

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Special Meeting
January 26, 2017

Minutes of Meeting

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board held a special meeting on Thursday, January 26, 2017, at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia. Acting Chair Sherrel Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. with a quorum present.

Coordinating Board present:

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

Coordinating Board absent:

Bob Crafton
Sam Sicard

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
Nichole Abernathy, Executive Assistant

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

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

Agenda Item No. 1
Annual Enrollment Report

Dr. Marla Strecker presented summary and detailed information about annual student enrollment. She noted the total, on-schedule enrollment for the 2016 Fall term in all sectors of Arkansas higher education (public universities, public colleges, as well as independent colleges and universities and nursing schools) was 165,909 students; representing a 1-year decrease of 0.7 percent.

Of these 165,909 students, 17,514 were high school students (10.6 percent), 127,808 were undergraduate students (77.0 percent) and 20,587 were graduate students (12.4 percent).

Ben Pickard noted that we have enrollment by geographic origin, however, asked if we could provide it by institution. Dr. Strecker said she would get that information.

Chris Gilliam said the overall enrollment numbers are up, and asked why.

Dr. Strecker said that Master's degrees are more of a currency and because of programs like Four Plus One, more students are enrolled. The usual period of study for both the Bachelor's and the Master's degree is six years. Through the 4+1 Option, students are in a five-year program of study, verses six years, said Strecker.

Agenda Item No. 2
Annual Report First-Year
Student Remediation for Fall 2016

The Annual Report on First-Year Student Remediation was moved to the April Board meeting.

Agenda Item No. 3
Survey of Institutional Scholarships and Waivers

Tara Smith presented detailed financial aid information, which included the number of Arkansas resident students awarded Academic scholarships to the number of non-resident students awarded. Smith presented the criteria each institution uses to determine if out-of-state tuition would be waived, the number of students who were awarded some form of waiver for out-of-state tuition, as well as the total cost to the institution.

Greg Revels questioned why so many out-of-state tuition waivers go to students from Texas. Smith said she can only speculate that a lot of Texas institutions do not accept all of their students thereby leaving them to apply in Arkansas.

Dr. Terry Martin, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville Vice Provost for Academic Affairs said that out-of-state enrollment has grown and this allows UAF to offer lower tuition.

Greg Revels asked if any institutions did not offer out-of-state tuition waivers. Smith said that Henderson State University offered very few, along with UAMS and SAU.

Several AHECB members expressed concern regarding out-of-state tuition waivers and institutional scholarships.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

Chris Gilliam, Secretary