

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Regular Quarterly Meeting
July 31, 2020

Minutes of Meeting

The July 31, 2020, regular meeting of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) was held via Zoom video conferencing. Chair Jim Carr called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., with a quorum present.

Coordinating Board present:

Dr. Jim Carr, Chair
Al Brodell, Vice Chair
Keven Anderson
Bill Clary
Lori Griffin
Andy McNeill
Greg Revels
Dr. Michael Stanton

Coordinating Board absent:

Chris Gilliam, Secretary
Dr. Olin Cook
Chad Hooten

Department staff present:

Dr. Maria Markham, Director
Nick Fuller, Deputy Director
Dr. Jessie Walker, Senior Associate Director for Academic Affairs/Research & Analytics
Ann Clemmer, Senior Associate Director for Governmental Relations
Sonia Hazelwood, Associate Director for Research and Analytics
Alisha Lewis, Associate Director of Communications
Micah Gilbert, Network Support Specialist
Nichole Abernathy, Executive Assistant

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

Chair Carr began by thanking everyone for participating in the virtual meeting.

Agenda Item No. 1
Approval of Minutes

Greg Revels moved to approve Agenda Item No. 1. Bill Clary seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 2
Director's Report

Dr. Markham began by thanking ADHE staff for putting together the virtual coordinating board meeting with short notice. She thanked the presidents, chancellors and board for their participation in the non-traditional format and also for maintaining quality on campus during this trying time.

Institutional Changes

Dr. Jim Rollins, the longtime superintendent of Springdale Public Schools, became the president of Northwest Technical Institute (NWTI) in Springdale on July 1. Rollins just completed his 41st year as a school administrator in Springdale, 39 years as superintendent.

Dr. Laura Clark began as the interim chancellor for the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope-Texarkana on July 6. Clark previously served as the vice chancellor for academic affairs at UACCHT.

Dr. Jim Borsig has been appointed interim chancellor for Henderson State University. Borsig previously served as the president of Mississippi University for Women (MUW).

ADHE Staff Changes

Jeanne Jones, program coordinator for academic affairs, retired on March 24.

Financial aid director Lisa Smith has transferred to Henderson State University. Her last day was May 8.

Willie Murdock's last day was May 15 as the director of the Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative. Willie has been appointed superintendent of the state-controlled Lee County School District

Kimberly Long is the new program coordinator for Academic Affairs. Long who began on June 22, previously served as the dean of compliance and accountability at Arkansas State University-Newport.

Lillian Williams, program coordinator for academic affairs, retired on June 30.

Arkansas COVID Responses

Dr. Markham gave an update on the institution's COVID responses regarding COVID testing and learning delivery options. She noted that the institutions received funding through different grants to help offset costs while students were displaced due to COVID, as well as funding for PPE and technology.

Markham stated that Arkansas's institutions are as ready as any state can be to respond to the COVID crisis. We have realistic plans for testing and contact tracing.

Due to the lack of in person events and social distancing measures, colleges will look and feel dramatically different in the fall.

Agenda Item No. 3
Annual Report on Credentials Awarded

Every year colleges and universities submit a Graduated Student File to the Arkansas Higher Education Information System (AHEIS). This file contains a record for every certificate and degree awarded to students by the institution between July 1st and June 30th of each year. This year's annual report includes AY2019 credentials awarded between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 4
Annual Report on Student Retention and Graduation

Statewide student retention and graduation rates for students entering Arkansas higher education institutions are presented in this report for both public 4-Year and 2-Year institutions, and private/independent institutions. The Arkansas Higher Education Information System (AHEIS) enables multi-year student retention and graduation tracking in compliance with Student-Right-to-Know legislation and Act 267 of 1989.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 5
Annual Report on Retention and Graduation
of Intercollegiate Athletes

This report complies with Act 267 of 1989 that requires reporting of retention and graduation rates for first-time in college students who participate in Arkansas intercollegiate athletics. This information is collected through institutional data submissions to the Arkansas Higher Education Information System (AHEIS) from all public colleges and universities with athletic programs. In addition to retention and graduation rates, this report provides data on all athletic participation by sport and scholarship status.

Andy McNeill asked how Arkansas's graduation rates compared nationally. Ms. Hazelwood said she would provide that information.

Agenda Item No. 6
Report on 2019 Fall College-Going Rate

The College-Going Report was moved to the October 31, 2020 AHECB meeting.

Agenda Item No. 7
Annual Report on First-Year Student Remediation for Fall 2019

In accordance with A.C.A. §6-61-110, the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) address the placement standards necessary for enrollment of students into mathematics, English composition, and reading based on appropriate indicators of potential student success rates.

Agenda Item No. 8
Annual Report on Productivity of Recently Approved Programs

Arkansas Code §6-61-214 requires the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) to establish standards for the academic programs offered by Arkansas colleges and universities and to create a seven to ten year review cycle for all existing academic programs. The existing academic program review policies (AHECB Policy 5.12) were adopted in 1995 and 1998.

Is this an opportunity for a number of institutions to identify, prune and consolidate some of the programs that have overlap, asked Keven Anderson. Dr. Walker said the institutions do use this report to modify their current programs and ADHE does try to provide guidance.

Andy McNeill said that the historical data is good to look at but noted current data shows institutions could be looking at a decline in enrollment.

Chair Carr said that when a school says they will have twelve graduates for a new program and then they don't meet that goal, we should recommend that the program is discontinued.

Agenda Item No. 9
Annual Concurrent Enrollment Report

Arkansas law allows for the enrollment of high school students in college-level courses under certain conditions. Under Arkansas code §6-60-202, a qualified student at a public or private high school in Arkansas can enroll in postsecondary education for college-level credit exclusively on a part-time status. This is defined as dual enrollment. Under this code, a "qualified student" is someone who must be recommended for enrollment by the principal of the high school where the student is enrolled and also must the minimum criteria for advanced placement.

Keven Anderson asked if someone from ATU could comment on why they charge \$232 per credit hour. Terrance Youngblood with ADHE explained that for transparency purposes, the tuition amounts listed are before all scholarships are applied.

ATU President Robin Bowen explained that they have different MOU agreements with different high schools. Once scholarships and grants are applied, the price is usually \$0 charged to students.

Keven Anderson requested that additional information be provided to the board.

Agenda Item No. 10
Report on Academic Program Review 2017-19

Arkansas Code §6-61-214 requires that the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) review existing academic programs at Arkansas public colleges and universities to identify certificate and degree programs not meeting minimum standards of quality and to establish schedules for either resolving these concerns or removing the programs from the AHECB approved program inventory. The existing academic program review policies (AHECB Policy 5.2) were adopted in 1988 and revised in 1995 and 1998. Institutions have been conducting program reviews for more than 20 years. Beginning Fall 2010, Arkansas colleges and universities were required to employ external consultants to review all certificate and degree programs over a period of 7-10 years with the findings from the reviews reported to the Coordinating Board. Accredited, licensed and state certified programs follow the usual review practices and the schedule of the accrediting/approval body. These programs do not require further ADHE staff review.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 11
Productivity-Based Funding Distribution

A.C.A. §6-61-234 directs the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) to adopt polices developed by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education (ADHE) necessary to implement a productivity-based funding model for state-supported institutions of higher education. That language reads as follows:

Productivity-based funding is a mechanism to align institutional funding with statewide priorities for higher education by incentivizing progress toward statewide goals. At the same time, such models encourage accountability to students and policymakers by focusing on the success of students through the achievement of their educational goals. The new funding model is built around a set of shared principles developed by institutions and aligned with goals and objectives for post-secondary attainment in our state.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the recommendation for distribution of productivity funding to the Arkansas public institutions of higher education in the 2021-222 fiscal year as included in Table A.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education is authorized to prepare appropriate documents for transmission to the Governor and the General Assembly of the 2021-22 productivity funding distribution recommendation of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That should any errors of a technical nature be found in this recommendation, the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education is authorized to make appropriate corrections consistent with the policy established by the Board's action on these recommendations.

Greg Revels commented that there is no guarantee that the institutions will receive the requested funds. Nick Fuller said that is correct. This year's revenue forecast is short about 5% of the funding.

Revels asked if the funding is not received, will the reallocation still take place for the institutions that didn't meet their productivity goals. Nick said that if this year's forecast is more than 3% less of the prior year's forecast, then productivity won't be implemented.

Andy McNeill asked if incentive funding was subject to legislative approval. Fuller said yes.

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

Agenda Item No. 12 Operating Recommendations for 2021-2023 Biennium

A.C.A. §6-61-234 (Act 148 of 2017) directs the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) to adopt polices developed by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education (ADHE) necessary to implement a productivity-based funding model for state-supported institutions of higher education. That language reads as follows:

Productivity-based funding is a mechanism to align institutional funding with statewide priorities for higher education by incentivizing progress toward statewide goals. At the same time, such models encourage accountability to students and policymakers by focusing on the success of students through the achievement of their educational goals. The new funding model is built around a set of shared principles developed by institutions and aligned with goals and objectives for post-secondary attainment in our state.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the recommendations for state funding of the educational and general operations of Arkansas public institutions of higher education in the 2021-23 Biennium as included in Tables A, B, C, D and E.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education is authorized to prepare appropriate documents for transmission to the Governor and the General Assembly of the 2021-23 operating recommendations of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That should any errors of a technical nature be found in these recommendations, the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education is authorized to make appropriate corrections consistent with the policy established by the Board's action on these recommendations.

Andy McNeill asked if the total new funds were approximately \$20 million. Fuller said yes.

Andy McNeill questioned the board's obligation to approve the operating recommendations. Greg Revels stated that ADHE staff have reviewed the item and recommend its approval.

Bill Clary moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 12 to the full Board for consideration. Greg Revels seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item. No. 13 Personal Services Recommendations for 2021-2023 Biennium

A.C.A. §6-61-209 requires the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to present a consolidated budget request from the state-supported colleges and universities to the General Assembly and the Governor prior to each regular session of the General Assembly. As part of this process, the quantity of positions, titles, grades, and line-item maximum salaries for all administrative, academic, and auxiliary positions at each Arkansas public institution of higher education have been reviewed, and changes are recommended.

These recommendations, to be effective July 1, 2021, recognize the varying structures and sizes of institutions, while maintaining reasonable consistency among similar positions at institutions. The primary objective of the ADHE staff was to maintain relative uniformity in titles and line-item maximums for similar positions in comparable institutions, while recognizing the varying missions and structures of institutions, priorities of the new biennium, and FTE enrollment growth.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the recommended number of positions, titles, grades, and maximum salaries for positions in academic, administrative, and auxiliary positions for the 2021-23 Biennium as recommended by staff.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education is authorized to make technical corrections consistent with Coordinating Board action.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board requests the Director to transmit the Personal Services recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly for consideration for the 2021-23 Biennium.

Bill Clary asked if there was anything specific about the 51 positions recommended for decrease. Nick Fuller said that they are a variety of positions that the institutions no longer need.

Greg Revels asked if these were maximum salaries. Fuller said that is correct.

Greg Revels moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 13 to the full Board for consideration. Lori Griffin seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 14
Certification of Intercollegiate Athletic Budgets for 2020-21

A.C.A. §6-62-805 (Act 366 of 1991) requires each state-supported institution of higher education to annually certify by June 15 to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board that its intercollegiate athletic program will generate sufficient revenues to meet expenditures or that any athletic deficit will be met by separate institutional board-sanctioned student athletic fees.

A.C.A. §6-62-804 requires that any student athletic fees assessed must be clearly defined in all publications and institutional board minutes, and listed separate and distinct from tuition or other student fees on student tuition and fee statements. All institutions assessing a student athletic fee have certified to the Department compliance with this requirement and have submitted copies of their student fee billing statements illustrating the disclosure of the athletic fee to each student.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board accepts the Certification of Intercollegiate Athletic Revenues and Expenditures Budgeted for 2020-21 as prepared in accordance with Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board uniform accounting standards and definitions for athletic reporting.

Andy McNeill asked where the transfers from E&G come from. Fuller said a lot of them are from tuition and fees revenue budgets.

Keven Anderson asked if institutions have looked at the potential damage recent game cancellations will cost their institutions. Can they cut costs or will they have to pull funds from other sources? Fuller said the budgets were put together with the anticipation that everything would go forward in the fall. Unfortunately, institutions will have to adjust their budgets. He noted that institutions can only transfer up to 2 percent of their unrestricted E&G revenues, per year.

Greg Revels moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 14 to the full Board for consideration. Lori Griffin seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 15
Master of Science in Construction Management
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

The proposed 30 credit hour online, distance education program Master of Science in Construction Management degree will afford graduates the skills to plan and manage a construction project from design to completion. The curriculum will contain topics including, but not limited to, scheduling, project finance, construction productivity, construction safety, and legal aspects of construction. Throughout the duration of the program, students will have the opportunity to obtain professional certifications from the Lean Construction Institute, Six Sigma, Project Management Professionals and others which should make the graduates very marketable. Graduates should be able to obtain positions in the construction industry as project engineers, project managers, project superintendents, and preconstruction managers.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Science in Construction Management (CIP 52.2001; 30 credit hours; 100% online) offered by the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, effective Fall 2021.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Division 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, Fayetteville of the approval.

Dr. Terry Martin, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, provided additional information.

Keven Anderson asked if UAF also offers a bachelor's degree for this program. Dr. Martin said they do not.

Anderson said he hopes there is coordination with similar programs between institutions.

Agenda Item No. 16
Doctor of Philosophy in Higher Education
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

The proposed 96 credit hour Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Higher Education degree is designed for individuals with professional experience in higher education who plan to assume major leadership roles or faculty positions in colleges and universities. Within this program, there is flexibility to fashion a program of study tailored to each student's specific career goals. Students may focus on two- or four-year colleges/universities or some other aspect of post-secondary education. The goal of the proposed Ph.D. in Higher Education degree program is designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary to (1) provide effective leadership to institutions of higher education; (2) make evidence-based decisions and solve problems through processes

that recognize a wide variety of environmental factors, constituents, and influences; (3) conduct original research and effectively communicate research findings to diverse audiences; (4) create more diverse and inclusive institutions, programs, and policies; and, (5) respect ideas, perspectives, motivations, and behaviors of students, faculty, and leaders and understand their unique roles and responsibilities within institutions of higher education.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Doctor of Philosophy in Higher Education (CIP 13.0406; 96 credit hours) offered by the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, effective Fall 2021.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Division 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, Fayetteville of the approval.

Dr. Terry Martin provided additional information.

Agenda Item No. 17
Master of Education in Educational Leadership
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

The proposed 36-credit hour Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Educational Leadership is designed to prepare educators in the state of Arkansas with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to promote the success of students and teachers at the building level. The proposed program was designed utilizing national and state standards for administrators and competencies adopted by policymakers in Arkansas to address the needs of students and educators in P-12 settings. Candidates accepted into the proposed program must meet admission requirements (see pages 3 and 4). Field experiences and internships are offered in educational settings under the supervision of a licensed and trained school administrator and a university supervisor. Graduates will be prepared for leadership roles to lead and manage in P-12 schools in Arkansas. Graduates must complete requirements for licensure through the Arkansas Department of Education to work in P-12 settings in Arkansas.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Education in Educational Leadership (CIP 13.0408; 36 credit hours) offered by the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, effective Fall 2020.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Division 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 Pine Bluff of the approval.

Dr. Robert Carr, UAPB Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, provided additional information.

Chair Carr noted that there are already seven programs and questioned if Arkansas needed an eighth program. Robert Carr said the program is needed for the Pine Bluff area.

Agenda Item No. 18
Certificate of Proficiency in Construction Technology and
Technical Certificate in Construction Technology
University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton

The proposed construction technology programs will prepare students for careers in the construction industry. The curriculum will be comprised of a comprehensive sequence of courses that combine theory and practical applications. The proposed program will include courses in applied mathematics, basic hand/electrical tool safety, OSHA regulations, construction fundamentals, carpentry, drywall, masonry, first aid and highway construction that will enable graduates to enter the workplace.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Certificate of Proficiency in Construction Technology (CIP 46.0000; 15 credit hours) and the Technical Certificate in Construction Technology (CIP 46.0000; 30 credit hours) offered by the University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton, effective Spring 2021.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Division 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 Morrilton of the approval.

Lisa Willenberg, UACCM Chancellor, provided additional information.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 19
Institutional Certification Advisory Committee

Initial Program Certification-Distance Technology

RESOLVED, That pursuant to A.C.A. §6-61-301, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants initial certification to the institutions listed on pages 1 - 2 to offer the specified degree programs to Arkansas residents for a period of three years through December 31, 2023.

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 A.C.A. §6-61-301.

Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California
Saybrook University, Pasadena, California
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California
 There were no questions.

Bill Clary moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Items No. 15 - 20 to the full Board for consideration. Andy McNeill 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 20-48 and in the Letters of Intent on pages 21-1 through 21-8 of the agenda book.

There were no questions.

Report of the Committees

Keven Anderson presented the report of the Finance Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 11 – 14. Greg Revels seconded and the board approved.

Lori Griffin presented the report of the Academic Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 15 – 19. Keven Anderson seconded and the board approved.

Remarks by Presidents and Chancellors

Chair Carr announced that due to COVID-19 travel and meeting recommendations, the October 31, 2020 AHECB meeting would be held via Zoom.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

Chris Gilliam, Secretary