

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Special Meeting
April 20, 2017

Minutes of Meeting

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board held a special meeting on Thursday, April 20, 2017, at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville. Acting Chair Greg Revels called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Coordinating Board present:

Greg Revels, Acting Chair
Dr. Olin Cook
Chris Gilliam
Florine Milligan

Coordinating Board absent:

Sherrel Johnson, Chair
Dr. Jim Carr, Vice Chair
Dr. Michael Stanton, Secretary
Dr. Charles Allen
Bob Crafton
Ben Pickard
Sam Sicard
Jim von Grep

Department staff present:

Dr. Maria Markham, Director
Tara Smith, Deputy Director
Dr. Marla Strecker, Senior Associate Director for Academic Affairs/Research & Analytics
Ann Clemmer, Senior Associate Director for Governmental Relations
Alisha Lewis, Associate Director for Communications
Nichole Abernathy, Executive Assistant

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

Chairman Revels welcomed presidents and chancellors to the special board meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Agenda Item No. 1
Annual Report First-Year
Student Remediation for Fall 2016

Dr. Marla Strecker presented summary and detailed information about annual student remediation. In Fall 2016, Arkansas's public institutions enrolled 21,925 first-time degree seeking students. 21,853 of those students were tested for placement purposes. Of the 21,853 students who were tested, 9,255 students (42.4 percent) were assigned to one or more remedial courses while the balance was placed in college-level coursework. This represents an increase in the

remediation rate of 1.2 percentage points from Fall 2015. Of the 9,255 students assigned to remediation, 4,521 (48.9 percent) were enrolled at four-year institutions and 4,734 (51.1 percent) were at two-year institutions.

Dr. Olin Cook asked if out-of-state students were considered in this report. Dr. Strecker said that every student that shows up on an Arkansas campus is reflected in this count.

Greg Revels said that overall, 35 percent of Arkansas students are in a remedial course. Dr. Strecker said that is correct.

Revels asked if with the new remediation calculations, we could tell whether Arkansas is trending up or down. Dr. Strecker said yes.

Florine Milligan said that since math is usually a high remediation area, is there a strategic plan in place to deal with this matter. Dr. Strecker said that math is a national issue and currently Arkansas is working with Math Pathways. Arkansas was selected as one of six states to be part of the Mathematics Pathways to Completion (MPC) project. This statewide initiative, by both state education agencies (e.g., ACC, ADHE) and public institutions of higher education, was designed to improve upon prior mathematics pathways activity and address critical concerns of alignment of math courses to programs of study, transfer and applicability, and professional development.

Agenda Item No. 2 Annual Report on Credentials Awarded

Dr. Marla Strecker presented summary and detailed information about credentials awarded. Figures shown to the board show a steady growth of credentials with over 42,000 awarded in AY2016. The greatest 5-year percentage increase was exhibited by the two-year colleges with 10.05%, representing an increase of 1,480 credentials. Credentials range from certificates of proficiency to doctoral degrees and students may obtain more than one credential over the course of an educational career, explained Strecker.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 3 Annual Report on Student Retention and Graduation

The one-year retention rate for students who first enrolled in Fall 2016 is 66.7%, up from 66.5% the year prior. Figures shown that while “home” institution retention dropped from 63.5 percent to 18.0 percent over a 4-year period, the “away” retention increased from 6.5 percent to 10.5 percent. This indicates that a significant number of students are retained in college, but at a different institution.

The new ADHE Annual Graduation Rates also provides information on students graduating at the home or transfer institution and continued enrollment at the home or transfer institution along with drop-out rates. Success is indicated by either graduating or being still enrolled at any Arkansas institution.

Revels asked if Strecker's data took into account that two-year students might transfer to a four-year institution. Dr. Strecker said that transfer students are tracked and it actually lowers her numbers.

Agenda Item No. 4
Annual Report on Retention and Graduation
of Intercollegiate Athletes

This information is produced from data submissions through the Arkansas Higher Education Information System for first-time, credential-seeking student athletes participating in football, basketball (men's and women's), baseball, cross country/track programs and other sports programs.

Dr. Strecker reported that in Academic Year 2016, 3,210 students participated in athletics at 13 Arkansas institutions. In AY2015 there were 3,233 students participating in athletics, a decrease of 23 students. She noted that ten sports were included in the athletics reporting. Strecker reported that football has the most participants, followed by track, baseball and other.

Revels asked if the new formula will hold institutions accountable for on-time graduation. Tara Smith said, it will.

Agenda Item No. 5
Annual Report on Productivity of
Recently Approved Programs

Information summarizing the total number of new certificate and degree programs approved in Academic Year 2010 and Academic Year 2012, and the number of those programs on-track to meet viability standards was presented to the Coordinating Board. Dr. Strecker stated that of the 80 active degree programs at Arkansas's public institutions, 43 are on track to meet viability standards.

Revels asked for a copy of the Program Viability policy. Dr. Strecker said a copy would be sent to the board.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

Dr. Michael Stanton, Secretary