

Agenda Item No. 1
Higher Education Coordinating Board
April 22, 2016

**ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Regular Quarterly Meeting
January 29, 2016**

Minutes of Meeting

The January 29, 2016, regular meeting of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) was held at the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) in Little Rock, Arkansas. Chairman Crafton called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with all members present.

Coordinating Board present:

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

Coordinating Board absent:

Department staff present:

Dr. Brett Powell, Director
Harold Criswell, Senior Associate Director of Administration and Finance
Ann Clemmer, Senior Associate Director for Academic Affairs
Tara Smith, Senior Associate Director for Institutional Finance
Chandra Robinson, Program Specialist for Institutional Finance
Jake Eddington, Program Specialist for Institutional Finance
Lillian Williams, Program Specialist for Academic Affairs
Angela Lasiter, Program Specialist for Academic Affairs
Alana Boles, Program Specialist for Academic Affairs
Nichole Abernathy, Executive Assistant

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

Chairman Crafton began the meeting by asking for a moment of silence for all of the U.S. Troops overseas. He then asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item No. 1
Approval of Minutes

Dr. Olin Cook moved to approve Agenda Item No. 1. Florine Milligan seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 2
Report of Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee (Chair, Ben Pickard, Dr. Charles Allen and Chris Gilliam) recommended the following slate of Board officers for 2016-17 (Chris Gilliam as Secretary, Sherrel Johnson as Vice Chair and Bob Crafton as Chair).

Ben Pickard moved to accept the 2016-2017 nominations. Dr. Jim Carr seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 3
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. The current officers are:

President – Bob Crafton
Vice President – Sarah Argue
Secretary/Treasurer – Dr. Charles Allen

The terms for these members have lapsed, requiring a re-election or new appointments.

The following resolution is presented for Board consideration:

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:

Bob Crafton – President
Dr. Charles Allen – Vice President
Dr. Jim Carr – Secretary/Treasurer

Ben Pickard moved to approve Agenda Item No. 3. Greg Revels seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 4
Reimbursement of Expenses for
Members of the AHECB and ICAC

Although members of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board and its Institutional Certification Advisory Committee (ICAC) by law serve without compensation, they may receive expense reimbursement for performing official board duties after following certain procedures set out by Act 1211 of 1995 (A.C.A. §25-16-901 et seq.).

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board, by a majority vote of its total membership, authorizes expense reimbursement for each board member and member of the ICAC for performing official board duties.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the expense reimbursement shall not exceed the rate established for state employees by state travel regulations.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Department of Higher Education to send a copy of this resolution to the Department of Finance and Administration to notify that agency of compliance with Act 1211 of 1995.

Florine Milligan moved to approve Agenda Item No. 4. Dr. Olin Cook seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 5
Agency Updates

ADHE Staff Changes

Dr. Powell began by announcing that Research and Technology Program Specialist Sharon Butler, would be retiring on February 29 and Academic Affairs Program Specialist Delores Logan, retired on November 13 after 35 years with the agency. Senior Associate Director for Research and Technology Dr. Tim Atkinson, transferred to UAMS and Dr. Marla Strecker, formerly with SAU will be the new Senior Associate Director for Research and Technology starting on February 1.

Institutional Leadership Changes

Dr. Karla Hughes began on January 15 as the new Chancellor for the University of Arkansas at Monticello. Dr. Joseph Steinmetz began on January 1 as the new Chancellor for the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Dr. Barry Ballard began on January 15 as the Interim President for the College of the Ouachitas. Dr. Karla Fisher began on January 18 as Chancellor for Arkansas State University – Beebe. After over 50 years with Arkansas State University – Beebe, Dr. Eugene McKay retired as Chancellor on January 15.

Higher Ed Insights

Director Powell introduced his new blog, Higher Ed Insights, where he discusses the status of Higher Education in Arkansas and how it relates to Arkansans, the workforce and economy. Powell said that Arkansas Business has indicated that they will publish the monthly blog in their education report as the blog becomes available.

Closing the Gap 2020 Work Groups

Powell provided an in-depth overview of the Master Plan working groups. Most of the groups are working towards a short term implementation strategies report that will be ready by the end of April. Then they will work on a more comprehensive report.

Sherrel Johnson asked if there is an umbrella group that will pull all of the recommendations together into one implementation report. Powell said yes, that is the Steering Committee that consists of the chairs of each Master Plan group.

Realignment Task Force

The Realignment Task Force is tasked to study the advantages and disadvantages of realigning state-supported institutions of higher education, identifying current redundancies that exist with the current structure of higher education in Arkansas and determining what mechanisms are currently available or could be available to provide cost savings to state-supported institutions of higher education.

At the last task force meeting, Powell provided some context to the group regarding expense data, governance structures across states, revenue and affordability, activity in other states and consortia and governance.

Agency Projects

Powell announced that ADHE is making their policies more accessible and a change has been made in the way policies are adopted.

ADHE is trying to determine if CTE courses are transferable across institutions, said Powell. Staff have examined three programs across institutions to determine if there is commonality in what we expect in student learning outcomes. If there is, can we align courses so there is a better opportunity for students to transfer between institutions, said Powell.

Guided Pathways is about making students aware of opportunities and connecting those opportunities together so from high school to short term certificate programs, associate degrees and bachelor's degrees, there are connections between those programs. There is an SREB initiative and they are looking at what's in code and what's in policy that might need a review to make sure that we are adopting these principles, said Powell.

The Prior Learning Assessment

Next, Powell discussed the possibility of ADE data sharing. The US Department of Financial Aid adopted what they call a prior, prior year approach to students applying for federal financial aid. This means that students can use older income tax information when applying for financial aid. Students that previously applied for aid in the spring, can now apply in October. Our desire is to also move our deadlines back to October to be in line with the new federal deadlines. For us to do that, we need better information, said Powell. The question is, can we get information about students from the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE). If we can get our data connected to their data we can get better quality data and get it earlier, said Powell.

New Mathways Project

The New Mathways Project is ongoing with a small number of institutions and we are trying to scale it up state-wide, said Powell. The goal is to determine the appropriate math requirements for each academic discipline. Powell said, this project is not about dumbing down math requirements, but the alignment of math requirements to match with what a student's needs are.

Interstate Passport Initiative

The Interstate Passport Initiative is about improving student's ability to transfer across state. The more we can improve student's ability to transfer, the more likely they are to finish on time, said Powell. This is about aligning the general education core. If a student completes the general education core in Arkansas, they receive a Passport that they can take to any state to finish their education. Or, hopefully, a student transfers here from another state, said Powell.

Mapping Credentials to Careers

Mapping Credentials to Careers is about helping students understand where their educational goals meet with their career goals. Information about available jobs, job growth and wages is provide by the US Department of Labor Career's website. Also listed are the typical education, work experience and on-the-job training needed for the particular job you are interested in.

Upcoming Dates

The Realignment Task Force will meet on February 24, the Fiscal Session begins on April 13, the next meeting of the Coordinating Board is April 22 at National Park College, and the ADHE will host a potential Board Retreat in early June.

Florine Milligan asked if the Mapping Credentials to Careers would be shared with the high school level so they can be better prepared when they go to college.

Powell said this is the starting point and directly impacted by higher education. Over time we will have a more developed picture for others that are interested.

Agenda Item No. 6
Academic Challenge Scholarship
Governor's Distinguished Scholarship Rules and Regulations

In compliance with Act 1258 of 2015, amendments to the Academic Challenge Scholarship Program and Governor's Distinguished Awards rules and regulations were presented for the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) review. The approved amendments will go to the Governor and Arkansas Lottery Committee (ALC) Administrative Rules and Regulations Committee.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the review of the rules and regulations presented in this agenda item for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program and the Governor's Distinguished Program.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to provide the rules and regulations presented in this agenda item to the Governor and Arkansas Lottery Committee (ALC) Administrative Rules and Regulations Committee.

Sherrel Johnson asked if education was considered critical workforce. Dr. Powell said ADHE will find out what the critical workforce need areas are and let the board know.

Dr. Jim Carr expressed disappointment in the funding amounts. He stated that money is more important in starting than finishing college. However, we are giving the smallest amount to our freshman.

Chairman Crafton asked what the rationale was behind the funding amount, specifically freshman receiving the least amount. Powell said the debate during the session was over the affordability of the program. Proceeds have declined each year since it began, which is the history of lotteries across states. As proceeds have declined there have been a number of changes to keep the awards in line with the available revenue. We are looking at roughly \$72 to \$74 million in available revenues and the scholarship awards were going to exceed that by \$4 to \$5 million. Therefore, the real effort was to make sure the scholarship remained affordable, said Powell. The data we gathered for legislators to make decisions about this, showed us where we could make the most impact on students. A lot of that discussion was on students that don't persist beyond the first year. If they don't persist beyond the first year, some view that as scholarship money used on a student that's not going to complete a degree. So the thinking was, if we know this is likely to happen, can we minimize the amount of scholarship money for that

student. Eventually that \$1,000 was moved from year one to year two. Students who do persist, keep the same level of scholarship over a four year period.

Dr. Olin Cook moved to approve Agenda Item No. 6. Dr. Jim Carr seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 7 2015 Fall and 2015 Annual Enrollment Report

Tara Smith presented summary and detailed information about annual student enrollment. She noted the total, on-schedule enrollment for the 2015 Fall term in all sectors of Arkansas higher education (public universities, public colleges, as well as independent colleges and universities and nursing schools) was 167,293 students; representing a 1-year decrease of 0.8 percent.

Of these 167,293 students, 17,808 were high school students (10.6 percent), 129,857 were undergraduate students (79.5 percent) and 18,268 were graduate students (10.8 percent).

Agenda Item No. 8 Annual Report on First-Year Student Remediation for Fall 2015

Ann Clemmer presented summary and detailed information about annual student enrollment. In Fall 2015, Arkansas's public institutions enrolled 22,138 first-time degree seeking students. 22,064 of those students were tested for placement purposes. Of the 22,064 students who were tested, 8,760 students (39.7 percent) were assigned to one or more remedial courses while the balance was placed in college-level coursework. This represents a decrease in the remediation rate of 1.7 percentage points from Fall 2014. Note that this is the lowest remediation rate in the 5 fall terms and the total remediation rate has dropped every year since the 2010 Fall term. Of the 8,760 students assigned to remediation, 4,237 (48.4 percent) were in the four-year sector and 4,523 (51.6 percent) were in the two-year sector.

Sherrel Johnson asked what percentage of students attempting remediation classes for the first time pass and what percentage try again. Clemmer said that 50 percent of remediated students don't pass their first attempt. Unfortunately, of the half that pass the remediated course, half don't make it through their gateway course.

Greg Revels asked why the overall remediation rate was down to 39.7 percent. Clemmer said they are taking co-requisite courses along with remediation courses. When this happens, the student is no longer counted as a remediation student.

Powell added that if it is a typical co-requisite three (3) hour math core, a student is enrolled in four (4) hours; however, they only receive three (3) hours of credit. The

additional hour is the additional help the student needs to catch up on the topics that are being covered in more detail. Basically, it gets students into credit bearing classes faster and it gets them the additional assistance they need to get through the course, said Powell.

Chair of the remediation committee Paul Beran said that what is important to remember about the decrease in the remediation number is, as educators, we are figuring out how to move from a very traditional way of managing people coming into our environment to non-traditional, innovative ways to manage them. If a student has a relatively low need for remediation, the most significant thing we can do is move them into an arena where they are in a blended class, where they can get additional help while taking their regular college course, said Beran. That cuts down the amount of time and money students have to spend. The concern is that there is some distortion of the statistics in terms of who really needs remediation. The reality is, what we are counting is mainstreaming more students at a faster rate. That is exactly what we need to be doing, because the two biggest impediments to graduation are time and money, said Beran.

Revels voiced concern regarding the consistency in the remediation rate since students in co-requisite courses aren't counted in the remediation rate.

Powell said there is more than one way to measure the likelihood of student success. The more we recognize this and the more opportunities we have for students to demonstrate they can be successful, the more likely we are to get them in the right courses where their need is. Yes, the data we are using does leave out a substantial part that we really need to know such as, are students in co-requisite remedial courses more successful. I've seen data that show they are, said Powell. Unfortunately, that's not the data we present. We are trying to change the way we look at this and the amount of data we collect to demonstrate student success from it.

Agenda Item No. 9
New Policy: Student Placement Into
General Education Core Courses

In accordance with A.C.A. §6-61-110, the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) will address the placement standards necessary for enrollment of students into mathematics, English composition, and reading based on appropriate indicators of potential student success rates.

RESOLVED, That all institutions must adopt appropriate placement measures which are supported by student success data.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the policy on Student Placement into General Education Core Courses.

Dr. Jim Carr asked if there were any common standards to measure proficiency. Clemmer said that there are a few and an objective examination to take into consideration. This will not be set state-wide and will vary a little by institution with the idea that whatever the institution does, the student should have a 75 percent chance of making a C or better on their course, said Clemmer.

Dr. Carr commented that as a twelve year employee of ACT, he is glad that institutions will now be looking at more than just the ACT score. The ACT score is not the best predictor of student success in college, its high school grades, he said.

Florine Milligan said that she has found that a lot of students have unnecessarily been put in remediation courses because of the timing of the ACT test.

Director Powell clarified that a 19 on the ACT is still the standard for students placing in remediation or not. The policy is just suggesting that there be other considerations also.

Florine Milligan moved to approve Agenda Item No. 9. Greg Revels seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 10 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 2014-15, 14 Arkansas campuses, 62 institutions with programs delivered only through distance technology, 9 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.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 11 Annual Higher Education Financial Condition Report

Tara Smith presented the Annual Higher Education Financial Condition Report. The purpose of this report was to describe the financial condition as well as the difficulties and challenges experienced by Arkansas's Public Institutions of Higher Education. These difficulties and challenges have been brought on by a number of competing, and often conflicting demands: fluctuations in enrollments; lagging, and even declining, state support; increasing public and political pressure to hold

tuition down; underprepared students; and students who come to college with the expectations of new amenities and programs from the institutions.

Smith provided five-year data of the universities scholarship expenditures for the purpose of observing trends in expenditures in light of the legislation placing a cap on such expenditures. Although there is a general downward trend from 11.7 percent of tuition and fees to 8.4 percent, a few universities have actually increased their level of expenditures. During the same time period, the state-funded Academic Challenge Scholarship was greatly expanded due to a large influx of funding made available by the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery. Some might have assumed that we would see a decrease in spending, however this was not the case, said Smith.

Greg Revels questioned if the Arkansas Lottery Scholarship allowed Arkansas institutions the flexibility to offer more out-of-state students scholarships. Tara Smith said she doesn't believe so.

Ben Pickard asked if Smith anticipated the increased requirements impacting next year's scholarship amount. Smith said that is very possible.

Dr. Jim Carr questioned the rationale for removing the Pell Grant recipients from the average scholarship calculations. Smith said that Arkansas Code requires a limitation on institutional scholarships. However, they did not want institutions to move away from providing scholarships to students that are in need.

Pickard asked if any institution exceeded the twenty percent. Smith said that she would calculate that and let the board know the results.

Pickard personally thanked ADHE staff for all of the information in the Financial Condition Report. Smith thanked the institutions for supplying the information.

Pickard said that an out-of-state waiver is very similar to a scholarship. Over \$43 million is given to out-of-state students in scholarships than in-state students. At Fayetteville alone, the difference in out-of-state scholarships verse in-state scholarships is over \$66 million. Pickard asked to see out-of-state students separated out in future graduation reports.

Smith said that out-of-state tuition waivers are a recruitment effort. In a lot of cases had the institutions not attracted out-of-state students and provided those small discounts, it would have resulted in lost revenues.

Sam Sicard asked if bordering states provide the same kind of reciprocity to Arkansas students. Smith said because of their aggressive recruitment practices they routinely go after Arkansas students.

Dr. Powell said that the basic philosophy for tracking students is the ability to get them from matriculation to graduation. It's not necessarily about the success of

graduating Arkansas students. With that said, separating out Arkansas students is probably a good statistic to look at, said Powell.

Greg Revels commented that both the past and current Governors are interested in increasing the graduation rates in Arkansas for Arkansans not just doubling the number of degrees for Texans.

Powell said the next logical question is how many of those out-of-state students remain in Arkansas after graduation. That is part of the equation when you are talking about the economy of the state. The more we can improve upon the educational attainment level of Arkansans the more we can attract good living wage jobs to our state. Whether these are Texans or Kansans that come to Arkansas and get an education and stay here, or, whether they are Arkansas students that receive an education here and stay here, either way that improves our economy of the state.

Pickard said that while it is the overall economy that we are looking at, Arkansas families are paying. If we are providing this much in tuition waivers, it has to be coming from somewhere.

Smith agreed that we don't want to do anything at the detriment of our Arkansas students.

Next, Pickard discussed Concurrent Enrollment scholarships. He said that any discount that is given for a concurrent enrollment student is a form of a scholarship. This has been a concern for over thirty years. It would really benefit the institutions if presidents and chancellors could get together to come up with a universal way to deal with concurrent enrollment, said Pickard.

Powell said that ADHE has asked ACT to conduct a research study later this year on the success of students coming out of concurrent courses. They will look at how the course was delivered, the school district the student came from and the institution that the student eventually enrolled in and determine if there are any significant differences in the success rates of those students based on any of those factors.

Powell also said that in his personal opinion, concurrent courses should be free to the student because there is significant benefit to the student; however, there has to be some source of revenue to cover the price of the courses. What we have to figure out is, is there a way that we can cover the costs without asking students to pay for it.

President of Arkansas Tech University Dr. Robin Bowen said that she had the same question when she came to ATU. She wanted to know how the students who took concurrent courses compared to other students. Bowen asked that they look at students that took English I or English II to see if they did as well. She found that overall they had higher GPAs and were more likely to finish college.

Pickard asked Bowen how ATU paid for their concurrent students since they didn't give them scholarships. Senior Vice President of Administration and Finance David Moseley explained that ATU charges tuition to all concurrently enrolled students. ATU then allows the high school to bill them the costs of the education provided to those students.

Pickard said basically it's a swap out. There is no fee. Moseley said that is correct. Any fees or additional costs are absorbed by ATU.

Agenda Item No. 12
Economic Feasibility of Bond Issue for
University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton

University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds not to exceed \$10.0 million with a term of thirty (30) years at an annual interest rate not to exceed 5.5 percent. Proceeds from the bond issue will be used for educational and general purposes. The University of Arkansas Board of Trustees approved this financing at its meeting on November 20, 2015.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for the University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$10.0 million with a term of thirty (30) years at an estimated interest rate not to exceed 5.5 percent to construct a Workforce Training Center (WTC) allowing UACCM to increase the capacity of several technical training programs including Welding, Automotive Technology, HVAC, Industrial Maintenance and add options that industry partners have suggested including Diesel Engine Technology.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to notify the President and the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas and the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

There were no questions.

Sherrel Johnson moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 12 to the full Board. Chris Gilliam seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 13
Associate in Science in Agriculture
Black River Technical College

The Associate of Science (AS) in Agriculture is designed to equip students with broad knowledge of the increasingly important area of agriculture. The proposed AS in Agriculture emphasizes the application of business and scientific principles to the problems and issues of agriculture related to animal, plant, and oils and agribusiness. Several employers have indicated a need for employees with an associate's degree in Agriculture to work as first-line supervisors in the Agriculture, Forestry, and/or Fishing industry. The Associate's degree is designed to provide the graduate with a well-rounded general education, agriculture and management curriculum for employment. Additionally, the AS in Agriculture degree is transferrable to baccalaureate programs at four-year institutions.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Associate of Science in Agriculture (CIP 01.0000; 60 credit hours) offered by Black River Technical College, effective Fall 2016.

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 Black River Technical College of the approval.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 14
Technical Certificate in Diesel Technology
Certificate of Proficiency in Commercial Vehicle Operation
University of Arkansas at Monticello

The Technical Certificate (TC) in Diesel Technology is 39 credit hours and provides students with knowledge and laboratory experiences in the diagnosis, repair, service and maintenance of diesel equipment. Students will also receive training in preventive maintenance and the importance of high-quality workmanship. The seventeen (17) credit hour Certificate of Proficiency (CP) will serve the needs and goals of individuals seeking employment as technicians in public schools transportation departments, diesel repair shops, automotive dealerships, freightliner dealerships, and international trucking companies. The TC and CP will prepare students for the option to sit for an Arkansas Commercial Driver's License. The University of Arkansas at Monticello, College of Technology at McGehee (UAMCTM) currently offers a TC in Heavy Equipment Operation and Automotive Technology that will complement the proposed programs.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Certificate of Proficiency in Commercial Vehicle Operator and the Technical Certificate in Diesel Technology (CP: CIP 49.0205; 17 credit hours; TC: CIP 47.0605; 39 credit hours, respectively) offered by the University of

Arkansas at Monticello, College of Technology at McGehee, effective Fall 2016.

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, the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Monticello, and the Vice Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Monticello, College of Technology at McGehee of the approval.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 15
Bachelor of Arts in Game and Interactive Media Design
Arkansas Tech University

The Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Game and Interactive Media Design is a 120 semester credit hour degree program that provides students with the courses in graphic design and computer science. Graduates are prepared for work in the video game and entertainment industries as well as a broad range of fields requiring skills in animation, simulation, programming, web design, editing, mobile application development, interactive environment construction, and story formation. The degree culminates in a two-part senior project in which the student creates a fully developed game or interactive media project. The student also accumulates a portfolio of work to aid them in seeking employment after graduation.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Bachelor of Arts in Game & Interactive Media Design (CIP 50.0411; 120 credit hours) offered by Arkansas Tech University, effective Fall 2016.

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 Arkansas Tech University of the approval.

Ben Pickard asked if there was a representative from Southern Arkansas University that could talk about the success of their similar program, the BFA Game, Animation, and Simulation. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Ben Johnson said that their program is relatively new. It was the only one in the region and it exceeded their enrollment expectations. The fairly demanding program has become increasingly popular, said Johnson.

Pickard asked if ATU had any idea how much it would cost to establish the program. Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs David Underwood said initially they need a game and interactive media professor. Someone that can cross over between art and computer science. ATU is anticipating a

salary around \$70,000 a year, said Underwood. Another position they are proposing is to help offset the work load for existing faculty members. ATU believes they can create their initial lab for about \$100,000, said Underwood.

Dr. Olin Cook said he believes this program is a good example of what is going on in the world today.

Agenda Item No. 16
Bachelor of Science in Geoscience
University of Arkansas – Fort Smith

The 120 semester credit hour Bachelor of Science (BS) in Geoscience is designed to prepare undergraduate students for entry-level positions in the engineering, environmental, or petroleum industries, or for entry into graduate-level geology degree programs. There is a demand for geoscientists in the local workforce. Employers of entry-level geoscientists in and around Fort Smith include oil and gas, engineering, environmental consulting, government agencies and laboratories, and public schools. To gauge the support of local employers for the proposed program, an employer needs survey was conducted with oil and gas companies, exploration companies, school districts, and others. Respondents indicated that a bachelor's degree is sufficient for entry into the profession, and some would provide tuition assistance or reimbursement for employees to obtain a graduate degree. The respondents also indicated that they expect to hire 20 to 30 geoscientists in the next two to five years. Additionally, these employers offer starting salaries from \$36,500 to \$100,000 (energy exploration companies).

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Bachelor of Science in Geoscience (CIP 40.0601; 120 credit hours) offered by the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith, effective Fall 2016.

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 – Fort Smith of the approval.

Chairman Crafton asked if the intensive summer field camp was included in the required 120 semester credit hours. And, if so, how many hours did it consist of.

Chancellor of the University at Fort Smith Paul Beran said that the camp is included in the 120 credit hours.

Dr. Jim Carr asked what other institution offers a Geoscience program in the state. Clemmer said similar programs are offered at ATU, UAF and UALR.

Agenda Item No. 17
 Bachelor of Science in Education Studies (Non-Licensure)
 University of Arkansas at Monticello

The online Bachelor of Science in Education Studies is a 120 credit hour non-licensure degree program designed to meet the educational needs of public school paraprofessionals and other individuals who have full-time employment that prevents attendance in a traditional education degree program. The proposed non-licensure degree will prepare individuals with the necessary knowledge of content and pedagogical skills for post-baccalaureate admission to alternative licensure route programs leading to teacher licensure such as the UAM Master of Arts in Teaching Degree. The proposed program will also provide an option for students who desire to pursue an education-related or early childhood/adolescent services career that does not require teaching licensure.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Bachelor of Science in Education Studies (Non-Licensure) (CIP 13.0101; 120 credit hours; 100% online) offered by the University of Arkansas at Monticello, effective Fall 2016.

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 Monticello of the approval.

Chairman Crafton asked who would fall under the paraprofessional category in the classroom. Clemmer said a teacher's aide or an aide in a special education classroom would.

Agenda Item No. 18
 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.

American University, Washington, D.C.
Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts
Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland
Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts
Ultimate Medical Academy, Tampa, Florida
University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio
Waldorf College, Forest City, Iowa

New Institutions – Distance Technology

Empire State College, State University of New York, Saratoga Springs, New York
Pepperdine University, Malibu, California

Greg Revels moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Items No. 13 - 18 to the full Board. Florine Milligan seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Items No. 19 & 20
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 19-1 through 19-76 and in the Letters of Intent on pages 20-1 through 20-12 of the agenda book.

Report of the Committees

Greg Revels presented the report of the Finance Committee and moved approval of Agenda Item 12. Chris Gilliam seconded the motion and the Board approved.

Dr. Olin Cook presented the report of the Academic Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 13 – 18. Ben Pickard seconded the motion and the Board approved.

Remarks by Presidents and Chancellors

The next Coordinating Board meeting would be hosted by the National Park College in Hot Springs on April 22, 2016.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

Chris Gilliam, Secretary