

Agenda Item No. 1
Higher Education Coordinating Board
May 1, 2015

**ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Regular Quarterly Meeting
January 30, 2015**

Minutes of Meeting

The January 30, 2015, regular meeting of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) was held at the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) in Little Rock, Arkansas. Chairman Crafton called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with a quorum present.

Coordinating Board present:

Bob Crafton, Chair
Horace Hardwick, Vice Chair
Sarah Argue, Secretary
Dr. Charles Allen
Dr. Olin Cook
Chris Gilliam
Sherrel Johnson
Ben Pickard
Greg Revels
Mary Anne Salmon
Sam T. Sicard

Coordinating Board absent:

Florine Milligan

Department staff present:

Shane Broadway, Director
Cynthia Moten, Associate Director for Academic Programs
Rick Jenkins, Associate Director for Planning and Accountability
Tara Smith, Senior Associate Director for Finance
Ann Clemmer, Senior Associate Director for Academic Programs
Janet Lawrence, General Counsel
Jeanne Jones, Program Specialist for Academic Affairs
Lillian Williams, Program Specialist for Academic Affairs
Alana Boles, Program Specialist for Academic Affairs
Chandra Robinson, Program Coordinator for Institutional Finance
Callan Callaway, Program Coordinator for Institutional Finance
Jake Eddington, Program Specialist for Institutional Finance
Nichole Abernathy, Executive Assistant

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

Chairman Crafton began the meeting by asking for a moment of silence for all of the U.S. Troops overseas, including, ADHE staff member Mark Lane.

He then introduced new AHECB member Sam T. Sicard from Fort Smith and welcomed him to his first regular meeting of the Coordinating Board.

Agenda Item No. 1
Approval of Minutes

Ben Pickard moved to approve Agenda Item No. 1. Horace Hardwick seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 2
Report of Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee (Chair, Mary Anne Salmon, Horace Hardwick and Greg Revels) recommended the following slate of Board officers for 2015-16 (Sarah Argue as Secretary, Horace Hardwick as Vice Chair and Bob Crafton as Chair).

Mary Anne Salmon moved to accept the 2015-2016 nominations. Greg Revels seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 3
State Board of Higher Education Foundation
Election of Supervisory Committee

The State Board of Higher Education Foundation was established on 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 current officers are:

President – Bob Crafton
Vice President – Sarah Argue
Secretary/Treasurer – Dr. Charles Allen

The terms for these members have lapsed, requiring a re-election or new appointments.

The following resolution is presented for Board consideration:

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:

Bob Crafton – President
Sarah Argue – Vice President
Dr. Charles Allen – Secretary/Treasurer

Dr. Olin Cook moved to approve Agenda Item No. 3. Dr. Charles Allen seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 4
Reimbursement of Expenses for
Members of the AHECB and ICAC

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.).

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.

Ben Pickard moved to approve Agenda Item No. 4. Sherrel Johnson seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 5
Agency Updates

ADHE Staff Changes

Director Broadway began by announcing the retirement of Associate Director for Academic Affairs Cynthia Moten. As he thanked Cynthia for over 30 years of dedication to the Department of Higher Education, he presented her with an engraved crystal vase. He then invited everyone to stay for a reception after the meeting in honor of Cynthia's retirement.

Next, Broadway announced that Communications Coordinator Brandi Hinkle transferred to the Department of Human Services. Steven Bell, Financial Aid Program Specialist resigned and moved back to South Carolina. Financial Aid Coordinator Phil Axelroth retired. Ann Clemmer, formerly of UALR, is the new Senior Associate Director for Academic Affairs. He also noted that he had been

hired as the new Vice President for Governmental Relations for the Arkansas State University System and would begin on February 9.

Institutional Leadership

Jay Jones, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration at the University of Arkansas at Monticello, has been named UAM's Interim Chancellor.

Important to Know

Broadway announced that the ADHE scholarship deadline for all categories, both spring and fall semesters, is June 1. He then noted that the new award amounts went into effect fall 2014 (\$2K, \$3K, \$4K and \$5K as a freshman, sophomore, junior or senior respectively, with \$2K only at two-year colleges). Amounts for those who received the ACS in 2010 and continued his or her eligibility will remain the same (\$5,000 or \$2,500). Amounts for those who received the ACS in 2011 and 2012 and continued his or her eligibility will remain the same (\$4,500 or \$2,250).

Annual Trustees Conference

The Annual Trustees Conference was held on Friday, December 5, 2014, at the Pulaski Technical College Campus Center in North Little Rock. The conference began at 9:00 a.m. and concluded by 3:00 p.m. Over 100 registrants attended from around the state to hear remarks from Governor Asa Hutchinson and former Governor Mike Beebe. Other speakers included Thomas Pennington from Arkansas Tech University, Dr. Mark Taylor from Meet Generation NeXt, Leslie Booney from the University of North Carolina, Tony Williams from Arkansas Student Loan Authority and Don Cook with Gill Ragon Owen, P.A.

Agenda Item No. 6
2014 Fall and 2014 Annual Enrollment Report

Rick Jenkins presented summary and detailed information about annual student enrollment. He noted the total, on-schedule enrollment for the 2014 Fall term in all sectors of Arkansas higher education (public universities, public colleges, as well as independent colleges and universities and nursing schools) was 168,621 students; representing a 1-year decrease of 1.1 percent.

Of these 168,621 students, 16,245 were high school students (9.6 percent), 134,108 were undergraduate students (79.5 percent) and 18,268 were graduate students (10.8 percent).

Sherrel Johnson asked if there was enough data to identify trends in spring enrollment. Jenkins said, no. The data wasn't due until late February.

Agenda Item No. 7
Annual Report on First-Year
Student Remediation for Fall 2014

Rick Jenkins presented summary and detailed information about annual student enrollment. In fall 2014, Arkansas's public institutions enrolled 22,102 first-time degree seeking students. 22,102 of those students were tested for placement purposes. Of the 22,102 students who were tested, 9,119 students (41.4 percent) were assigned to one or more remedial courses while the balance was placed in college-level coursework. This represents a decrease in the remediation rate of 1.8 percentage points from Fall 2013. Note that this is the lowest remediation rate in the 5 fall terms and the total remediation rate has dropped every year since the 2010 fall term. Of the 9,119 students assigned to remediation, 4,270 (46.8 percent) were in the four-year sector and 4,849 (53.2 percent) were in the two-year sector.

Greg Revels asked how much of the reduction in the increase could be contributed to the recent changes in cut-off scores. Jenkins said that this is the second year that we have had the new rate and while it does appear to make a difference, it is not a significant difference.

Sarah Argue asked if the remediation rate for all groups was essentially the same. Jenkins explained that they aren't the same, however, they are very close.

Agenda Items No. 8
Academic Affairs Policy Updates

Cynthia Moten presented updates and clarifications regarding the following academic policies: 5.1 – College Mathematics; 5.2 – ICAC Rules; 5.6 – State Minimum Core; 5.7 – General Education Assessment and Placement; 5.11 – Approval of New Programs and Units; 5.12 – Academic Program Review and Program Viability; 5.14 – Unconditional Admissions; 5.18 – Alternative Assessment Plans; and, 5.22 – Arkansas Transfer System.

Moten highlighted policy 5.11 – Approval of New Programs and Units, which relates to the AHECB granting authority to the ADHE director to approve new programs that consist of primarily existing courses, and a few new courses, upon implementation and presentation to the board. Because some existing programs require approval before the board meetings, the institutions have asked that this be reconsidered, said Moten. Therefore language has been added that says the director may continue to approve, programs he was already allowed to approve, for immediate implementation. Notice will be provided to the board at the next meeting.

In closing, Moten announced that she was grateful for the trust that the Coordinating Board and ADHE staff had entrusted in her over the years. She then thanked several institutional representatives that have helped her and ADHE

tirelessly on numerous initiatives. She also thanked the ADHE Academic Affairs staff for their support.

Chairman Crafton said he appreciated Moten's presentations over the years.

Sarah Argue asked if policy 5.14, was saying that if a student has to do developmental education, they cannot be given unconditional admission.

Moten said we are trying to address the need to make the institution's policy in line with the board policy.

Agenda Item No. 9
Economic Feasibility of Bond Issue
NorthWest Arkansas Community College

NorthWest Arkansas Community College requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds not to exceed \$18.4 million with a term of fifteen (15) years at a rate not to exceed 3.75%. Proceeds from the bond issue will be used for auxiliary purposes. The NorthWest Arkansas Community College Board of Trustees approved this action at its meeting held on November 10, 2014.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for NorthWest Arkansas Community College to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$18.4 million with a term of fifteen (15) years at a rate not to exceed 3.75% to refinance district capital improvement bonds.

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 Trustees of NorthWest Arkansas Community College of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

There were no questions.

Greg Revels moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 9 to the full Board for consideration. Sherrel Johnson seconded and the Committee approved.

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

Southern Arkansas University requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds of up to \$10.0 million with a maximum term of up to thirty (30) years at an estimated average interest rate not to exceed 5.0 percent. Proceeds from the bond issue will be used for educational and general purposes. Southern Arkansas University Board of Trustees approved this financing at its meeting on November 18, 2014.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for Southern Arkansas University to issue bonds in an amount up to \$10.0 million with a term of (30) years at an estimated interest rate not to exceed 5.0 percent for bond refinancing and to construct and/or renovate facilities for the Engineering program and to make improvements in the Health, Kinesiology and Recreational facilities and to construct and/or renovate facilities for the Engineering program on the campus of Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Arkansas.

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 Trustees of Southern Arkansas University of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

There were no questions.

Chris Gilliam moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 10 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Charles Allen seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 11
Economic Feasibility of Loan Issue
Arkansas State University – Jonesboro

Arkansas State University-Jonesboro requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to obtain a loan not to exceed \$1.5 million with a term of up to ten (10) years at an expected annual interest rate of 0.0 percent. Proceeds from the loan will be used for educational and general purposes. Arkansas State University Board of Trustees approved this financing at its meeting on December 5, 2014.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for Arkansas State University-Jonesboro to obtain a loan not to exceed \$1.5 million with a term of up to ten (10) years at an expected annual interest rate of 0.0 percent to complete energy efficient upgrades of the cooling tower system at the Convocation Center and the energy control system of the Arkansas Biosciences Institute building.

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 Trustees of Arkansas State University of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

There were no questions.

Greg Revels moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 11 to the full Board for consideration. Sherrel Johnson seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 12
Annual Higher Education Financial Condition Report

Tara Smith presented the Annual Higher Education Financial Condition Report. The purpose of this report was to describe the financial condition as well as the difficulties and challenges experienced by Arkansas's Public Institutions of Higher Education. These difficulties and challenges have been brought on by a number of competing, and often conflicting demands: fluctuations in enrollments; lagging, and even declining, state support; increasing public and political pressure to hold tuition down; underprepared students; and students who come to college with the expectations of new amenities and programs from the institutions.

This report addressed several topics including the equity of the needs-based funding formulas, outcome-centered funding, revenues versus costs in higher education, funds per full-time equivalent (FTE) student, the increased volume of construction on campuses, a comparison of Arkansas faculty salaries to other Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) states and various charts and graphs on tuition and fees by institution, expenditures by function, fund balances, operating margins, athletic incomes and expenditures, scholarship expenditures and measures of performance. It also included some recommendations for future financial policies of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Horace Hardwick asked how Arkansas's tuition rates compared to the rest of the country.

Smith said that Arkansas's tuition rates are either at or below the SREB states.

Agenda Item No. 13
Montgomery County Center
Rich Mountain Community College

The administration and Board of Trustees of Rich Mountain Community College (RMCC) request Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board recognition of an off-campus institutional site in Montgomery County, to be called the Rich Mountain Community College-Montgomery County Center. RMCC also is requesting Coordinating Board approval to offer remedial/developmental education courses, and the courses required for the Associate of Arts, Associate of General Studies, Associate of Applied Science in Business Technology with an emphasis in Business Administration and general education requirements for other AAS degrees at the Montgomery County Center. RMCC has had an educational presence in Mt. Ida and Montgomery County for the last 20 years offering Adult Education-GED, TRIO Programs, and Workforce classes.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) approves the establishment of Rich Mountain Community College-Montgomery County Center in Mt. Ida, Arkansas, and the offering of selected courses leading to associate

degree completion along with the offering of remedial/developmental education courses effective immediately, contingent on off-campus center accreditation or recognition by the Higher Learning Commission.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) to inform the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Rich Mountain Community College of the approval.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the ADHE Director to notify the administrators of Rich Mountain Community College and National Park Community College that the unnecessary duplication of courses and degrees is to be avoided; and that the ADHE Director must inform the AHECB of disputes that arise between any Arkansas public colleges and universities regarding off-campus course and degree offerings.

Dr. Olin Cook asked if there was enough tuition to cover the rent for the off-campus instruction center.

Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Steve Rook, said that between RMCC's unrestricted and restricted dollars, they are adequately funded.

Sarah Argue asked how the facility is currently being used. Rook said that currently classes are being taught in the facility and outreach programs are being held in it. This is just a name change he said.

Dr. Olin Cook moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 13 to the full Board for consideration. Ben Pickard seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 14
Associate Degree for Occupational and Life Skills
NorthWest Arkansas Community College

The proposed 60-credit hour Associate Degree for Occupational and Life Skills prepares students with cognitive disabilities to graduate with an associate degree in a four-year period through a method called "scaffold learning" in which the curriculum builds and overlaps, class by class, year by year, to emphasize critical information, concepts and outcomes. The proposed program differs from other programs in that it does not focus on one particular area of study but rather introduces various concepts so that the student can find interests, strengths and skills by multiple avenues of exposure. Before the end of the fourth year, each student will have accumulated 270 hours through a personalized internship experience designed for an appropriate career pathway for employment. Students also will be prepared to be self-sufficient contributors to the local community.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Associate Degree for Occupational and Life Skills (CIP 52.9999, 60 semester credit hours) offered by NorthWest Arkansas Community College, effective Fall 2015.

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 NorthWest Arkansas Community College of the approval.

Senior Vice President for Learning and Provost Dr. Steven Gates, presented an overview of the associate degree for occupational and life skills program. He began by stating that this program is modeled after one that has been in place for about 14 years at Bellevue College in Seattle, WA. NWACC has the honor of being the first pilot college to work with others across Arkansas and the nation, said Gates.

Horace Hardwick asked if NWACC had considered the problem that some of their target students might have with transportation.

Gates said that during the interview and screening process, they will inquire about the students transportation needs. He said that NWACC does have a contract with Ozark Transit.

Mary Anne Salmon said that while she does applaud NWACC for what they are trying to do, she does have some concerns. She asked how in depth the teachers will be trained to handle the potential students who have cognitive learning disabilities.

Gates said that NWACC will be looking for teachers that have formal training in those specific areas.

Ben Pickard asked if the cost of attendance would be the same for this program as any other program and if a student in this program would be able to apply for financial aid.

Gates said no, the cost would be a little higher because the student teacher ratio is lower. Students that enroll in this program can apply for financial aid, said Gates.

Pickard voiced concern regarding the potential loan debt students could incur while in this program.

Gates said that will be part of the screening process with the students and parents. They will discuss what their financial options are and how to best handle them.

Sam Pickard asked what businesses they have received commitments from, if any. Also, are there any non-profits in the area providing similar training?

Gates said they have significant businesses that are willing to make a commitment to hiring the students from this program and that list is just starting to grow.

Sarah Argue moved to recommend the approval of the review of Agenda Item No. 14 to the full Board. Dr. Olin Cook seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 15
Associate of Applied Science in Construction Technology
NorthWest Arkansas Community College

The proposed construction technology program is designed to provide students with the skills needed to plan, direct, coordinate, and/or budget activities associated with the construction and maintenance of structures, facilities, and systems in the construction industry. Students will have internship opportunities to participate in the conceptual development of a construction project and oversee its organization, scheduling, and implementation, and work directly with general superintendents, project managers, and constructors who manage, coordinate, and supervise the construction process. The proposed program will be advantageous to those who work in the construction industry who would like to assume responsibilities as foremen as well as site and project managers. Others who would like to gain entry-level positions in the construction industry would also benefit from the proposed program.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Associate of Applied Science in Construction Technology (CIP 15.1001, 60 semester credit hours) offered by NorthWest Arkansas Community College, effective Fall 2015.

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 NorthWest Arkansas Community College of the approval.

There were no questions.

Mary Anne Salmon moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 15 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Olin Cook seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 16
Master of Jazz Studies
University of Arkansas at Monticello

The proposed Master of Jazz Studies is a 30-semester credit hour program that will provide both educators and performers an intensive educational opportunity in jazz performance, theory, history and pedagogy. The proposed program will consist of 12 hours in residence and 18 hours online. The University of Arkansas

at Monticello (UAM) currently offers the Bachelor of Arts in Music with a concentration in Jazz Studies. The proposed graduate program will provide: public school band directors an advanced credential for promotion and salary increase and increase their capability to instruct students in jazz; jazz musicians and scholars seeking graduate credentials to become employed as instructors at community and four-year colleges; and jazz performers seeking enhancement of their talents and skills to become employed in nightclubs, theatres, on cruise ships, on television shows, and as recording and/or touring artists.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Jazz Studies (CIP 50.0910, 30 semester credit hours) offered by the University of Arkansas at Monticello, effective Fall 2015.

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. Program continuation is contingent on UAM obtaining and maintaining program accreditation with the National Association of Schools of Music.

There were no questions.

Mary Anne Salmon moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 16 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Olin Cook seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 17
Bachelor of Arts in Innovative Media
Henderson State University

The proposed Bachelor of Arts in Innovative Media is an interdisciplinary 120-semester credit hour program that provides students with the skills in mass and digital media, art, communication, marketing, computer science and technology to work in various facets of media. Required classes and labs will provide opportunities for students to work in a team environment that fosters creativity with a focus on current ideas and production methods, as well as new media models. Graduates of the proposed program will qualify for jobs as bloggers, web video producers, creative directors, assistant directors of marketing, web-page designers, social media managers, game designers, or self-employed freelance positions as cartoonists/animators.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Bachelor of Arts in Innovative Media (CIP 09.0702, 120 semester credit hours) offered by Henderson State University, effective Fall 2015.

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 Henderson State University of the approval.

There were no questions.

Mary Anne Salmon moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 17 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Olin Cook seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 18
Certificates of Proficiency and Technical Certificate in Commercial
and Residential Equipment Maintenance and Repair
University of Arkansas Community College at Hope

The Certificate of Proficiency in Building Maintenance, Certificate of Proficiency in Major Appliances, and Technical Certificate in Commercial and Residential Equipment Maintenance and Repair prepares students for entry-level employment in the maintenance and repair of commercial and residential facilities and their associated mechanical and electrical systems. Graduates will gain knowledge and employment skills including management of resources, basic carpentry, painting, plumbing, troubleshooting and repair of major appliances and HVACR equipment, and understanding of electrical wiring. Further, these graduates can be hired in positions as maintenance technicians, boiler technicians, service technicians, chief of maintenance, and supervisors earning \$7.25 to \$27 per hour. Over 30 employers returned survey data and indicated 50+ new or upgraded positions for these graduates in the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope (UACCH) service area which includes south Arkansas and north Texas. The Arkansas and Texas Departments of Labor statistical data indicate steady growth in this career field in the next three to five years.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the offering of the Certificate of Proficiency in Building Maintenance, Certificate of Proficiency in Major Appliances, and Technical Certificate in Commercial and Residential Equipment Maintenance and Repair (CIP 46.0401, CP-10 semester credit hours; TC- 31 semester credit hours, respectively) on the Texarkana Campus of the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope, effective Fall 2015.

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 Community College at Hope of the approval.

There were no questions.

Mary Anne Salmon moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 18 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Olin Cook seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 19
Institutional Certification Advisory Committee

ADHE Executive Staff Recommendation

Initial Program Certification-Distance Technology

RESOLVED, That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants initial certification to the institutions listed on pages 1-7 to offer the specified degree programs to Arkansas residents for a period of three years through December 31, 2018.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to notify the administration of said institutions that the certification of the degree programs 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 programs in Arkansas.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director to notify the administration of said institutions 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 Board certification does not constitute an endorsement of any institution or program. Such certification merely indicates that certain criteria have been met as required under the rules and regulations implementing institutional and program certification as defined in Arkansas Code §6-61-301.

Capella University, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Chamberlain College of Nursing, Downers Grove, Illinois
The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Los Angeles, California
Colorado Technical University, Colorado Springs, Colorado
Columbia Southern University, Orange Beach, Alabama
DeVry University, Naperville, Illinois
Excelsior College, Albany, New York
Franklin University, Columbus, Ohio
Freed-Hardeman University, Henderson, Tennessee
Grantham University, Lenexa, Kansas
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland
Missouri State University, Springfield, Missouri
Northcentral University, Scottsdale, Arizona
Oklahoma Wesleyan University, Bartlesville, Oklahoma
Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon
Post University, Waterbury, Connecticut
Saint Joseph's College of Maine, Standish, Maine
University of New Haven, West Haven, Connecticut

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California

Initial Program Certification-Arkansas Campus

Ecclesia College, Springdale, Arkansas

New Institutions

Initial Program Certification–Distance Technology

Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska

Concordia University, Portland, Oregon

Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama

University of Tulsa, Tulsa, Oklahoma

University of Wisconsin-Stout, Menomonie, Wisconsin

Institutions/Programs Recognized under the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)

American Public University, Charles Town, West Virginia

Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska

Arkansas Institution

Certification for Degree Level Change

Shorter College, North Little Rock, Arkansas

ADHE Executive Staff Recommendation

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) approves the degree level change for Shorter College, North Little Rock, Arkansas, to offer bachelor's degrees effective Fall 2015; contingent on Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) accreditation/recognition of bachelor's degrees at Shorter College.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) to inform the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Shorter College that ADHE must be notified upon receipt of TRACS accreditation/recognition of bachelor's degrees and upon implementation of the initial academic bachelor's degree program. While academic degree programs offered by Shorter College must meet course, degree, and faculty criteria outlined in the ICAC Rules; AHECB certification is not required for initial program implementation or program continuation of associate and bachelor's degrees. Other requirements for academic program continuation at Shorter College are outlined in AHECB Agenda Item No. 15, January 31, 2014.

Arkansas Institution

Recognition as Arkansas Independent Institution of Higher Education

Ecclesia College, Springdale, Arkansas

RESOLVED, That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) recognizes Ecclesia College as an Arkansas independent four-year college; and requires Ecclesia College to maintain institutional accreditation with the Association of Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) or another accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education or the Council on Higher Education Accreditation.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board certification is not required for Ecclesia College to offer additional associate and bachelor's academic degree programs. Academic degree programs offered by Ecclesia College must meet course, degree, and faculty criteria outlined in the ICAC Rules. AHECB acknowledges that Ecclesia College is accredited by ABHE to offer master's degrees in church-related training.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That Ecclesia College must submit student and institutional data to the Arkansas Department of Higher Education according to the guidelines outlined in the Arkansas Student Information System Manual, beginning with the 2015-16 Academic Year.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That Ecclesia College must notify the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education whenever any of the following occurs: (1) change in the charter or incorporation documents of the institution for the 1) major reorganization of the institutional controlling body or institutional operations; (2) initial offering of academic master's degrees; (3) change in the name of the institution; or 4) change in the institutional accreditation status.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That Ecclesia College must publish a written disclosure for students indicating that not all academic courses are guaranteed for transfer to other colleges and universities unless the College has a signed transfer/articulation agreement with other accredited colleges and universities. AHECB acknowledges that selected courses offered by Ecclesia College have been reviewed by ADHE for inclusion in the Arkansas Course Transfer System (ACTS) under the provisions of Act 672 of 2005 and Act 182 of 2009.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the ADHE Director to notify the administration of Ecclesia College 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:

Ecclesia College is recognized as an Arkansas independent four-year college by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board; however, this recognition does not constitute an endorsement of the institution or any degree offerings.

There were no questions.

Mary Anne Salmon moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 19 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Olin Cook seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Items No. 20 & 21 Letters of Notification and Letters of Intent

The Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education approved institutional requests for new programs not requiring Board action unless further review is requested by the Board. During this period, the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee received notice of requests from out-of-state institutions to offer degree programs to Arkansas residents. The program notice lists appear in the Letters of Notification on pages 20-1 through 20-85 and in the Letters of Intent on pages 21-1 through 21-23 of the agenda book.

Director Broadway noted the notification from Mid-South Community College of plans to proceed with the agreement of merger and plan of transition between the Arkansas State University System and Mid-South Community College (MSCC). After the merger, MSCC will be known as Arkansas State University Mid-South (ASU Mid-South), said Broadway.

Report of the Committees

Horace Hardwick presented the report of the Finance Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 9 - 11. Greg Revels seconded the motion and the Board approved.

Sarah Argue presented the report of the Academic Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 13 - 19. Sherrel Johnson seconded the motion and the Board approved.

Director Broadway reiterated that this would be his last meeting as the director of the Department of Higher Education. He then read his letter of resignation addressed to Governor Hutchinson. He thanked the Coordinating Board and ADHE staff for their support over the years and assured them that he would be down the road if he was needed.

Next, Chairman Crafton explained the director search process. He then made a recommendation that the AHECB appoint Dr. Brett Powell as the next director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

Chairman Bob Crafton moved to appoint Dr. Brett Powell as the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. Horace Hardwick seconded and the Board unanimously approved.

Dr. Powell stated that he was full of emotions, but mainly he was humbled by the confidence the board has placed in him to lead ADHE at this time. He said he is

excited about what lies ahead for the future of Arkansas. I'm also a bit apprehensive knowing the shoes I have to fill by the former director, said Powell. In closing, Powell said he looks forward to working with the Governor, the board and the institutions for many years to come.

Remarks by Presidents and Chancellors

Chairman Crafton announced that the next Coordinating Board meeting would be hosted by Southern Arkansas University at Magnolia on May 1, 2015.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

APPROVED:

Nichole Abernathy

Sarah Argue, Secretary