

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Regular Quarterly Meeting
April 28, 2006

Minutes of Meeting

The April 28, 2006 regular meeting of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board was held in the Center for Arts Lindley and Kaneaster Hodges Auditorium on the campus of Arkansas State University in Newport. 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
Col. Jim Creech
David Damron
Dr. Dan Grant
Bill Johnson
Mark Smith
Dick Trammel
Dr. Anne Trussell

Coordinating Board absent:

Jodie Carter
Phil Ford

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
Harold Criswell, Agency Fiscal Manager
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
Lillian Williams, YOU Program Coordinator
Monieca West, Coordinator of Federal Programs
Lila McCauley, Assistant Coordinator of Academic Affairs
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. Larry Williams, Chancellor of Arkansas State University—Newport (ASUN) for a welcome.

Dr. Williams began by welcoming everyone to ASUN's campus and introducing the Student Government Association President, Student Ambassador, Peer tutor and Academic Scholar, Brian Patterson. Next, Dr. Williams discussed the "Accreditation Self-Study" which was prepared to help ASUN anticipate the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association site visit.

Chairman Hodges introduced and welcomed new Coordinating Board member, Mark Smith of El Dorado. Mark Smith is the president and owner of Mark Smith Communications, a small business that specializes in cellular phone sales.

Next, Chairman Hodges congratulated David Leech for his reappointment by Governor Huckabee to the Coordinating Board and introduced Lucretia Norris, the Governor's Policy Advisor for Higher Education.

On behalf of the Coordinating Board and ADHE staff, Dr. Beene thanked Chairman Hodges and wife Lindley for the lovely reception they hosted at their home.

Agenda Item No. 1
Approval of Minutes

David Leech moved to approve the minutes of the February 3, 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 and she began by stating the importance of the Director's Report in terms of outlining significant accomplishments by ADHE staff. Dr. Beene then directed everyone's attention to the "*National Activities of the Director*" section, beginning on page 2-5 of the Agenda book.

Dr. Beene said she was honored in September, 2005 to be one of thirty national leaders in higher education invited to a meeting by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education on State Policy Dimensions for K-12 Reform. The participants helped develop the policy report, "Claiming Common Ground," which identifies four state policy dimensions for improving college-readiness opportunities for all high school students including alignment of coursework and assessments, state finance, statewide data systems, and accountability.

Dr. Beene informed the Coordinating Board that State Higher Education Executive Officer's (SHEEO) peer professionals recently elected her to serve on their Executive

Committee. She then reiterated recent statements by Ken James, Director of the Department of Education, saying “ Arkansas is being noticed outside the state for work that we are doing inside the state.”

Dr. Beene discussed the Education Commission of the States’ (ECS) creation of a new Postsecondary Education and Workforce Development Institute. The new institute signals a renewed commitment by ECS to the important issues of postsecondary education and producing a world-class workforce for a global economy. Dr. Beene said she was asked to serve on the 18-member Advisory Committee, which includes an outstanding group of leaders representing higher education institutions, state government, elected officials and the business sector.

Next, Dr. Beene pointed out the list of activities of the Director beginning on page 2-7 of the agenda book, noting that several of the activities related to funding. She assured presidents and chancellors of the Department of Higher Education’s involvement and dedication to the funding and distribution process.

Dr. Beene stated that based on the large number of qualified applicants, three scholarship programs require additional funds. ADHE will ask Legislators to move funds from the Higher Education Grants fund balance into the Military Dependents’, Law Enforcement Officers’ Dependents, and Second Effort scholarships so awards can be made to qualified applicants. Governor Huckabee announced the recipients of the Governor’s Scholars and Governor’s Distinguished Scholars programs, stated Dr. Beene. She noted that there were 280 qualified Governor’s Distinguished applicants. State statute sets a maximum of 250 GDS awards and for the first time, the waiting list is in the double digits. She also announced that the ranking of home-schooled applicants is an issue that ADHE will be addressing next year.

Dr. Beene introduced the new Coordinator for Financial Aid, Tara Smith. Tara previously represented ADHE as the staff person for the STAR Commission chaired by Lt. Governor Rockefeller. She also introduced the new Fiscal Manager for ADHE, Harold Criswell. Harold was previously employed at the Workforce Investment Board.

Report of Committees

Dr. Dan Grant presented the report of the Academic Committee and moved to adopt Agenda Items 3-16. 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 17-19. Dick Trammel seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 3
Ph.D. in Health Systems Research
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

The administration and Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System (UA) request approval for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) to offer the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in health systems research (HSR), effective summer 2006. UAMS is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The program is within the role and scope established for the institution. The UA Board of Trustees approved the program on January 26, 2006.

The proposed Ph.D. in health systems research is designed to prepare students with the theoretical and methodological foundations necessary to conduct research on health systems, with the ultimate goal of identifying pathways to improved health system performance through evidence-based policy and management. Students must complete a minimum of 70 semester credit hours and hold the master's degree in public health or a related field prior to enrollment in the doctoral program. The program of study can be completed within a three-year period of full-time study, but must be completed within seven calendar years.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Ph.D. in health systems research (CIP 51.2299) at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, effective summer 2006.

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

Dr. Sandy Smith presented background information and Dr. Dan Grant questioned UAMS' usage of the term Health Systems. Dean of the UAMS Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health, Dr. James Raczynski, explained that the term describes a combination of public (Health Department and community based organizations) and private (hospitals and clinics) sectors.

Dr. Lynda Johnson voiced concern about a possible fourth year. Dr. Raczynski said the focus of the Doctoral program was for those who already have a master degree. Intensive counseling is planned for students and he said 2-3 students are anticipated to enroll each year.

Dr. Lynda Johnson moved to recommend Agenda Item 3 to the Full Board for consideration. Chairman Hodges seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 4
Associate of Applied Science in Petroleum Technology
University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton

The administration and Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas (UA) System request approval for the University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton (UACCM) to offer the Associate of Applied Science in petroleum technology, effective August 2006. UACCM 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 of Trustees approved the proposal on November 18, 2005.

The Petroleum Technology program is designed to provide students with the general education foundation and technical competencies required for employment in the emerging and expanding natural gas drilling, extraction, and field operations industry. The associate degree program requires 63 semester credit hours with 18 credit hours of general education core courses, 27 hours of petroleum related technical courses, 6 hours of business and computer courses, and 12 hours of program electives in petroleum and related technology. Six new courses related to petroleum operations, production, drilling, and safety will be added.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Associate of Applied Science in petroleum technology (CIP 15.0903) to be offered at the University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton 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 University of Arkansas System, and the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton of this approval.

Agenda Item No. 5
Associate of Applied Science in Veterinary Technology
Arkansas State University—Beebe

The administration and Board of Trustees of the Arkansas State University (ASU) System seek approval to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Veterinary Technology at Arkansas State University—Beebe, effective August 2007. ASU-Beebe is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The proposed program is within the role and scope of the institution. The ASU Board of Trustees approved the proposal on December 16, 2005.

The program is designed to train veterinary technicians to serve as integral members of the veterinary health care team. Program content includes the care and handling of animals, basic principles of normal and abnormal life processes, and routine laboratory and clinical procedures. A veterinary technician employed in a veterinary clinic or hospital handles many of the same responsibilities that nurses and other professionals perform for physicians.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Associate of Applied Science in veterinary technology (CIP 51.0808) at Arkansas State University—Beebe effective August 2007, contingent on initiation of the accreditation process through the American Veterinary Medical Association Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities.

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

Dr. Dan Grant questioned if the \$92,900 needed in revenues was new money. Lila McCauley answered that the money had not been appropriated yet.

Agenda Item No. 6
Associate of Applied Science in Information Systems
University of Arkansas Community College at Hope

The administration and Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas (UA) System seek approval to offer the Associate of Applied Science in information systems at the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope (UACCH), effective August 2006. UACCH is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The proposed program is within the role and scope of the institution. The UA Board of Trustees approved the proposal on March 31, 2006.

The proposed program will prepare students for jobs such as computer operator, data processor, technical/software support specialist, and help desk technician. Students enrolled in the program will complete a total of 62 semester credit hours. Eighteen hours will consist of general education courses. The remaining 44 hours will be in technical courses which will include a 4-credit hour internship. The technical content will cover ethics in technology, internet basics, computer maintenance and operating systems, spreadsheet and database applications, application programming, and networking essentials. Ten new courses will be included in the curriculum.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Associate of Applied Science in information systems (CIP 11.0101) at the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope, 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 University of Arkansas System, and the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope of the approval.

Agenda Item No. 7

Associate of Applied Science in Medical Office Management
University of Arkansas Community College at Hope

The administration and the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas (UA) System request Coordinating Board approval for the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope (UACCH) to offer the Associate of Applied Science degree in medical office management. UACCH is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The proposed program is within the role and scope of the institution. The UA Board of Trustees approved the proposal on March 31, 2006.

The program is designed to train medical office managers for doctors' offices, clinics, health maintenance organizations, and hospitals. The 63-semester credit hour degree includes 18 hours of general education, 24 hours of business courses, 15 hours of medical office support courses, and 6 hours of human anatomy and physiology. Four new courses will be added to the curriculum in payroll accounting, health care systems, legal concepts in health care, and medical insurance coding and billing.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the Associate of Applied Science in medical office management (CIP 51.0705) at the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope, 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 University of Arkansas System, and the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope of the approval.

Agenda Item No. 8
Certificate of Proficiency and
Technical Certificate in Welding Technology
Arkansas State University—Mountain Home

The administration and Board of Trustees of the Arkansas State University (ASU) System request Coordinating Board approval for Arkansas State University—Mountain Home to offer the Certificate of Proficiency and Technical Certificate in welding technology. ASU-Mountain Home is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The proposed program is within the role and scope of the institution. The ASU Board of Trustees approved the proposal on February 24, 2006.

The Certificate of Proficiency in welding technology will require 16 semester credit hours in gas metal arc and gas tungsten welding, with an additional 16 credit hours of coursework in shielded metal arc and metal fabrication required for completion of the technical certificate program. The certificates will provide graduates with entry-level through advanced welding skills.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Certificate of Proficiency and Technical Certificate in welding technology (CIP 48.0508) at Arkansas State University—Mountain Home effective August 2006.

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

Agenda Item No. 9
Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice
Technical Certificate in Criminal Justice
Arkansas State University—Beebe

The administration and Board of Trustees of the Arkansas State University (ASU) System request approval to offer the Technical Certificate and Associate of Applied Science in criminal justice at Arkansas State University--Beebe. ASU-Beebe is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and the proposed programs are within the institutional role and scope. The ASU Board of Trustees approved the proposal on December 16, 2005.

The Technical Certificate and Associate of Applied Science in criminal justice are designed to provide students with entry and advanced skills in law enforcement for employment at the local, state and federal levels. The curriculum for the Technical

Certificate consists of 21 credit hours in the professional core and 9 hours of general education courses for a total of 30 semester credit hours. The Associate of Applied Science degree consists of 36-37 credit hours in the professional core and 26 hours of general education courses for a total of 62-63 semester credit hours. Students may pursue an emphasis in corrections, forensics or law enforcement.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Technical Certificate and Associate of Applied Science in criminal justice (CIP 43.0107) to be offered 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. 10
Master of Science in Applied Mathematics
University of Central Arkansas

The administration and Board of Trustees of the University of Central Arkansas (UCA) request approval to offer the Master of Science in applied mathematics. The institution is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The program is consistent with the role and scope of the institution to offer degree programs in a wide variety of fields. The UCA Board of Trustees approved the proposal on February 17,

UCA offers the Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics and Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and has awarded 88 degrees over the past five years. The proposed 30-33 semester credit hour master's program will build upon existing baccalaureate programs and will have both thesis and non-thesis options. The thesis option will require 30 credit hours of course work with at least 6 credit hours of research and a minimum of 18 hours completed at the 6000-level. The non-thesis option will require at least 33 credit hours of graduate course work and the successful completion of an oral examination. Ten new courses have been created for the proposed graduate program.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Science in applied mathematics (CIP 27.0301) to be offered at the University of Central Arkansas, effective August 2006.

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 Central Arkansas of this approval.

Agenda Item No. 11
Master of Science in Information Quality
University of Arkansas at Little Rock

The administration and Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas (UA) System request approval for the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) to offer the Master of Science in information quality 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 of Trustees approved the proposal on January 26, 2006.

The proposed 33-semester credit hour master's degree program will provide individuals with the knowledge and skills for understanding concepts, principles, tools, models, and techniques that are essential for the development of data quality definitions and measurements utilized for analysis and improvement in major corporations and government agencies. Seven new courses in information quality (IQ) and five courses in information science will be added to the curriculum. Courses will cover topics in total quality management, statistical quality control, systems analysis, database security, data mining, policy and strategy, and project and change management. Students will complete a research thesis or graduate research project on a current information quality issue. The program will balance IQ theory with practical skills gained through case studies and projects addressing real-world information quality problems.

RESOLVED, that the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Science in information quality (CIP 11.0199) 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 inform the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System, and the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock of the approval.

Agenda Item No. 12
Associate of Applied Science in
Homeland Security and Emergency Management
NorthWest Arkansas Community College

The administration and Board of Trustees of NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC) request approval to offer the Associate of Applied Science in homeland security and emergency management (HSEM), effective August 2006. NWACC 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 NWACC Board of Trustees approved the proposal on November 14, 2005.

The 62-semester credit hour associate degree program will provide students with knowledge and skills on coordination of resources to prepare, mitigate, respond and recover from disasters. The program will emphasize decision-making and problem solving skills for emergency preparedness and response. Professionals such as first responders, fire fighters, law enforcement officers, emergency managers, health care workers, and government administrators may enroll in specialty courses to update their skills. Sixteen new courses will be added to the curriculum.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Associate of Applied Science in homeland security and emergency management (CIP 43.9999) at NorthWest Arkansas Community College, effective Fall 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 NorthWest Arkansas Community College of the approval.

Agenda Item No. 13
Master of Social Work
Arkansas State University—Jonesboro

The administration and Board of Trustees of the Arkansas State University (ASU) System request approval to offer the Master of Social Work (MSW) at Arkansas State University—Jonesboro, effective August 2007. ASU-Jonesboro 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 ASU Board of Trustees approved the proposal on May 6, 2005.

The proposed master's program builds on the existing bachelor's degree in social work. While the bachelor's degree in social work or behavioral sciences is the minimum requirement for entry into the field, an advanced degree in social work has become the standard for many positions. The master's in social work prepares graduates for advanced practice in specialty areas such as aging, substance abuse, child welfare, mental health, rehabilitation, corrections, rural, school, and family services. The proposed program is designed to prepare advanced-level professionals as leaders and practitioners in the rural environment with the capacity to address complex personal, social, community, and economic problems that prevent people from moving out of poverty to self-sufficiency.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Social Work (CIP 44.0701) at Arkansas State University—Jonesboro effective August 2007, contingent on initiation of the accreditation process through the Council on Social Work Education.

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 Arkansas State University System, and the Chancellor of Arkansas State University—Jonesboro of this approval.

David Leech questioned the increase in the program's operation cost from \$180,000 in the first year to \$370,000 in the third year. Cynthia Moten responded that the additional faculty needed to meet accreditation requirements attributed to the cost increase.

Agenda Item No. 14
Bachelor of Arts in Spanish
Bachelor of Science in Spanish-Teacher Licensure
University of Arkansas at Fort Smith

The administration and Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas (UA) System request approval for the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith to offer the Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and the Bachelor of Science in Spanish - Teacher Licensure, effective August 2006. UA-Fort Smith is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and the proposed programs are within the institutional role and scope. The UA Board of Trustees approved the proposals and the Arkansas Department of Education approved the teacher licensure component of the program.

There is a need for more individuals with the ability to use the Spanish language due to the significant number of Spanish-speaking individuals now living in the United States. The goal of the bachelor's program is to produce graduates that have a comprehensive, in-depth understanding of Spanish with the skills necessary to compete for bilingual employment opportunities in service industries such as banking, airlines, human services, law enforcement, health care, education, and government. Because there are over 2500 Hispanic students enrolled in the Fort Smith Public Schools, there also is a need for a degree program that will prepare more Spanish teachers. Currently, UA-Fort Smith requires all teacher education students to complete four credit hours of conversational Spanish. More than 300 students have enrolled in Spanish courses each semester over the past two years, and 15 students are expected to enroll in the proposed degree programs annually.

RESOLVED, that the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Bachelor of Arts in Spanish (CIP 16.0905) and the Bachelor of Science in Spanish - Teacher Licensure (CIP 13.1330) at the University of Arkansas--Fort Smith, 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 University of Arkansas System, and the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith of the approvals.

Agenda Item No. 15
Institutional Certification Advisory
Committee Resolutions

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

Program Certification

Capella University, Minneapolis, Minnesota

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 Business with a specialization in accounting. The certification is for a period of three years and expires April 28, 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.

Remington College, Little Rock, Arkansas

RESOLVED: That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants program recertification to Remington College-Little Rock

to offer the following degree programs: Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice and Associate of Applied Science in Computer Networking Technology. The recertification is for a period of two years and expires April 28, 2008.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to notify the administration of Remington College-Little Rock that the recertification of these degree programs require 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 Remington College-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.

Saint Joseph's College, Standish, Maine

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: Associate of Science in Management, Bachelor of Science in Adult Education and Training, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration, Bachelor of Science in Professional Arts, and Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies. The recertification is for a period of two years and expires April 28, 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 require 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.

University of Phoenix – Online

RESOLVED: That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants program recertification to the University of Phoenix–Online to offer the following degree programs: Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN), Master of Science in Nursing (RN to MSN), Doctor of Management in Organizational Leadership, Doctor of Business Administration, Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership, and Doctor of Health Administration. The recertification is for a period of four years and expires April 28, 2010.

FURTHER RESOLVED, The Coordinating Board grants initial program certification to the University of Phoenix-Online to offer the following degree programs: Bachelor of Science in Organizational Security and Management, Master of Science in Nursing/Master of Business Administration (Health Care Management Option), Master of Science in Nursing/Master of Health Administration, Master of Health Administration, Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, and Doctor of Management in Information Systems Technology. The certification is for a period of four years and expires April 28, 2010.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to notify the administration of the University of Phoenix-Online that the recertification and certification of these degree programs require 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 University of Phoenix-Online 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 15-5 of the Agenda book.

Dr. Dan Grant voiced concern regarding the increasing number of proprietary institutions opening in Arkansas and questioned why Arkansas public institutions are not meeting the needs of these students. Jeanne Jones responded that flexibility appeals to students. Proprietary institutions allow students to participate in distance learning and online classes while continuing to work full and part time jobs. Jeanne noted that ADHE staff, external reviewers, and ICAC members carefully review programs to make sure they meet the certification criteria approved by the Coordinating Board. Chairman Hodges commented that not having to procure expenses (such as athletics, band, the cost of an auditorium, etc.) is part of the appeal for proprietary institutions.

Col. Creech questioned the difficulty of transferring credits from a proprietary institution to a public institution. Dr. Karen Wheeler answered that typically public institutions do not except credits from proprietary institutions. However, their degrees are accepted for employability purposes. She noted that there are currently federal initiatives to loosen the transfer criteria from proprietary to public institutions.

Agenda Item No. 16
Approval of Alternative Assessment Plans
Arkansas State University—Jonesboro
Southern Arkansas University
University of Arkansas at Fort Smith

Act 1085 of 2001 authorizes the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) to provide a framework for the approval of alternative processes or examinations for use by Arkansas public colleges and universities in lieu of the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP). A committee of representatives from two- and four-year institutions worked with ADHE staff to develop the guidelines for the development of alternative assessment plans and the criteria by which the plans will be evaluated. The Executive Council of Presidents and Chancellors voted to endorse the proposal that was approved by the AHECB on October 19, 2001.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the alternative assessment plans as submitted by Arkansas State University--Jonesboro, Southern Arkansas University, and the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith, effective fall 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, the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Southern Arkansas University, 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 approvals.

Dr. Lynda Johnson moved to recommend Agenda Items No. 4-16 to the Full Board for consideration. Chairman Hodges seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Dr. Beene stated that ADHE and institutional staff members spend hundreds of hours on the agenda items and the process of approval. She thanked all who are involved. Dr. Grant added his concern in the reduction of staff several years ago, noting the Department has not fully recovered.

Agenda Item No. 17
Funding Policy for the 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.”

Each biennium the ADHE staff in consultation with the presidents and chancellors of the institutions review and revise the funding models for the determination of the AHECB appropriation recommendations for the institutions of higher education.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the funding principles and policies described in this agenda item to be used by the institutions and Department in preparing appropriation requests for the 2007-09 biennium.

Dr. Stanley Williams presented information on the funding policy. He stated that the university model approved by the AHECB and Presidents and Chancellors two years ago has not changed. The two-year college funding model was reviewed and improved through working with the Presidents and Chancellors. The changes are described in the agenda item and make the formula more equitable. He reminded the Board that there is not a formula for the non-formula entities. Col. Creech questioned the difference in this funding model and the one that AHECB members submitted to Legislators during the last biennium. Dr. Williams responded that the current model produces approximately the same amount of money. However, the smaller institutions would receive more money and the institutions that do have an economy of scale would receive less money.

Dick Trammel asked how much closer the new formula is to being equitable and fair compared to the old formula. Dr. Williams responded that the new formula would be more equitable if fully funded.

David Leech moved to recommend agenda item 17 to the Full Board for consideration. Dick Trammel seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 18
AHECB Tuition Policy for
the 2007-2009 Biennium

While local boards have the authority to establish tuition and fee rates on their campuses, A.C.A. §6-61-215 requires the Coordinating Board to establish student fees for **funding** purposes for all public institutions of higher education. Therefore, the tuition and fee rates established by the Coordinating Board are offered for calculation of funding recommendations and do not alter the authority of local boards to establish their respective institutions' actual tuition and mandatory fee rates.

The following chart details the recommended student fee rates to be used for funding purposes for the 2007-09 biennium:

AHECB 2007-09 Tuition Rates		
	Annualized	/SSCH
Two-Year Institutions		
Local Tax	\$1,350	\$45
No Local Tax	\$1,710	\$57
Four-Year Institutions		
Undergraduate	\$4,350	\$145
Graduate	\$5,040	\$210
Doctoral	\$6,000	\$250

An FTE student for undergraduate rates is 30 student semester credit hours; for graduate and doctoral rates an FTE student is 24 student semester credit hours.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the tuition and mandatory fee recommendations described in this agenda item, recognizing that these amounts are established as required by A.C.A. §6-61-215 for use in the 2007-09 funding formulas for colleges and universities.

Bill Johnson questioned how a CPI rate of 3% could be reconciled with 11.5%. Dr. Stanley Williams stated that tuition income and state general revenue are two streams of funds that are considered. When state general revenue has not increased, then tuition has to go up because the institution cost have gone up. Basically, state funding has not kept up with inflation.

Dr. Trussell moved to recommend Agenda Item 18 to the Full Board for consideration. Mr. Trammel seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 19
Anticipated Graduation Rate Model

Act 1974 of 2005 requires that the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approve the regression model variables to be used in the determination of the anticipated graduation rates of Arkansas' Public Colleges and Universities.

Any regression model that might be developed for predicting anticipated graduation rates is limited by the availability of historical data elements from ADHE's Student Information Database, or data elements which every institution was able to provide for their first-time entering freshmen for the years 1996 to 1999. Unless a data element was available from every institution it could not be used in a regression model. The

data elements that have been shown by research studies to be related to graduation rates and that could also be provided from the ADHE Student Information Database or supplied by the institutions were: entrance exam scores; high school grade point average; age, ethnicity, and sex of the student; and whether or not the institution was located in a metropolitan area; and whether or not the institution was located in an economically depressed region of the state. Many of the variables mentioned in Act 1974 of 2005 which might have contributed to the regression model were not available. Some will be available for the development of future regression models but were not for the 2007-09 biennium. One of the variables not available was whether or not a student had completed the core curriculum. This variable would certainly have provided for a better understanding of the role of the high school grade-point average in college success.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the variables used in the regression model to determine an anticipated graduation rate for each institution as required by Act 1974 of 2005 for use in the distribution of incentive funding for 2007-09.

Dr. Lynda Johnson questioned the validity of the Anticipated Graduation Rate Model, stating that without including a student's curriculum, the model couldn't be accurate. Dr. Williams responded, "We can't use information we don't have." However, the data is currently being attained and will be included in the model in three years. Dr. Williams assured Dr. Johnson that the Model is valid based on the current data available.

Dr. Williams stated that ADHE staff and the Presidents and Chancellors will continue to work on a consensus and address all the needs. Then, in August, the funding recommendations generated by the model will be brought before the Board and then to the Legislature.

Col. Creech moved to recommend Agenda item 19 to the Full Board. Dr. Anne Trussell seconded the motion, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 20
State Board of higher Education Foundation
Election of Supervisory Committee

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

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

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

David Leech moved to approve Agenda Item 20. Dick Trammel seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 21
Appointment of Nominating Committee
For Board Officers

Chairman Kaneaster Hodges appointed members of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to the Nominating Committee to recommend 2006-07 Board officers at the August 4 meeting. The members included: Dick Trammel (Chair), Jodie Carter and Phil Ford.

Agenda Item No. 22
Annual Report on Student Retention
and Graduation

Statewide retention and graduation information for students entering Arkansas public higher education in fall 1992 through 2004 is presented in this report for both the state and institutional levels. ADHE's Student Information System (SIS) enables multi-year student retention and graduation tracking in compliance with Student-Right-to-Know legislation as well as Act 267 of 1989. SIS tracks student enrollments and completions for multiple years at their originating or native campus, as well as in other public and independent institutions within the state.

Retention and graduation rates are based on enrollment and completion activities for 13 successive cohorts of first-time, full-time, degree-seeking students who began in fall semesters 1992 through 2004. Retention rates are differentiated according to whether the accomplishment occurred at either the original institution (identified as the native location) or at another in-state public or independent institution. The same reporting scheme is used again for identifying a student's status at 6 years (for universities) and 3 years (for colleges) after entry. These time intervals mark the commonly recognized "150 percent" point after entry for evaluating student success in completing the baccalaureate or associate degree respectively.

David Leech questioned the process used to credit institutions for completions. Ron Harrell answered that credit for completion has always been attributed to the student's original institution.

Agenda Item No. 23
The Secretary of Education's Commission
on the Future of Higher Education

U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings announced the formation of a national Commission on the Future of Higher Education in September 2005. 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 is due to Secretary Spellings by August 1, 2006.

The title and a brief description of each report issued by the Commission is listed on page 23-3 of the Agenda book and the full reports can be found on the Commission's website at <http://www.ed.gov/about/bdscomm/list/hiedfuture/index.html>. Christina Miller presented information on the Commission's activities.

Dr. Grant voiced concern regarding the wording used in one of the reports to describe accreditation in the United States. Dr. Beene commented that Secretary Spellings' report is included in the agenda book as information on national higher education issues and the report could pose serious implications.

Agenda Item No. 24
Arkansas Statewide Transfer System

Dr. Karen Wheeler presented information to the Board on the Arkansas Statewide Transfer System. Act 672 of 2005 created a statewide, comprehensive transfer policy for freshman and sophomore general education courses. In keeping with this legislation, ADHE staff members have been working with Arkansas colleges and universities to adopt a common course index system that will ease the transfer of credit between institutions. David Leech asked how many staff hours have been involved in this project. Dr. Wheeler said at least 1,000 would be required in the next two months and already two full-time staff have worked on this over the last eight months, not including the time spent by CAOs.

Agenda Items No. 25 and 26
Letters of Notification and Letters of Intent

The Department of Higher Education received notice from institutions on programs not requiring Board approval including 14 new certificate programs, 7 new program options, 3 new locations for existing degrees, 6 reconfigurations of existing degrees, 1 consolidation of existing degrees, 2 program reactivations, 5 new organizational units, 7 program name changes, 5 inactive programs, 1 inactive program option, 3 deleted certificate programs, and 12 deleted organizational units.

Notification of items requiring Board approval included 4 certificate programs, 7 associate degrees, 2 bachelor's degrees, 2 master's degrees, and 1 doctoral degree.

During this period, the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee received notice of requests for recertification of 17 degrees, and initial certification for 28 degrees. The complete list of these notices appear in the Letters of Notification on pages 25-1 through 25-8 and in the Letters of Intent on pages 26-1 through 26-4 of the agenda book.

Chairman Hodges recognized Dr. Ed Coulter, Chancellor at ASU-Mountain Home, as the new President of the Association of Community Colleges. Dr. Coulter thanked Dr. Linda Beene, Dr. Stanley Williams and ADHE staff for their diligent work on the funding formula model.

Chairman Hodges opened the floor for public comments.

Mr. John Barnes, Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Pulaski Technical College, stated that he was glad to see the funding formula that was adopted in the last session. However, relating to how some of the faster growing colleges can remain effective and continue to compete still remains an issue.

Dr. Janet Smith, President of Rich Mountain Community College, thanked ADHE staff for their hard work on the funding formula. Dr. Smith stated that RMCC is the smallest institution in the state of Arkansas and has operated on very little new funds over the past six years. She stated that credibility needed to be given to rural areas in order for them to continue to grow. She noted that if the formula were fully funded there would be no problem. However, how do we distribute the funds to meet the needs of our high growth areas and our rural areas without sacrificing one for the other?

Dr. David Rankin, President of Southern Arkansas University, voiced concern over the concepts of accreditation and accountability. He commented that in his opinion, Arkansas has the best accreditation system in the world and we need to protect, not change, what we have.

Dick Trammel recognized Dr. Jerry May, Dean of Business and Computer Information, and Dr. Linda Dayton, Executive Vice President of Operations, for their significant contributions to NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC) over the past several years. He stated that both would be missed following their retirement in June. Dick Trammel also recognized Dr. Deborah Buckley, the new Vice President for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer for NWACC.

Chancellor Larry Williams invited everyone to pickup a box lunch at the conclusion of the meeting.

Chairman Hodges announced that Dr. Robin Myers and Arkansas Northeastern College in Blytheville will host the next Coordinating Board meeting on August 4.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

Dr. Lynda Johnson, Secretary