ron Harrell, Associate Director for Planning and Accountability
Jeanne Jones, Coordinator of Institutional Certification
Vikki Moore, Agency Fiscal Manager
Lillian Williams, YOU Program Coordinator
Lila McCauley, Assistant Coordinator of Academic Affairs
Claudia Griffin, Assistant Coordinator of Academic Affairs
Monroe Carlton, Assistant Coordinator of Institutional Finance
John Davidson, Judy McAinsh, and Reagan Brown, Financial Managers
Dr. Karon Rosa, Assistant Coordinator of Academic Affairs
Christina Miller, Coordinator of General Administration
Sharon Tucker, Data Collection Analyst
Nichole Abernathy, Administrative Assistant
Delores Logan, Administrative Assistant

Presidents, chancellors, other institutional representatives, members of the press, and guests were also present.

Chairman Ford recognized Dr. I. Dodd Wilson, Chancellor of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, for a welcome. Dr. Wilson said UAMS was founded in 1879 as a for-profit medical school and it took only one year to achieve a doctorate degree then. Now, he said, UAMS is a teaching hospital and has employees in every county except six. He also explained that the Jeff Banks Student Union building will be replaced next year with a new University Hospital. He welcomed the Board to the campus.

Agenda Item No. 1
Approval of Minutes

Kaneaster Hodges motioned to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2004 regular meeting and the December 14, 2004 special meeting, Col. Jim Creech seconded, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 2
Report of the Director

Dr. Beene began her Director's Report by introducing new staff members and announcing some personnel changes. New staff members included Chlarissa Pope in data collection, Nichole Abernathy as administrative support for Academic Affairs, Claudia Griffin as Assistant Academic Affairs Coordinator, and Robin Henson as Communications Manager. Lillian Williams started a new role as YOU Program Coordinator. She was a financial aid manager for ADHE.

Dr. Beene mentioned Governor Huckabee's Executive Recommendation which would increase funding for state colleges and universities by \$53.9 million in fiscal year 2006 and another \$49.2 million in fiscal year 2007. She thanked Dr. Stanley Williams and the institutional finance staff for their work on the funding formula. She said the Governor reminds everyone to talk with their legislators about supporting the formula and the funding for higher education is in the balanced budget.

Dr. Beene mentioned the legislation proposed in the Session which pertained to higher education and how the Governor's higher education priorities reflect some of the Blue Ribbon Committee's recommendations.

Dr. Beene explained the Pathways Project, which was presented to the Transitional Employment Board for funding. She said the project was a partnership between ADHE, Departments of Workforce Education, Economic Development, and Human Services, the Association of Two-Year Colleges, and the Good Faith Fund to develop

a comprehensive program that promotes increased educational attainment for adults across the State of Arkansas with funding from the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) federal funds.

Dr. Beene mentioned that the Coordination Commission for Educational Efforts had its second meeting on November 2 and reviewed the enabling legislation while forming three subcommittees to address the charges in the Legislation. She said the next meeting was scheduled for March 15.

Dr. Beene thanked Vikki Moore and Melissa Goff, as well as their staff, for the recent agency audit results for FY 2003. There were no instances of noncompliance or no audit findings. Dr. Beene also announced that all 45 of Arkansas institutions and reporting entities got their mandatory data entered into the IPEDS system and locked down in time. She thanked Ron Harrell and his staff for coordinating this information.

Agenda Item No. 3
Associate of Applied Science in Respiratory Care Technology
Southeast Arkansas College

The administration and Board of Trustees of Southeast Arkansas College (SEARK) request approval to offer the Associate of Applied Science in respiratory care technology, effective August 2005. SEARK is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The Board of Trustees approved the proposal on November 10, 2004.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Associate of Applied Science in respiratory care technology (CIP 51.0908) to be offered at Southeast Arkansas College, effective August 2005.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to inform the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Southeast Arkansas College of this approval.

Agenda Item No. 4
Master of Imaging Sciences
University of Arkansas For Medical Sciences

The administration and Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System (UA) request approval for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) to offer the Master of Imaging Sciences (MIS). UAMS is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Schools. The UA Board of Trustees approved the program on November 12, 2004.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Imaging Sciences at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (CIP 51.0911), effective Fall 2006.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to notify the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System, and the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, of this approval.

Agenda Item No. 5
Associate of Applied Science in Workforce Leadership
University of Arkansas at Fort Smith

The administration and Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System (UA) request approval to offer an Associate of Applied Science in workforce leadership at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith (UAFS). The university is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The UA Board of Trustees approved the proposal on November 12, 2004.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Associate of Applied Science in workforce leadership (CIP 52.0201) at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith effective Fall 2005.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to inform the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System, and the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith of the approval.

Agenda Item No. 6
Institutional Certification Advisory
Committee Recommendations

Appreciation of Institutional Certification Advisory Committee Members

Ms. Sylvia Spencer Orton

Ms. Sylvia Spencer Orton had served since 2000 as a member of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee in the position designated for a legal resident of the state of Arkansas not officially affiliated with any postsecondary institution in any state as an employee, board member, or in any other capacity. Her term expired at the end of 2004.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board expresses appreciation to Ms. Sylvia Spencer Orton for her four years of service as a member of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to communicate this appreciation to Ms. Orton.

Rev. Charles Attebery

Rev. Charles Attebery submitted his resignation from the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee effective December 25, 2004. Rev. Attebery had served since 1997 as a member of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee in the position designated for a chief administrator of an independent (non-public) postsecondary institution. His term was to expire in 2006.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board expresses appreciation to Rev. Charles Attebery for his seven years of service as a member of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to communicate this appreciation to Rev. Attebery.

Recommendation of New Members

Mr. Ken Hoppe

Arkansas Code Annotated §6-61-301 empowers the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to appoint individuals to the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee. The law designates several institutional categories, which must have representation on the committee. Each member is appointed to a term of nine years, with the term of one member expiring annually.

Mr. Ken Hoppe has been nominated to fill the vacancy as one of the two positions for independent (non-public) postsecondary institution chief administrators. Mr. Hoppe is the President of Crowley's Ridge College in Paragould, Arkansas. This term will expire February 4, 2006, and completes an unexpired term.

RESOLVED, That, pursuant to ACA §6-61-302, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board appoints Mr. Ken Hoppe, as a member of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee to represent Arkansas

Independent Postsecondary Institutions. This term expires February 4, 2006.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board expresses appreciation to Mr. Hoppe for his willingness to serve as a member of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to communicate this appreciation to Mr. Hoppe.

Mr. Dan Jordan

Arkansas Code Annotated §6-61-301 empowers the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to appoint individuals to the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee. The law designates several categories, which must have representation on the committee. Each member is appointed to a term of nine years, with the term of one member expiring annually.

Mr. Dan Jordan has been nominated to fill the vacancy as one of two designated for a legal resident of the state of Arkansas not officially affiliated with any postsecondary institution in any state as an employee, board member, or in any other capacity. Mr. Jordan is the Assistant Superintendent for the Benton Public Schools. This term will expire February 4, 2014.

RESOLVED, That, pursuant to ACA §6-61-302, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board appoints Mr. Dan Jordan, as a member of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee to the citizens of Arkansas. This term expires February 4, 2014.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board expresses appreciation to Mr. Jordan for his willingness to serve as a member of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to communicate this appreciation to Mr. Jordan.

Program Recommendations

ITT-Tech, Little Rock, Arkansas Recertification

Associate of Applied Science in Computer and Electronics Engineering Technology
Associate of Applied Science in Computer Drafting and Design
Associate of Applied Science in Information Technology

RESOLVED, That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants program recertification to ITT-Tech to offer the Associate of Applied Science degrees in Computer and Electronics Engineering, Computer Drafting and Design, and Information Technology. The recertification is for a period of two years and expires February 4, 2007.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to notify the administration of ITT-Tech that this recertification requires the institution to notify the Arkansas Department of Higher Education whenever any of the following occurs: (1) major reorganization of the controlling body; (2) changes in the charter or incorporation documents of the institution; or (3) changes in the method of operation of the institution's program in Arkansas.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director to notify the administration of ITT-Tech that any advertisement or published materials using the name of the Arkansas Higher Education

Coordinating Board or the Arkansas Department of Higher Education must contain the following statement:

Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating certification does not constitute an endorsement of any institution or program. Such certification merely indicates that certain minimum standards have been met under the rules and regulations implementing institutional and program certification as defined in Arkansas Code §6-61-301.

Tulane University Decertification

Master of Public Health

RESOLVED, That pursuant to Arkansas Code §6-61-301, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board decertifies the Master of Public Health program offered by Tulane University. This decertification is granted under Arkansas Code §6-61-301 and is effective February 4, 2005.

Agenda Item No. 7
Approval of Revisions to the
State Minimum Core Curricula

In April 1990, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopted guidelines for the development of state minimum core curricula in response to A.C.A. §6-61-218. This legislation provides that courses within the core shall apply toward the general education core curriculum requirements for baccalaureate degrees at state-supported institutions and shall be fully transferable between state institutions.

The Board has approved state minimum core curricula for two- and four-year colleges and universities. Proposed curricula revisions must be submitted for Coordinating Board approval.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the revised curricula for Arkansas Tech University, Southern Arkansas University - Magnolia, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, University of Arkansas at Monticello, Arkansas State University – Newport, East Arkansas Community College, NorthWest Arkansas Community College, Ozarka College, Southeast Arkansas College, University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville, and the University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to distribute the state minimum core curricula to all state colleges and universities.

A copy of the State Minimum Core Curricula can be found on the Department of Higher Education website.

Col. Jim Creech asked about Arkansas Tech University's listing of math courses. Dr. Wheeler explained that ATU provides an option for the students and college math is equivalent to, or as sophisticated as, college algebra in the context of the State Minimum Core. She said the staff has talked with Col. Creech regarding his concern and that the recommendation included in this agenda item is in keeping with AHECB policy.

Dr. Lynda Johnson motioned to recommend Agenda Items 3 -7 to the Full Board for consideration, Jodie Carter seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 8
Associate of Applied Science in General Technology
University of Arkansas at Monticello

The administration and Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System (UA) request approval to offer an Associate of Applied Science in general technology at the University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM). The university is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The UA Board of Trustees will consider the proposal on January 27, 2005.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Associate of Applied Science in general technology (CIP 30.9999) at the University of Arkansas at Monticello effective August 2005.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to inform the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System, and the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Monticello, of the approval.

Dr. Lynda Johnson asked about career placement centers at the campuses. Dr. Jack Lassiter, Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Monticello, stated that all three locations have at least one full time vocational counselor. He said they do not actively place students but make them aware of opportunities.

Jodie Carter motioned to recommend Agenda Item 8 to the Full Board for consideration, Phil Ford seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 9
Revision of Rules and Regulations
of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee

Arkansas Code §6-61-301 and 6-2-107 empower the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (Coordinating Board) to establish the criteria required for certification of non-public and out-of-state institutions and to create rules and regulations (Rules) governing the operations of those institutions. To assist with these responsibilities, Arkansas Code § 6-61-302 authorizes the Coordinating Board to appoint an advisory committee, known as the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee (ICAC), to advise the Coordinating Board on certification-related activities. The Arkansas Department of Higher Education staff works with the ICAC members to insure that certification criteria and rules are implemented.

The current Rules and Regulations for Institutional and Program Certification have been revised and renamed the Rules and Regulations of the Institutional Advisory Committee (ICAC Rules). ICAC members and institutions operating under the Rules reviewed the revisions at three ICAC meetings. In addition, the general public was provided a 30-day comment period from August 21, 2004 to September 20, 2004.

Comments and recommendations from all interested parties were reviewed by ADHE staff and incorporated when possible.

Most of the information from the 1995 Rules has been included in the proposed revisions, and has been organized in a manner that is more meaningful and useful for the institutions governed by the Rules, ADHE staff, and the ICAC members responsible for insuring the Rules.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the revised Rules and Regulations of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee presented in this agenda item.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That by the adoption of these revised rules and regulations, the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education or her designee is authorized to promulgate these rules and regulations and to implement them effective February 4, 2005.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education or her designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections when necessary in the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee Rules and Regulations.

Jeanne Jones stated that a public hearing on the rules was held on October 21, 2004 and several people spoke in support of the revisions. She also mentioned that page 56 included Dr. Grant's clarification regarding military installations. A copy of the revised rules and regulations can be found on the Department of Higher Education website.

Jodie Carter motioned to recommend Agenda Item 9 to the Full Board for consideration, Dr. Lynda Johnson seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 10
Economic Feasibility of Bond Issue
Arkansas Tech University

Arkansas Tech University (ATU) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds totaling \$1,000,000 with a maximum term of up to 30 years at an estimated annual interest rate of 5%. Proceeds from the bond issue will be used for educational & general (E&G) purposes. The Arkansas Tech University Board of Trustees approved this action at its meeting held on October 21, 2004.

The E&G issue will be approximately \$1,000,000 with annual debt service of \$65,051. Proceeds from the issue will be used to construct an Art Building. Coordinating Board policy regarding debt service provides that a maximum of 25 percent of tuition and fee revenue may be pledged to educational and general debt service.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for the Arkansas Tech University (ATU) to issue bonds not to exceed \$1,000,000 for a period of 30 years at an estimated annual interest rate of 5% for E&G purposes.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to notify the President of Arkansas Tech University of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

Bob Cheyne motioned to recommend Agenda Item 10 to the Full Board for consideration, David Damron seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 11
Economic Feasibility of Bond Issue
Southern Arkansas University

Southern Arkansas University (SAU) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds totaling \$2,700,000 with a maximum term of up to 25 years at an estimated annual interest rate of 5%. Proceeds from the bond issue will be used for educational & general (E&G) and auxiliary purposes. The Southern Arkansas University Board of Trustees approved this action at its meeting held on December 17, 2004.

The E&G issue will be approximately \$1,350,000 with annual debt service of \$98,200. Proceeds from the issue will be used to construct a band facility. Coordinating Board policy regarding debt service provides that a maximum of 25 percent of tuition and fee revenue may be pledged to educational and general debt service.

The Auxiliary issue will be approximately \$1,350,000 with annual debt service of \$98,200. Proceeds from the issue will be used to construct an athletic practice facility. Coordinating Board policy regarding debt service for auxiliary projects provides that annual net auxiliary revenues should be no less than 120 percent of the total annual auxiliary debt service.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for the Southern Arkansas University (SAU) to issue bonds not to exceed \$2,700,000 for a period of 25 years at an estimated annual interest rate of 5% for both E&G and auxiliary purposes.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to notify the President of Southern Arkansas University of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

Col. Jim Creech motioned to recommend Agenda Item 11 to the Full Board for consideration, Bob Cheyne seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 12
Economic Feasibility of Bond Issue
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (UAF) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds totaling approximately \$21.4 million with a term of up to 20 years at an estimated annual interest rate of 5.25%. Proceeds from the bond issue will be used for educational & general (E&G) purposes. The University of Arkansas Board of Trustees approved this action at its meeting on January 27, 2005.

The E&G issue will be approximately \$21.4 million with annual debt service of \$1,753,779. Proceeds from the issue will be used for various renovation and construction projects on campus. Coordinating Board policy regarding debt service provides that a maximum of 25 percent of tuition and fee revenue may be pledged to educational and general debt service.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville to issue bonds for approximately \$21.4 million with a term of 20 years at an estimated annual interest rate of 5.25% for E&G purposes.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to notify the President and the Chair of the Board of the Trustees of the University of Arkansas and the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

Bob Cheyne motioned to recommend Agenda Item 12 to the Full Board for consideration, David Damron seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 13
Higher Education Coordinating Board
2005 Meeting Schedule

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board meets quarterly to act upon Board initiatives and to respond to campus proposals.

The 2005 meeting schedule was presented to the Board for approval at the October 22 meeting. All dates except the fall, 2005 were approved at that time due to a conflict. The following date is now proposed for approval:

November 4, 2005

Southern Arkansas University
Magnolia, Arkansas

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board agrees to the following dates for regular quarterly meetings during 2005: February 4, April 29, July 29, and **November 4**.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board expresses its appreciation and accepts the invitations to meet in February at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, in April at Rich Mountain Community College, in July at Mid-South Community College and **in November at Southern Arkansas University**.

Kaneaster Hodges motioned to approve Agenda Item 13, Dr. Dan Grant seconded, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 14
Approval of Reimbursement of Expenses For Members
Of The Higher Education Coordinating Board And
Institutional Certification Advisory Committee

Although members of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board and its Institutional Certification Advisory Committee (ICAC) by law serve without compensation, they may receive expense reimbursement for performing official board duties after following certain procedures set out by Act 1211 of 1995 (A.C.A. §25-16-901 et seq.).

Prior to the passage of Act 1211 of 1995, members were authorized to receive reimbursement for actual expenses. Act 1211 provided that each state board may, by a majority vote of the total membership of the board cast during its first regularly scheduled meeting of each calendar year, authorize expense reimbursement for each board member for performing official board duties. The act also stated that the expense reimbursement shall not exceed the rate established for state employees by state travel regulations.

Because Act 1211 of 1995 (A.C.A. §25-16-901 et seq.) is the sole authority for expense reimbursement, it is necessary for the Coordinating Board to adopt a resolution authorizing expense reimbursement for board members and members of the ICAC.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board, by a majority vote of its total membership, authorizes expense reimbursement for each board member and member of the ICAC for performing official board duties.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the expense reimbursement shall not exceed the rate established for state employees by state travel regulations.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Department of Higher Education to send a copy of this Resolution to the Department of Finance and Administration to notify that agency of compliance with Act 1211 of 1995.

Dr. Dan Grant motioned to approve Agenda Item 14, Jodie Carter seconded, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 15
State Board of Higher Education Foundation
Election of Supervisory Committee

The State Board of Higher Education Foundation was established May 2, 1992. The Board for the Foundation includes three annually elected members: a president, a vice-president and a secretary/treasurer. The Foundation was established in order to accept private funds for specific projects for the benefit of higher education in Arkansas.

The terms for these members have lapsed, requiring a reelection or new appointments.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves and elects members to serve as the State Board of Higher Education Foundation Supervisory Committee as follows:

Dr. Anne Trussell - President
Mr. David Damron - Vice President
Dr. Linda Beene - Secretary/Treasurer

Bill Johnson motioned to approve Agenda Item 15, Kaneaster Hodges seconded, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 16
Annual Report on First-Year Student Remediation

Since 1988, all entering first-year students seeking an associate degree or higher from an Arkansas public college or university must meet AHECB assessment and placement standards in the disciplines of English, mathematics, and reading. A cut-off subscore of 19 on the ACT exam (or the equivalent on the ASSET, SAT, or COMPASS tests) is used for each of the three areas.

In fall 2004, Arkansas's public institutions enrolled 21,541 first-time students. Of this total, 2,795 entering students were not required to be tested because they pursued coursework in certificate-level programs or were non-degree-seeking.

Much discussion evolved over this agenda item. David Leech asked how it is determined if the remediation efforts are working. Mr. Harrell mentioned the Dempsey test and the fact that the Governor's initiatives for Smart Start and Smart Core will soon be showing results. Mr. Harrell explained that if a student receives a C grade at the end of a remedial course, then they must repeat the course.

Dr. Lynda Johnson reminded the Board that the public schools feed into the colleges and this situation is a shared responsibility between public education and higher education. Several college presidents and chancellors provided information about remediation at individual campuses. Dr. Stanley Williams stated that most students needing remediation are adults returning to college. He said these students are great assets to the state and only require about 5% of budget funds. He said these students can't be blamed on public education as they have been out of the system for some time.

Agenda Item No. 17 Annual Enrollment Report

Mr. Ron Harell presented the Annual Enrollment Report for Fall 2004. He reported that on-campus enrollment for fall 2004 in all sectors of Arkansas higher education was 127,929 students; representing a 1-year increase of students (+1.7 percent). Comparing current data to data for fall 2000, enrollments were up by 16,239 students (+14.5 percent). Public institutions accounted for 91 percent of the on-campus total. In 2000, the universities enrolled 59.5 percent of the students enrolled in public higher education; in 2004, the proportion continued the declining trend to 57.6 percent.

Fall 2004 on-campus enrollments, measured as full-time equivalency students (FTES), totaled 85,648 for the public colleges and universities. FTE enrollments grew by 1.2 percent statewide since last year and by 14.3 percent over the past five years.

Mr. Harrell reported that this was the first year the report included unduplicated headcount enrollment. He said the fall semester headcount enrollment summary indicates that during the fall 2003 semester 119,964 students were enrolled in the public colleges and universities. In comparison, the unduplicated headcount summary indicates that 161,032 students were enrolled during one or more of the semesters or terms composing the 2004 fiscal year of which the fall 2003 semester was a part. To help put this into perspective, an additional 41,068 students, or 34.2 percent more students than are shown by the fall semester enrollment report, were enrolled statewide at some time during the 2004 fiscal year.

The unduplicated headcount enrollment summary is also a better measure of the total number of students served at the college or university level. For example, the 2003 fall semester headcount for ASU-Newport was 1,101 (ranked 20th among the 22 two-year colleges in size) while the 2004 unduplicated headcount was 2,276, more than twice the fall semester headcount, (ranked 12th among 22 in size).

Col. Creech stated that he agreed with the unduplicated headcount measure. The Annual Enrollment Report can be found on the Department of Higher Education website.

Agenda Item No. 18
Annual Report On Productivity Of
Recently Approved Programs

This agenda item summarizes degree productivity for associate and certificate programs approved in AY 2001 and baccalaureate and graduate programs approved in AY 1999.

Eight of the ten graduate programs (or 80 percent) approved in 1999 met the AHECB standard and thirteen of the sixteen (or 81 percent) of the bachelors programs approved in 1999 met the standard. Sixteen of twenty-seven (59 percent) of the associate and certificate programs approved in 2001 were productive three years after approval and one of the programs is being or has been terminated by the institution.

The Annual Report on Productivity of Recently Approved Programs can be found on the Department of Higher Education website.

Agenda Item No. 19
Letters of Notification

Between October 7, 2004 and January 19, 2005 the Arkansas Department of Higher Education received notice from institutions of nine new certificate programs, five new program options, eleven name changes, two off-campus program terminations, three inactive programs, five deleted programs, and five deleted organizational units, none of which require Board approval. Notification of items requiring Board approval included three certificate programs, six associate degree programs, one bachelor degree program, two master degree programs, and one doctoral program. During this period the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee received notice of requests for recertification of eight degree programs, decertification of one degree program, and initial certification for sixteen degrees. The complete list of these notices appear on pages 19-1 through 19-9 of the agenda book.

Chairman Ford opened the floor for public comments to which there were none. He thanked the department staff for their continued hard work.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Christina Miller

APPROVED:

Betsy Thompson, Secretary