

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Regular Quarterly Meeting
August 4, 2006

Minutes of Meeting

The August 4, 2006 regular meeting of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board was held in the Governors Ballroom of Statehouse Hall on the campus of Arkansas Northeastern College. Chairman Kaneaster Hodges called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. with a quorum of Board members present.

Coordinating Board present:

Kaneaster Hodges, Chair
David Leech, Vice Chair
Dr. Lynda Johnson, Secretary
Jodie Carter
David Damron
Phil Ford
Dr. Dan Grant
Bill Johnson
Steve Luelf
Dick Trammel
Dr. Anne Trussell

Coordinating Board absent:

Mark Smith

Department staff present:

Dr. Linda Beene, Director
Dr. Steve Floyd, Deputy Director
Dr. Karen Wheeler, Associate Director of Academic Affairs
Dr. Stanley Williams, Senior Associate Director for Finance
Ron Harrell, Associate Director for Planning and Accountability
Cynthia Moten, Coordinator of Academic Affairs
Dr. Sandy Smith, Coordinator of Academic Affairs
Jeanne Jones, Coordinator of Institutional Certification
Tara Smith, Coordinator of Financial Aid
Monieca West, Coordinator of Federal Programs
Claudia Griffin, Financial Manager
Robin Henson, Communications Officer
Christina Miller, Coordinator of Research and Policy Development
Nichole Abernathy, Administrative Support

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

Chairman Hodges introduced Dr. Robin Myers, President of Arkansas Northeastern College (ANC), for a welcome.

Dr. Myers began by welcoming everyone to ANC's campus and thanked his staff for their hard work in preparation for the meeting. Next, Dr. Myers thanked Bo and Myrna Adams for hosting a reception at their estate for the Coordinating Board members and ADHE staff. He also thanked Nucor-Yamato Steel Mill for providing a tour of their Blytheville plant and for bringing industry to Arkansas. Dr. Myers reported that nearly 5,000 industrial jobs are located in the Delta area and have been a blessing to Arkansas and ANC. He also stated that ANC is committed to bringing the Delta forward and asked Coordinating Board members for their continued support.

Chairman Hodges introduced new Coordinating Board member Steve Luelf of Mountain Home, commenting that he is a wonderful addition to the Higher Education Board. Next, Chairman Hodges introduced Lucretia Norris, the Governor's Policy Advisor for Higher Education; Lori Bowen, Bureau of Legislative Research; Dr. Paul Beran, new Chancellor for the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith; and Dr. Jo Blondin, new Chancellor for Arkansas Tech University's Ozark campus.

Chairman Hodges announced that there would be a public hearing on amendments to rules and regulations of two scholarship programs.

Agenda Item No. 1 Approval of Minutes

David Leech moved to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2006 Special meeting and April 28, 2006 Regular meeting. Dr. Lynda Johnson seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 2 Report of the Director

Chairman Hodges recognized Dr. Linda Beene for her Director's Report. Dr. Beene began by announcing that the Academic Challenge Scholarship program has received six thousand applications. Dr. Beene reported that the Concurrent Enrollment Panel, created by Act 102 of the Second Extraordinary Session of 2003, developed two recommendations. The first recommendation is a proposal for a model in which an Advanced Placement course could be merged with a college concurrent enrollment course and offered as a single course on a high school campus. The second recommendation approved by the panel was to have the Concurrent Enrollment Policy of the AHECB revised to include a requirement that each public college and university offering concurrent

enrollment courses on high school campuses be required to achieve accreditation by the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships by December 31, 2010.

Dr. Beene reported that based on the request of Dr. Les Wyatt, the Arkansas higher education community, is developing a planned response to a catastrophic event that would radically disrupt the operation of an institution or institutions. She expressed appreciation to Cindy Milazzo, Associate Chancellor for Facilities and Services at UALR, who has agreed to serve as the leader of a small working committee composed of volunteers from each institution. Dr. Beene also thanked Dr. Steve Floyd for the many hours he has devoted to this effort.

Dr. Beene discussed the collaboration between the Department of Economic Development and Economic Developers across the state, commenting that it represents hours of work.

Dr. Beene stated that in early May, the Department of Higher Education was asked by the U.S. Department of Education to complete a statewide plan for additional needs based scholarships. Congress then passed the Academic Competitiveness (AC) Grants and National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) Grants as part of the Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2005.

Dr. Beene thanked ADHE staff for their diligent work regarding the Career Pathways Initiative (CPI). The CPI program has enrolled 2,200 students and awarded 519 in its first year. She thanked Ron Harrell, Associate Director for Planning and Accountability, for gathering valuable data for CPI and Harold Criswell, Agency Fiscal Manager, for helping to implement grants to eleven institutions for 5 million dollars. Dr. Beene also thanked Dr. Karen Wheeler, Associate Director for Academic Programs, for over seeing the day-to-day management of CPI.

Next, Dr. Beene discussed the *Key Concepts in the Development of Statewide College Readiness School-Based Standards and Assessments*, by Dr. Dave Spence, new President of the Southern Regional Education Board. Dr. Beene noted that this document is a good outline of the concept of college readiness. She said there would be further discussion on this topic at the Annual Joint Meeting of the State Boards of Education on October 9.

Chairman Hodges thanked Dr. Beene for her Director's Report and commented on her many activities listed on page 2-8 of the Agenda book.

Jodie Carter commented on Dr. Beene's hard work for the state of Arkansas and recommended that she receive further compensation by Legislators.

Report of Committees

Dr. Dan Grant presented the report of the Academic Committee and moved to adopt Agenda Items 3-12 and 27. Dr. Lynda Johnson seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

David Damron presented the report of the Finance Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 13-19. Dick Trammel seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 32
On-Line Education and Distance Learning

Dr. Dan Grant recommended Agenda Item No. 32 to the Full Board. Dr. Grant stated that the dramatic growth in distance education and on-line classes have been the topic of many conversations over the years. At its worst, distance education could depersonalize the education process and weaken education standards in such ways that could result in an educational aggression law, where bad education drives good education out of circulation. Dr. Grant stated that in order to prevent this, the Department of Higher Education needs adequate staffing to be on the cutting edge of this exciting field.

WHEREAS, The remarkable growth of on-line education and distance learning has had many positive results, including increasing the accessibility of higher education in our state and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, A few institutions in our nation's history, offering correspondence courses and degrees that were of questionable quality makes it of great importance in coming months and years for those who provide on-line education and distance learning to be accountable for maintaining standards of academic quality equal to, or higher than, the traditional quality of education;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That as Director Linda Beene develops the Department's appropriation request to the Governor and General Assembly for budget support for the growing work-load of the ADHE staff, at least one additional staff member be requested with special training and expertise in on-line education and distance learning. This person's job description should emphasize promoting the positive dimensions of on-line education and distance learning, as well as on-going research aimed at avoiding the potentially negative dimensions.

Dr. Grant then moved to adopt Agenda Item No. 32. Dr. Lynda Johnson seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 3
Associate Degree in Nursing
Ouachita Technical College

The administration and Board of Trustees of Ouachita Technical College (OTC) request approval to offer the Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN), effective in the spring of 2007. Ouachita Technical College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and the program is within the role and scope established for the institution. The OTC Board approved the proposed program on November 28, 2005, and the Arkansas State Board of Nursing granted initial program approval on May 11, 2006.

The proposed program is designed for licensed practical nurses (LPNs) or licensed psychiatric technician nurses (LPTNs) to complete an Associate Degree in Nursing program leading to licensure as a registered nurse (RN). Students must hold a valid nursing license and complete the 30-credit hour general education core prior to admission to the program. Twenty-five credit hours of nursing theory courses will be offered during evening hours and clinical instruction will take place in local healthcare facilities on alternate weekends. This schedule will allow students to continue working as LPNs/LPTNs while completing the 66-semester credit hour LPN to RN program. The program of study can be completed within a two-year period of full-time study.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Associate Degree in Nursing (CIP 51.1601) at Ouachita Technical College, effective August 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 Ouachita Technical College of this approval.

Agenda Item No. 4
Bachelor of Applied Technology
University of Arkansas at Little Rock

The administration and Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System (UA) request approval for the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) to offer the Bachelor of Applied Technology effective August 2006. UALR is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, and the proposed program is within the institutional role and scope. The UA Board approved the proposal on May 26, 2006.

The Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) is proposed as a degree completion program to assist persons in the workforce in their efforts toward job progression

and career advancement. It is designed specifically to address the advanced education needs of students who hold an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Bachelor of Applied Technology (CIP 30.9999) at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, effective August 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 at Little Rock of the approval.

Dr. Dan Grant asked what the difference is between the Bachelor of Applied Technology and the Bachelor of Applied Science. Dr. Sandy Smith responded that the Bachelor of Applied Technology is built upon a specific set of courses taken towards an associate of applied science degree in a specific area, whereas the Bachelor of Applied Science accepts any associate degree and builds upon that associate degree for a bachelor's degree. The Bachelor of Applied Technology at UALR will accept students holding an AAS who have taken specific courses in manufacturing management or in industrial computing.

Agenda Item No. 5
Associate of Arts Offered by Distance Technology
Arkansas State University—Newport

The administration and the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas State University System (ASU) request approval for Arkansas State University--Newport to offer the existing Associate of Arts (AA) by distance technology, effective fall 2006. The program is consistent with the role and scope of the institution. ASU-Newport is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. An accreditation visit is scheduled for November 6-8, 2006, and will include an initial evaluation of the distance technology degree program. The ASU Board approved the proposed program on May 13, 2006.

The proposed 62-semester credit hour Associate of Arts degree is designed for transfer and includes a 44-semester hour core of general education courses. With the exception of one course, all courses required for the degree are currently offered online. The science laboratories will be scheduled on campus once a month. However, the chemistry laboratory will be offered online in the near future. The online courses will follow the best practices for electronically offered degree and certificate program guidelines of the Higher Learning Commission and the WebCT course rubric.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the offering of the Associate of Arts by distance technology (CIP 24.0101) at Arkansas State University--Newport, effective August 2006.

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 Arkansas State University System, and the Chancellor of Arkansas State University--Newport of the approval.

Agenda Item No. 6
Master of Arts in Teaching
University of Central Arkansas

The administration and the Board of Trustees of the University of Central Arkansas (UCA) request approval to offer the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) on campus and at Mid-South Community College (MSCC). UCA is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and the proposed program is within the role and scope of the institution. The UCA Board of Trustees approved the proposal on May 5, 2006. The Arkansas Department of Education also has approved the proposal for meeting teacher licensure requirements in Arkansas.

The proposed Master of Arts in Teaching has been developed for individuals who hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution and who wish to pursue a career in teaching but do not have the requirements for licensure in Arkansas. The program has been designed so that the candidate does not have to be employed as a teacher to meet the criteria for non-traditional licensure.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Arts in Teaching (CIP 13.1299) at the University of Central Arkansas and off-campus at Mid-South Community College, effective August 2006.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 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 Central Arkansas, and the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Mid-South Community College of the approval.

Agenda Item No. 7
Master of Science in Health Sciences
University of Arkansas at Little Rock

The administration and Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System (UA) request approval for the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) to offer the Master of Science in health sciences, effective August 2006. UALR is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and the proposed program is within the institutional role and scope. The UA Board approved the proposal on May 26, 2006.

The proposed master's degree program will provide health services personnel the opportunity to obtain advanced educational credentials and employment in community health education, fitness and wellness, exercise science, and sports administration and management. The 36-semester credit hour program will be offered on an evening and weekend schedule that will allow students to continue their employment. Students will complete courses in health education concepts, health program evaluation, and research methods and statistics. Specialty courses will cover topics in exercise physiology, motor learning, sports administration, sport law and ethics, and event management. A thesis or applied research project on health education and intervention or program operation and management will be required.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Science in health sciences (CIP 51.0000) at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, effective August 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 at Little Rock of the approval.

Agenda Item No. 8
Associate of Applied Science in Applied Engineering Technology
Technical Certificate in Engineering Design Technology
East Arkansas Community College

The administration and Board of Trustees of East Arkansas Community College (EACC) request approval to offer the Technical Certificate in engineering design technology and Associate of Applied Science in applied engineering technology. EACC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The proposed programs

are within the institutional role and scope. The EACC Board approved the proposal on May 11, 2006.

The 42-semester credit hour Technical Certificate in engineering design technology will provide an introduction to the field of engineering, encompassing both engineering and design processes. Students will gain skills in basic engineering, electrical and electronic technology, and computer-aided drafting, along with mathematics and communications.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Technical Certificate in engineering design technology and the Associate of Applied Science in applied engineering technology (CIP 15.0000) at East Arkansas Community College, effective August 2006.

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 East Arkansas Community College of the approval.

Dr. Grant asked how many hours are required for this degree. Cynthia Moten responded that 64 hours are required.

Agenda Item No. 9
Technical Certificate in Pharmacy Technician
Certificate of Proficiency in Pharmacy Technician
Arkansas State University—Beebe

The administration and Board of Trustees of the Arkansas State University System (ASU) request approval to offer the Certificate of Proficiency and Technical Certificate in pharmacy technician at Arkansas State University--Beebe. ASU-Beebe is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The proposed program is within the institutional role and scope. The ASU Board approved the proposal on February 24, 2006.

The Certificate of Proficiency in pharmacy technician will consist of 16 semester credit hours of coursework covering pharmacy fundamentals, medical and drug terminology, pharmacy mathematics, pharmacy law, and pharmacology. The curriculum will prepare the student to work in an entry-level position at an institutional or retail pharmacy under the direct supervision of a pharmacist.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Certificate of Proficiency and the Technical

Certificate in pharmacy technician (CIP 51.0805) at Arkansas State University--Beebe, effective August 2006.

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 Arkansas State University System, and the Chancellor of Arkansas State University--Beebe of the approval.

Dr. Grant questioned the amount of profit listed for this program. Dr. Gene McKay, Chancellor of ASU-Beebe, commented that the numbers are based on assumptions. However, he assured the Board that they do have enough resources to fund the project.

Agenda Item No. 10
Associate of Applied Science in Hospitality Administration
National Park Community College

The administration and Board of Trustees of National Park Community College (NPCC) request approval to offer the Associate of Applied Science in hospitality administration, effective August 2006. NPCC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The proposed program is within the institutional role and scope. The NPCC Board approved the proposal on June 28, 2006.

The proposed associate degree in hospitality administration will build on the Certificate of Proficiency (18 semester credit hours) in hospitality administration which has been offered at NPCC since 1998 and the Technical Certificate (30 semester credit hours) which was initiated in 2001. The associate degree will require an additional 9 hours in the hospitality core, 15 hours of general education, and 6 hours in graphic design for a total of 60 semester credit hours. Five new elective courses with content covering recreation, tourism, safety and first aid, programs and special events, leadership, and marketing have been added to the curriculum. An internship also will be required.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Associate of Applied Science in hospitality administration (CIP 52.0901) to be offered at National Park Community College, effective August 2006.

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 National Park Community College of the approval.

Dr. Grant questioned if the two programs listed in Agenda Item No. 10 and 11 are the same program. Monieca West commented that they are similar. However, the Associate of Applied Science in Hospitality Administration from National Park Community College builds upon an existing program. She noted that they do have a difference in the number of electives required.

Agenda Item No. 11
Associate of Applied Science in Hospitality Administration
Technical Certificate in Hospitality Administration
Arkansas State University—Beebe

The administration and Board of Trustees of the Arkansas State University System (ASU) request approval to offer the Technical Certificate and Associate of Applied Science in hospitality administration at Arkansas State University--Beebe. ASU--Beebe is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The proposed programs are within the institutional role and scope. The ASU Board approved the proposal on February 25, 2006.

The proposed Technical Certificate is comprised of 21 hours of hospitality administration courses, 9 hours of business courses, and one course each in communications and technical mathematics for a total of 36 semester credit hours. The proposed associate degree adds two business courses and 25 general education hours to the technical certificate requirements for a total of 61 semester credit hours. The three-semester credit hour internship will require students to spend a minimum of 135 clock hours on site at a hospitality-based business to gain experience in the industry. Required general education courses are available online and on-site at both the Beebe and Searcy campuses. All hospitality administration courses will be offered on both campuses except for the food preparation course, which will be taught on the Heber Springs campus in the food services lab. The curriculum was developed in collaboration with Arkansas Tech University and is designed for transfer to the bachelor's degree in hospitality administration.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Technical Certificate and Associate of Applied Science in hospitality administration (CIP 52.0901) at Arkansas State University--Beebe, effective August 2006.

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 Arkansas State University System, and the Chancellor of Arkansas State University--Beebe of the approval.

Agenda Item No. 12
Institutional Certification Advisory
Committee Resolutions

The Institutional Certification Advisory Committee (ICAC) met on July 11, 2006. The following resolutions are presented for Coordinating Board consideration.

Program Decertification

**Webster University, Fayetteville, Arkansas
Decertification**

RESOLVED, That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board decertifies the Master of Arts in Computer Resources and Information Management offered by Webster University-Fayetteville. The decertification is effective August 4, 2006.

**Webster University, Fort Smith, Arkansas
Decertification**

RESOLVED, That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board decertifies the Master of Arts in Computer Resources and Information Management offered by Webster University-Fort Smith. The decertification is effective August 4, 2006.

**Webster University, Little Rock Air Force Base (LRAFB), Jacksonville, Arkansas
Decertification**

RESOLVED, That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board decertifies the Master of Arts in Computer Resources and Information Management offered by Webster University-LRAFB. The decertification is effective August 4, 2006.

Program Certification

**Capella University, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Initial Certification**

RESOLVED: That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants initial program certification to Capella University to offer the Bachelor of Science in Information Technology with specialization in information security and assurance. The certification is for a period of three years and expires August 4, 2009.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to notify the administration of Capella University that the initial certification of this degree program 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 Capella University 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.

Saint Joseph's College, Standish, Maine Recertification

RESOLVED: That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants program recertification to Saint Joseph's College to offer the following degree programs: Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Science, Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN), Master of Science in Nursing (RN to MSN), Master of Science in Nursing, and Master of Health Services Administration. The recertification is for a period of two years and expires August 4, 2008.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to notify the administration of Saint Joseph's College that the recertification of these 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 program in Arkansas.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director to notify the administration of Saint Joseph's 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:

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.

**Webster University, Fayetteville, Arkansas
Initial Certification**

RESOLVED, The Coordinating Board grants initial program certification to Webster University-Fayetteville to offer the Master of Arts in Information Technology Management degree program. The certification is for a period of two years and expires August 4, 2008.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to notify the administration of Webster University-Fayetteville that the certification of this degree program 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 the Webster University-Fayetteville 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.

**Webster University, Fort Smith, Arkansas
Initial Certification**

RESOLVED, The Coordinating Board grants initial program certification to Webster University-Fort Smith to offer the Master of Arts in Information Technology Management degree program. The certification is for a period of two years and expires August 4, 2008.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to notify the administration of Webster University-Fort Smith that the certification of this degree program 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 the Webster University-Fort Smith 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.

Webster University, Little Rock, Arkansas Recertification

RESOLVED, The Coordinating Board grants program recertification to Webster University-Little Rock to offer the following degree programs: Master of Arts in Business and Organizational Security Management, Master of Arts in International Business, Master of Arts in Management and Leadership, Master of Arts in Marketing, Master of Arts in Media Communications, Master of Business Administration, Master of Health Administration, Master of Science in Environmental Management, Master of Science in Finance. The certification is for a period of four years and expires August 4, 2010.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to notify the administration of Webster University-Little Rock that the certification of these 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 program in Arkansas.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director to notify the administration of the Webster University-Little Rock 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.

**Webster University, LRAFB, Jacksonville, Arkansas
Initial Certification**

Recertification

RESOLVED, That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants program recertification to Webster University-LRAFB to offer the following degree programs: Master of Business Administration, Master of Arts in Human Resources Development, and Master of Arts in Public Administration. The recertification is for a period of four years and expires August 4, 2010.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board grants initial program certification to Webster University-LRAFB to offer the Master of Arts in Information Technology Management degree program. The certification is for a period of four years and expires August 4, 2010.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to notify the administration of Webster University-LRAFB that the certification and recertification of these 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 program in Arkansas.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director to notify the administration of the Webster University-LRAFB 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.

The Institutional Certification Advisory Committee (ICAC) Report begins on page 12-7 of the Agenda book.

Jeanne Jones made a correction to the degree titles on pages 12-3, 12-4, and 12-5 for Webster University. She noted that the title should read Information Technology Management instead of Information Technology and Management.

Jodie Carter moved to recommend Agenda Items No. 3-12 to the Full Board for consideration. Dr. Lynda Johnson seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

David Damron welcomed new Finance Committee member, Steve Luelf.

Agenda Item No. 13
Economic Feasibility of Bond Issue
Pulaski Technical College

Pulaski Technical College (PTC) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds totaling \$15 million with a term of up to 30 years at an estimated annual interest rate of 4.7 percent. Proceeds from the bond issue will be used for educational & general (E&G) purposes. The Pulaski Technical College Board of Trustees approved this action at its meeting on June 12, 2006.

The E&G issue will be approximately \$15 million with annual debt service of \$948,000. Proceeds from the issue will be used to reconstruct the Transportation Technology Center as well as various other renovation projects. 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.

Educational and General Portion

Budgeted 2006-07 Tuition and Fee Revenue.....	\$16,731,732
Maximum Allowable Debt Service	
(\$16,731,732 x 25%).....	\$4,182,933
Existing Debt Service.....	\$2,375,392
Estimated Debt Service for Proposed Issue.....	\$948,000
Tuition and Fee Revenue Remaining for	
Additional Debt Service.....	\$859,541

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for Pulaski Technical College (PTC) to issue bonds not to exceed \$15 million for a period of 30 years at an estimated annual interest rate of 4.7 percent as

requested by the institution for reconstruction of the Technology Transportation Center and other renovation projects.

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

Dr. Dan Bakke, President of PTC, stated that the bond issue would be used to reconstruct the much needed Transportation Technology Center.

Dick Trammel moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 13 to the Full Board for consideration. Dr. Anne Trussell seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 14
Economic Feasibility of Bond Issue
University of Arkansas at Fort Smith

The University of Arkansas at Fort Smith (UAFS) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds totaling \$6.16 million with a term of 25 years at an estimated annual interest rate of approximately 5.5% for auxiliary purposes. Proceeds from the bond issue will be used for the construction of a 180-bed student apartment complex. The University of Arkansas Board of Trustees approved this action at its meeting held on January 26, 2006.

The auxiliary issue will be approximately \$6.16 million with annual debt service of \$470,000. 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.

Relevant data follows:

Projected Net Auxiliary Revenues.....	\$2,325,250
Maximum Annual Debt Service (\$2,325,250/120%).....	1,937,708
Existing Debt Service.....	851,290
Estimated Debt Service for Proposed Bond Issues.....	470,000
Net Auxiliary Revenue Remaining for Additional Debt Service.....	\$616,418

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith (UAFS) to issue bonds not to exceed \$6.16 million for a period of up to 25 years at an estimated annual interest

rate of approximately 5.5% for auxiliary purposes as requested by UAFS for the construction of an apartment complex.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to notify the President of the University of Arkansas System and the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

Dick Trammel questioned if the student apartment complex would be located on campus and when it would be complete. Mark Whorten of UAFS commented that the complex would be located on campus and completed by fall of 2007.

Dick Trammel moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 14 to the Full Board for consideration. Steve Luelf seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 15
Personal Services Recommendations For
Non-Classified Personnel 2007-09 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 number of positions, titles, and line-item maximum salaries for all non-classified administrative, academic, and auxiliary positions at each Arkansas public institution of higher education have been reviewed, and changes are recommended.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the recommended number of positions, titles, and maximum salaries for non-classified positions in academic, administrative, and auxiliary positions for the 2007-09 biennium as recommended by staff.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department 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 2007-09 biennium.

Bill Johnson questioned whether enrollment determined the SREB 5 to SREB 4 classification. Claudia Griffin responded that it is part of the determining process.

Dr. Beene commented that Agenda Item No. 15 represents a year's worth of work for the institutions of higher education and ADHE staff. Dick Trammel questioned if the salary recommendations for two-year institutions and that of ADHE staff are comparable to that of the surrounding areas in Arkansas or other states. Dr. Beene responded that they are not. She stated that there is a concern for the salaries of many of the campus leaders and staff. She said statute requires the salaries of ADHE staff be the same as campus salaries. She noted that there is a serious disparity between salaries in our state.

Bill Johnson moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 15 to the Full Board for consideration. Dick Trammel seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 16
Recommendations For Education and General Operations
State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education
2007-09 Biennium

A.C.A. §6-61-223 establishes the process and key components for formula development for funding public institutions of higher education. That language reads as follows:

“(a) The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board will work with the state college and university Presidents Council to review, revise, and develop funding formulas which will, in principle, seek to provide fair and equitable state support to all postsecondary students across the state, regardless of the state institution attended, while at the same time recognizing: (1) The different needs for lower level, upper level, and graduate level instruction at the various institutions; (2) The requirements for specialized equipment, labs and smaller class sizes in some disciplines; and (3) Unique missions, such as agricultural extension services, research, medical sciences, workforce development, and public service; and (4) Growth, economies of scale, and other appropriate factors. (b) The formulas will be developed in consensus with the state college and university president’s council and presented to the Joint Budget Committee for review.”

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 2007-09 biennium as included in Tables 16-A, 16-B, 16-C and 16-D.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to prepare appropriate documents for transmission to the Governor and the General Assembly of the 2007-09 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 Department of Higher Education is authorized to make appropriate corrections consistent with the policy established by the Board's action on these recommendations.

Steve Luelf asked if the Department of Higher Education recommends any guidelines for this recommendation. Dr. Stanley Williams responded that we do.

Chairman Hodges commented that a fractured higher education system loses across the board. He stated that we have to remain united to ultimately gain success.

Dick Trammel moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 16 to the Full Board for consideration. Dr. Anne Trussell seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 17
 Recommendations for State Funding
 of Capital Projects 2007-09 Biennium

From a total of \$108 million appropriated, the 2005 85th General Assembly allocated \$13 million for distribution from the General Improvement Fund (GIF) for various capital projects at institutions of higher education. To date, 100 percent of the allocation has been released to institutions from the GIF for higher education projects. However, the amount of funding available from the GIF has steadily decreased over the last two biennia. For the 2003-05 biennium, \$14 million was distributed for capital projects, which was down from the 2001-03 biennium when \$21.7 million was distributed for capital projects.

<u>Project Category</u>	<u>Recommendations</u>
Renovation, Construction and Technology Infrastructure	\$285,158,766
Category A	268,883,766
Category B	16,275,000

National LambdaRail/e-Corridor	15,945,000
Critical Maintenance/Equipment/Library	16,975,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$318,078,766

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the staff recommendations for state funding of capital projects totaling \$318.1 million as identified in the accompanying agenda materials.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director is authorized to transmit to the Governor and the General Assembly the Board's recommendation for state funding.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director is authorized to make such technical adjustments to these recommendations as may be required.

David Leech asked where the department of higher education is in terms of bringing the bond issue back before voters. Dr. Beene stated that Dr. Alan Sugg and President Lu Hardin are leading that drive.

Dr. Anne Trussell moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 17 to the Full Board for consideration. Dick Trammel seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 18
Anticipated Graduation Rate Model

Act 1974 of 2005 requires that the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approve the distribution of an incentive pool of \$1 million for 2007-08. The distribution is to be based upon three factors. Those factors are improvement in the annual graduation rate, exceeding the anticipated graduation rate as determined by a regression model, and improvement in retention rates.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the recommended distribution of incentive funding for the 2007-08 fiscal year.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves a 2008-09 incentive pool of \$2 million to be distributed in the same manner using the latest graduation and retention data.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to seek funding and

appropriation from the General Assembly to be appropriated to the Department for these incentive funds.

David Damron asked Dr. Williams if students that graduate within four years were counted. Dr. Williams commented that they are still counted.

Dick Trammel moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 18 to the Full Board for consideration. Bill Johnson seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 19
Certification of Intercollegiate Athletic
Revenues and Expenditures for 2006-07

A.C.A. §6-62-805 (Act 366 of 1991) requires each public 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.

Institutions with intercollegiate athletic programs, submitted to ADHE Form 21-2, "Certification of Budgeted Athletic Revenues and Expenditures" and proper supporting documentation. ADHE finance staff verified that the athletic data submitted by the institutions matched the overall 2006-07 institutional operating budgets.

Other than the educational and general transfer, the use of auxiliary profits is the most sensitive source of income for financing athletic budgets. Other auxiliary profits are included as a revenue source for intercollegiate athletic programs; however, the use of auxiliary funds to support intercollegiate athletic programs should not undermine sound fiscal management of those auxiliary enterprises.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board accepts the Certification of Intercollegiate Athletic Revenues and Expenditures Budgeted for 2006-07 as prepared in accordance with Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board uniform accounting standards and definitions for athletic reporting.

Dick Trammel moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 19 to the Full Board for consideration. David Leech seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Phil Ford expressed concern regarding the Delta area's need for more baccalaureate degrees. He stated that he would like to see a strategic model that other counties could follow. Dr. Lynda Johnson commented that the recruitment effort is there. However, more cooperation is needed between the Department of Education and Higher Education. Chairman

Hodges commented that the effort should extend beyond the Delta to other areas as well. Jodie Carter commented that maybe the colleges and universities need to reach out to the people in an attempt to make them feel like a part of the community.

Dr. Wyatt, President of Arkansas State University, commented that ASU-J graduates more teachers than any institution in the state. He asked the Coordinating Board to find a way through the formula to help with the state's teacher shortage problem.

Dr. Grant stated that a thorough discussion was needed before going to Legislators regarding this issue.

Public Hearing

Chairman Hodges declared the meeting a public hearing for the review of rules and regulation changes to the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship program and the Arkansas Workforce Improvement Grant. He called on Tara Smith to present the information.

Agenda Item No. 20 Revised Rules and Regulations Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program

This agenda item presents the revised rules and regulations for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program. The amendment to the rules and regulations of the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program will clarify the academic requirement for the Natural Science core course requirements to include two units with laboratories, as follows: one unit of Biology AND one unit of Chemistry OR Physics (Applied Biology/Chemistry [two-year program] may be substituted for Biology. Principles of Technology I and II [two-year program] may be substituted for Physics). High school graduates in 2002 and beyond will be required to have an additional unit of science. The third unit may be any natural science, including Physical Science, with a lab.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the rules and regulations presented in this agenda item for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program administered by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That by the adoption of these rules and regulations presented in this agenda item, the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education or her designee is authorized to promulgate these rules and regulations and to implement them for the 2006-07 academic year.

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 program rules for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program.

No public comments were received on this item.

David Leech moved to approve Agenda Item No. 20. Jodie Carter seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 21
Revised Rules and Regulations
Arkansas Workforce Improvement Grant

This agenda item presents revisions to the rules and regulations of the Arkansas Workforce Improvement Grant. The amendments to the rules and regulations of the Workforce Improvement Grant Program includes a definition of mandatory fees, which consist of fees required for academic courses, and to change the institution reporting requirements and funds disbursement procedures. The new procedures would have schools report students each semester and funds would be disbursed after schools report for the term.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the rules and regulations presented in this agenda item for the Arkansas Workforce Improvement Grant Program, to be administered jointly by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education and approved Arkansas Institutions of Higher Education

FURTHER RESOLVED, That, by the adoption of these rules and regulations presented in this agenda item, the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education or her designee is authorized to promulgate these rules and regulations and to implement them for the 2006-07 academic year.

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 program rules for the Arkansas Workforce Improvement Grant Program.

Dr. Lynda Johnson asked how ADHE is getting the word out about the Workforce Improvement Grant. Tara Smith responded that the individual institutions are currently implementing their own advertisements. However, a statewide public announcement is in the works. Dr. Beene added that this is the only scholarship

program in the nation for adults. She noted that with the help of Senator Broadway and others, this program has increased from \$500,000 to \$3.7 million in a year's time. She said this program is a significant resource for the campuses to use to promote and attract adults.

No public comments were received on this item.

Dick Trammel moved to approve Agenda Item No. 21. Dr. Anne Trussell seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 22
Amendment of Arkansas Higher Education
Coordinating Board By-Laws

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board ("Coordinating Board") is charged by state law to coordinate higher education in Arkansas and to assure an orderly and effective development of each of the publicly supported institutions of higher education.

The following amendment is recommended to the by-laws in this agenda item for adoption to allow the Coordinating Board Chair to count in the quorum and voting. This will allow the Board to discharge its responsibilities in a more effective manner.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the by-law amendment presented in this agenda item for the operation of the Coordinating Board.

Dan Grant moved to approve Agenda Item No. 22. Dr. Lynda Johnson seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 23
Report on 2005 College-Going Rate

Ron Harrell presented the report on 2005 college-going rate. The college-going rate measures the proportion of college students enrolling in postsecondary education in the fall semester after finishing high school, in most cases, immediately after high school. Current data are based on the fall 2005 student cohort that enrolled first-time, full-time, and on-campus attending an Arkansas public or independent institution after completing high school or a GED. Since most college students that ever enroll in college do so immediately after completing high school, the percentage of high school graduates making the transition from high school to college is an indicator of the total proportion that will ever enroll in post-secondary education. The percentage, therefore, reflects

the accessibility of higher education as well as students' assessment of the value of attending college when compared to working, entering the military, traveling, or following other pursuits.

Dr. Grant commented that he is glad to see that Arkansas is closing the gap on the national College-Going Rate.

Chairman Hodges commented that this is a significant achievement for Arkansas.

Agenda Item No. 24
Degrees and Certificates Awarded by Arkansas'
Public Colleges and Universities From 1995-2005

Ron Harrell presented a report on the number of degrees awarded from 1995 through 2005. Annually, the Department of Higher Education publishes a detailed report on the number of degrees and certificates awarded on the agency's Web site.

Chairman Hodges commented on the median earnings based on the level of education a person has achieved. He noted that there has been more than a 50 percent increase in earnings over the last 20 years.

Agenda Item No. 25
The Secretary of Education's Commission
on the Future of Higher Education

Christina Miller presented information on the U.S. Secretary of Education's national Commission on the Future of Higher Education. The Commission is charged with developing a comprehensive national strategy for postsecondary education that will meet the needs of America's diverse population and also address the economic and workforce needs of the country's future. The four areas of focus include access, accountability, affordability, and quality. A written report with specific findings and recommendations was due to Secretary Spellings by August 1, 2006.

The entire first draft of the report and more information about the Commission, its meetings, and issue papers can be found on the Commission's website at <http://www.ed.gov/about/bdscomm/list/hiedfuture/index.html>.

Dr. Beene added that Arkansas has been noticed nationally for its efforts.

Agenda Item No. 26
Report on Annual Review of Faculty Performance

Arkansas Code Annotated §6-63-104 and Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (Board) policy 5.05.1 requires that each college and university conduct an annual performance review of faculty members. Pursuant to this statute, Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) staff is required to monitor the faculty evaluation processes adopted at public institutions, and make a report to the Coordinating Board and Legislative Council each year. Each institution must have on file with ADHE a plan detailing the procedures for faculty evaluation at each institution. Significant amendments to these plans are to be submitted for Board approval.

Monieca West commented that this report is used for decisions on salary treatment and job retention.

Agenda Item No. 27
Approval of Revisions – Faculty Evaluation Plans
Pulaski Technical College, South Arkansas Community College
University of Arkansas at Fort Smith

A.C.A. §6-61-219 requires an annual performance review of all faculty members at public colleges and universities conducted in accordance with a faculty evaluation plan approved by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board. All institutions have had their plans approved. If faculty evaluation plans are significantly changed, they are to be submitted for Board approval.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the faculty evaluation plan for Pulaski Technical College, South Arkansas Community College, and the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith.

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 Pulaski Technical College; the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of South Arkansas Community College; and 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.

Jodie Carter asked if the research was conducted by the institutions, and if so, what was the process. Monieca West explained that South Arkansas Community College and the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith conducted their own research. Pulaski Technical College, however, used an outside nationally recognized consultant because of the scope of the revisions they were making.

Dr. Lynda Johnson moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 27 to the Full Board for consideration. Phil Ford seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Chairman Hodges introduced Senator Bryles who helped sponsor Agenda Item No. 18. Senator Bryles began by welcoming everyone to Arkansas Northeastern College and commented on how the institution has grown since he attended years ago. Senator Bryles commented that Arkansas has the most under educated adult workforce. He noted that while it's not because of a lack of effort, Arkansas still has to do more.

Agenda Item No. 28 and 29 Letters of Notification and Letters of Intent

The Department of Higher Education received notice from institutions on programs not requiring Board approval including 24 new certificate programs, 11 new program options, 6 program name changes, 1 new location for existing program, 10 existing degrees offered by distance technology, 2 reconfigurations of existing degrees, 1 consolidation of existing degrees, 2 program reactivations, 3 new organizational units, 1 academic reorganization, 4 unit name changes, 16 inactive programs, 9 deleted certificate and degree programs, and 4 deleted program options.

Notification of items requiring Board approval included 3 certificate programs, 3 associate degrees, 1 bachelor's degree, 5 master's degrees, and 2 doctoral degrees.

During this period, the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee received notice of requests for initial certification of 45 degrees and 15 program options. The complete list of these notices appear in the letters of Notification on page 28-1 through 28-8 and in the Letters of Intent on pages 29-1 through 29-4 of the agenda book.

Agenda Item No. 30 Report of Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee (Chair Dick Trammel, Jodie Carter, and Phil Ford) presented a recommendation on the slate of Board officers for 2006-07.

Committee Chair Dick Trammel moved that the slate of Board officers for 2006-07 remain the same as the slate of Board officers for 2005-06; David Damron as the Finance Committee Chair, Dr. Dan Grant as the Academic Committee Chair,

Dr. Lynda Johnson as Secretary, David Leech as Vice Chair, and Kaneaster Hodges as Chair. David Leech seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Next, Chairman Hodges stated that in order to maintain the support for higher education we currently have and engender even greater support for the board's recommendation for operating and capital funds as well as bond funds, we need to present and get support for a Public Agenda for Higher Education. He noted that the state of Kentucky has developed such an agenda and gained buy-in from all their constituency groups and strong support from their Governor and legislature for such a document. Chairman Hodges then announced that he would like to call a group to work on this document including the Executive Committee of the Higher Education Coordinating Board (Chairman Hodges, Vice-Chair David Leech, and Secretary Lynda Johnson) with Dick Trammel serving as Member at Large, and a committee of Presidents/Chancellors including Dr. Alan Sugg, Dr. David Rankin, Dr. Les Wyatt, President Lu Hardin, Dr. Larry Williams, Dr. Becky Paneitz, Dr. Coy Grace, and Dr. Chuck Welch.

Dick Trammel commented that this is a very positive move for higher education. Chairman Hodges moved to begin work on a Public Agenda for Higher Education. David Leech seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Chairman Hodges opened the floor for public comments, which were none.

Steve Luelf reported on the National Education Policy meeting of the Education Commission of the States in Minneapolis. He stated that the theme of the conference speakers was *Alarm: As a Country We Are Failing in Education*. Steve Luelf commented that there was a lot of reference to Thomas Friedman's book, *The World is Flat*. Teacher shortage and alternative certification were also among the items of discussion.

Dick Trammel complimented ASU-Beebe for having the only Physician Assistant program in the state.

Chairman Hodges announced that Dr. Robert Brown and Arkansas Tech University in Russellville will host the next Coordinating Board meeting on October 27.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

Dr. Lynda Johnson, Secretary