

**ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD  
Regular Quarterly Meeting  
October 28, 2016**

**Minutes of Meeting**

The October 28, 2016, regular meeting of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) was held at the Arkansas Department of Higher Education in Little Rock. Chairman Crafton called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with all members present.

Coordinating Board present:

Bob Crafton, Chair  
Sherrel Johnson, Vice Chair  
Chris Gilliam, Secretary  
Dr. Charles Allen  
Dr. Jim Carr  
Dr. Olin Cook  
Florine Milligan  
Ben Pickard  
Greg Revels  
Sam Sicard  
Dr. Michael Stanton  
Jim von Grep

Coordinating Board absent:

Department staff present:

Dr. Maria Markham, Director  
Ann Clemmer, Senior Associate Director for Academic Affairs  
Tara Smith, Senior Associate Director for Institutional Finance  
Dr. Marla Strecker, Senior Associate Director for Research and Analytics  
Harold Criswell, Senior Associate Director of Administration and Finance  
Lillian Williams, Program Specialist for Academic Affairs  
Jeanne Jones, Program Specialist for Academic Affairs  
Alana Boles, Program Specialist for Academic Affairs  
Angela Lasiter, Program Specialist for Academic Affairs  
Chandra Robinson, Program Coordinator for Institutional Finance  
Jake Eddington, Program Specialist for Institutional Finance  
Phylesia Davis, Senior Project Manager for Research and Analytics  
Nichole Abernathy, Executive Assistant

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

Chairman Bob Crafton began by thanking everyone for coming and welcoming them to the Coordinating Board Meeting. He then led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Chairman Crafton welcomed Edwina Mosby, a first-year doctoral student from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and an instructor of English at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Mosby is writing a paper on the issues and challenges of two-year colleges. Her paper will be complete on December 5, 2016.

Agenda Item No. 1  
Approval of Minutes

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

Agenda Item No. 2  
Appointment of Nominating Committee

Chairman Bob Crafton appointed members of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board nominating committee. The nominating committee will recommend Board officers for 2017-18 at the January 27, 2017 meeting. The members included: Dr. Jim Carr (Chair), Sam Sicard and Dr. Michael Stanton. Florine Milligan moved to approve Agenda Item No. 2. Sherrel Johnson seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 3  
2017 Coordinating Board Meeting Schedule

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board agrees to the following dates for regular quarterly meetings during 2017: January 27, April 21, July 28, and October 27.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Board expresses its appreciation and accepts the invitations to meet in January at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, in April at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, in July at Cossatot Community College of the U of A in De Queen and in October at Arkansas State University in Mountain Home.

Florine Milligan moved to approve Agenda Item No. 3. Chris Gilliam seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 4  
Director's Report

*Board Policy*

We've become aware that the board policy is very lengthy and redundant in areas, said Director Markham. Therefore, Ann Clemmer has begun the process of reviewing policies. We will be bringing policy changes before the board. However, for the most part, most of it will consist of eliminating duplication and inconsistencies - cleanup work.

*15 to Finish*

Arkansas recently applied to participate in the 15 to Finish Initiative which is calling on state higher education and university leaders to recognize that "full-time" should mean students take 15 credits per semester or 30 credits per year, and, with few exceptions, degree requirements should be limited to 120 credits for bachelor's degrees and 60 credits for associate degrees. Students regularly and often unknowingly opt for credit loads that put them on five and six year plans, said Markham.

Chris Gilliam asked if this was a nation-wide initiative. Dr. Markham said it is.

*ACTS Course Review*

The Arkansas Course Transfer System (ACTS) contains information about the transferability of courses within Arkansas public colleges and universities and the system has not been reviewed for several years, said Markham. ADHE will begin reviewing the syllabi for math courses to ensure that students aren't losing any credits when they transfer.

*Leadership Changes*

Dr. Doug Whitlock, current President Emeritus of Eastern Kentucky University, was named as Interim Chancellor of Arkansas State University. Whitlock started September 12. Whitlock served as president of Eastern Kentucky for six years until he retired in 2013. He has spent 45 years in higher education.

Dr. Zulma Toro has been named president of Central Connecticut State University. Dr. Toro served as the University of Arkansas at Little Rock provost and executive vice chancellor for almost four years. Toro begins her new position January 3.

*Agency Announcements*

Alana Boles has been selected as Chair of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) Steering Committee. SARA is an agreement among member states, districts and territories that establishes comparable national standards for interstate offering of postsecondary distance education courses and programs. It is

intended to make it easier for students to take online courses offered by postsecondary institutions based in another state.

Sherrel Johnson requested a report on recent ADHE staff changes.

### *Funding Workgroup*

The funding workgroup continues to meet monthly at ADHE. They are thoughtfully and analytically putting the formula together to make sure that we get the results that drive us towards our strategic goals, said Markham.

Markham explained that a group of five higher education representatives attended the Lumina conference where they heard best practices from other states.

The Workforce Advisory Group recently met for the first time and they will look at ways to measure productivity of non-credit workforce and industry training, said Markham. The group which has representation from every institution, will continue to meet and make recommendations to the funding workgroup.

On October 31, there will be a press conference at the Capitol. The Governor will make announcements regarding his support for higher education funding and the work that we are doing, said Markham.

### *Director Campus Visits*

Director Markham stated that she has had the pleasure of visiting 35 campuses since she became director of ADHE. The visits have given me the opportunity to see the wonderful things that we are doing in Arkansas, said Markham. We have a tremendous amount of diversity as far as programming and our student population. I'm excited that some of these institutions will host our AHECB meetings next year, said Markham. She closed by thanking all of the institutions for welcoming her to their campuses.

## Agenda Item No. 5 Review of Audit Report

In accordance with A.C.A. §10-4-418, Dr. Markham presented the 2016 ADHE audit findings to the Coordinating Board. She noted that the audit found that during fiscal years 2009 - 2014, an employee diverted \$67,893 from the agency into their personal bank account. The auditors recommended the financial accounting duties related to initiating, disbursing, and recording transactions within the agency be segregated to the fullest extent possible. Markham noted around March of 2014, ADHE was able to reorganize the finance department. It was at this time that many new procedures were put into place to further segregate duties.

Ben Pickard said he didn't think anyone should hold ADHE staff or administration at fault. These things are going to happen.

Agenda Item No. 6  
Report on Academic Program Deletions

Phylesia Davis provided detailed information about program deletions during the 2015-16 academic year. She summarized the number of program deletions for the academic year by level of program and by level of institution.

Greg Revels said there is a need for new programs; however, there are costs associated with new programs. He then encouraged institutions to ensure the viability of their new programs.

Sherrel Johnson said that because two-year institutions meet the direct needs of employers, once the certificates have reached the saturation point, the programs are then deleted.

Agenda Item No. 7  
Annual Report on Institutional Certification

Alana Boles presented an update on the number of Arkansas residents pursuing academic degrees offered by out-of-state and for-profit institutions certified to operate in Arkansas under Arkansas Code Annotated §6-61-301.

Boles reported that in 2015-16, 12 Arkansas campuses, 61 institutions with programs delivered only through distance technology, 11 institutions offering programs both on Arkansas campuses and delivered through distance technology and 1 institution offering programs only on an Arkansas campus, were certified under ICAC rules.

Sherrel Johnson asked if the University of Arkansas System eVersity was a member of SARA. Dr. Michael Moore, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at eVersity, said they are currently being accredited, therefore, they cannot participate in SARA.

Agenda Item No. 8  
Report on Academic Program Review 2014-2016

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 viability, 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 annually to the Coordinating Board. Accredited, licensed and state certified programs followed the usual review practices and the schedule of the accrediting/approval body.

Angela Lasiter explained that reviews were conducted according to AHECB policy 5.12. The institutions have responded to the reviewer's concerns and suggestions. The 2-year institutions plan to collaborate on state-wide reviews for the AAT, AA, and other similar programs that are not accredited, licensed or state certified.

There were no questions.

#### Agenda Item No. 9 Update on Prevention of Unplanned Pregnancies on Campuses

An update was presented on the activities in 2016 by ADHE to prevent unplanned pregnancies on Arkansas college campuses among young adults, pursuant to Act 943. During the 90th General Assembly Regular Session of 2015, House Bill 1534 was passed becoming Act 943 which requires the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to develop an action plan to address the prevention of unplanned pregnancy. In collaboration with designees from public universities and community colleges, a working group was formed, co-chaired by Lynnette Watts of Women's Foundation of Arkansas and Angela Lasiter of Arkansas Department of Higher Education, to craft an action plan that was presented to the Legislative Council in November 2015 and will be monitored annually.

#### Agenda Item No. 10 Bond/Loan Feasibility Update

Chandra Robinson presented this update which consisted of the actual terms for bond and loan issues receiving AHECB approval that occurred from June 2015 through October 2016. This update was requested by the AHECB during the July 30, 2010 quarterly meeting.

There were no questions.

#### Agenda Item No. 11 Maintenance Report

The AHECB policy for maintenance of new facilities, passed October 29, 2010, states that a report on the amount transferred to plant funds would be presented annually at the October Board meeting. This policy was proposed to ensure that in the future all newly constructed or purchased facilities would have a source of funding for maintenance of the new facility. Institutions seeking approval of a loan or a bond issue for the construction or purchase of a new facility must provide for the maintenance of that facility by transferring annually to plant funds an amount

as recommended by the Association of Physical Plant Administrators of Universities and Colleges (APPA). This is currently \$2.50 per gross square foot for an educational and general facility or \$1.25 per gross square foot for an auxiliary facility. A lower rate per gross square foot for a specific building/facility can be approved with appropriate justification.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 12  
Report of 2015 – 16 Intercollegiate  
Athletic Revenues and Expenditures

Act 245 of 1989 (A.C.A. §6-62-106) directed the Coordinating Board to develop and establish uniform accounting standards and procedures for reporting revenues and expenditures. Based on these standard definitions and formats, the Coordinating Board is to collect the financial data and provide a uniform report of each institution's athletic revenues and expenditures for the previous fiscal year to the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee and the public by November of each year.

Ben Pickard began by stating that one problem we have in higher education is that state funding hasn't kept up with tuition and fees in order to maintain higher education at the level we are at.

Pickard said that last year there was no increase in funding; however, we increased athletic funding 7.4 percent. If you look back over the years, it's very clear to see where the money is coming from. It's coming from students and from E&G and auxiliary transfers. In conclusion, Pickard applauded the schools that are able to break even.

Sherrel Johnson moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 12 to the full Board. Jim von Grempe seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 13  
Bachelor of Science in Education in  
Computer and Business Technology Education  
Henderson State University

The Bachelor of Science in Education in Computer Science and Business Technology Education degree is designed to prepare candidates for initial licensure in both Computer Science 4-12 and Business Technology 4-12. To meet the need for both Computer Science and Business Education licensure areas in the state of Arkansas, the proposed degree plan combines two licensure areas thereby allowing for the greatest amount of flexibility for both candidates and the school districts. This degree option is in direct response to Governor Hutchinson's K-12 Computer Science Initiative whereby each high school and public charter school are required to offer at least one course in Computer Science each year.

The proposed program prepares qualified teachers to teach these courses. The curriculum is aligned to the Arkansas Computer Science competencies and the Arkansas Teaching Standards. Graduates of the proposed program will be prepared to teach the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary for Computer Science and Business Technology courses. The proposed program is comprised of 134 credit hours because it provides preparation for initial licensure in two licensure areas. The opportunity for graduates to be licensed in two licensure areas will greatly enhance his/her marketability in the job market.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Bachelor of Science in Education in Computer Science and Business Technology Education (CIP 13.1303; 134 credit hours) offered by Henderson State University, effective Spring 2017, pending Arkansas Department of Education approval.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to inform the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Henderson State University of the approval.

Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs at Henderson State University Dr. Steve Adkison, gave some background information on the program.

Greg Revels asked if any of the curriculum would be new. Dr. Adkison said only three programs would be added. Most of the courses in this area are part of the education specialists and master's programs, said Adkison.

Sherrel Johnson asked ADHE staff to notify the board once this program has received approval from the Arkansas Department of Education in November.

Agenda Item No. 14  
Doctor of Occupational Therapy  
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

The College of Education and Health Professions at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (UAF) and the College of Health Professions at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) propose the development of a post-baccalaureate education program leading to a Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD), to be jointly located at the UAF and UAMS Northwest campuses in Fayetteville, Arkansas. OTD students will be enrolled through UAF, have access to UAF student support services and access to both UAF and UAMS libraries. The OTD program will share some existing lab and classroom space at both UAF and UAMS Northwest.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Doctor of Occupational Therapy (CIP 51.2306; 109 credit hours)



offered by the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, effective Fall 2017.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to inform the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System, and the Chancellors of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences of the approval. Program continuation is contingent on the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences obtaining and maintaining program accreditation with the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE).

UAF Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Ashok Saxana was joined by UAMS Provost and Chief Academic Officer Dr. Stephanie Gardner as he shared how excited he is about the program.

Sam Sicard asked Saxana to briefly explain their agreement with UAMS. Saxana said that the majority of the classes and the clinical side will be handled by UAMS because they are better equipped to handle it. There are teaching and research opportunities on UAF's side, said Saxana. The degrees will be awarded jointly and there will be revenue sharing as well.

Dr. Jim Carr moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 12 – 14 to the full Board. Dr. Michael Stanton seconded and the Committee approved.

#### Agenda Item No. 15 Institutional Certification Advisory Committee

##### **Initial Program Certification-Distance Technology**

**RESOLVED**, That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants initial certification to the institutions listed on pages 1-3 to offer the specified degree programs to Arkansas residents for a period of three years through December 31, 2019.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to notify the administration of said institutions that the certification of the degree programs requires the institution to notify the Arkansas Department of Higher Education whenever any of the following occurs: (1) major reorganization of the controlling body; (2) changes in the charter or incorporation documents of the institution; or (3) changes in the method of operation of the institution's programs in Arkansas.

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

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

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

Bryant & Stratton College, Orchard Park, New York  
DeVry University, Naperville, Illinois  
Post University, Waterbury, Connecticut  
Simmons College, Boston, Massachusetts  
South University, Savannah, Georgia  
Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York  
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California  
Western Governors University, Salt Lake City, Utah

### **New Programs – Arkansas Institutions**

Arkansas Colleges of Health Education  
Likewise College, Searcy, Arkansas

Dr. Olin Cook asked Alana Boles to briefly explain the purpose of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee (ICAC). Ms. Boles said that Arkansas law and board bylaws setup policies that out-of-state private non-profit institutions have to adhere by. Just like Arkansas public institutions, these institutions submit program proposals and are evaluated by the same standards.

Chairman Crafton requested to see the forms that Ms. Boles sends out-of-state institutions.

Dr. Michael Stanton asked how the tuition for the osteopathic school compared to UAMS' tuition. Kyle D. Parker, president and CEO of the Arkansas College of Medicine, said the tuition would be around \$43,000.

### Agenda Items No. 16 & 17 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 16-1 through 16-62 and in the Letters of Intent on pages 17-1 through 17-7 of the agenda book.

Lillian Williams briefly explained the letters of notification process.

Greg Revels commented that it appears we do more scrutiny of the instate institutions verses the out-of-state institutions.

Florine Milligan asked, since the institutions survey companies regarding need, do they also follow-up and collect data on the number of students they actually hire. Lillian Williams said that information will be included in future survey information.

Sherrel Johnson commended ADHE staff on the institutional program proposal process. She stated that it is not an easy process, however, she is confident ADHE staff are doing a very thorough job.

Jim von Grempp voiced concern with the growing number of out-of-state institutions advertising on-line programs in Arkansas. How can we get students to look at Arkansas institutions first, said von Grempp.

#### Report of the Committees

Greg Revels presented the report of the Finance Committee and moved approval of Agenda Item 12. Dr. Charles Allen seconded the motion and the Board approved.

Dr. Olin Cook presented the report of the Academic Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 13 – 15. Jim von Grempp seconded the motion and the Board approved.

#### Remarks by Presidents and Chancellors

Dr. Paul Beran, chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith addressed the board regarding mandatory tuition for concurrent enrollment. Beran said he has seen the concurrent conversation come and go over the last eleven years, with no resolution and in his opinion, no satisfactory approach. Quality does not come without a cost, concurrent creates unnecessary and unproductive competition in Arkansas and it creates a bidding war with superintendents. In closing, Dr. Beran asked the board to make sure whatever we are doing in concurrent credit maintains the quality and integrity that it needs to have in order to be transcribed courses on a college or university transcript.

Greg Revels questioned whether or not money would change the ethical issues.

Ben Pickard said that the quality of the product to the student has been a concern of his for over ten years. He then asked Tara Smith if she had the survey of institutional scholarships and tuition waivers. Pickard mentioned that in the report of scholarship dollars for two-year institutions, academic scholarship expenditures for concurrent enrollment were 53 percent of their scholarship dollars. Pickard asked if it was possible for the presidents and chancellors to come together and work with ADHE on the policy that we have now.

Beran said unfortunately, Dr. Markham was thrown into this situation. I'm not indicting ADHE. All they did was manage the meetings, said Beran. I'm simply suggesting that there's another opinion that might need to be considered.

Sherrel Johnson commented that more and more often, the board is being called into conference calls to approve bonds. Johnson stated that she hopes conference calls are not becoming a trend, regardless of the bond amount.

Jeff Kreh, president of Likewise College, thanked the Coordinating Board for letting the college come into existence and for giving them the opportunity to prove that if you are good Samaritans to those that are hurting and in need, you can change their world.

To give the board additional time to review and ask questions, Ben Pickard requested the scholarship report be presented at the January 2017 board meeting.

#### Announcements

The Annual Trustees Conference will be held at Pulaski Technical College in North Little Rock on December 9, 2016.

The next Coordinating Board meeting will be at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia on January 27, 2017.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

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Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

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Chris Gilliam, Secretary