

**ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD**  
**Special Meeting**  
**October 24, 2019**

**Minutes of Meeting**

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board held a special meeting on Thursday, October 24, 2019, at the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith. Acting Chair Dr. Charles Allen called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Coordinating Board present:

Dr. Charles Allen  
Dr. Olin Cook  
Lori Griffin  
Greg Revels

Coordinating Board absent:

Dr. Jim Carr, Chair  
Al Brodell, Vice Chair  
Chris Gilliam, Secretary  
Keven Anderson  
Dr. Michael Stanton

Department staff present:

Dr. Maria Markham, Director  
Nick Fuller, Deputy Director  
Dr. Jessie Walker, Senior Associate Director for Academic Affairs/Research & Analytics  
Ann Clemmer, Senior Associate Director for Governmental Relations  
Sonya Hazelwood, Associate Director for Research & Analytics  
Alisha Lewis, Associate Director for Communications  
Nichole Abernathy, Executive Assistant

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

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

Agenda Item No. 1  
Report on Academic Program Deletions

Sonia Hazelwood provided a five-year summary and detailed information about academic program deletions at all Public Arkansas Colleges and Universities for the academic years 2015 – 2019. In AY 2019, colleges and universities deleted 108 programs as compared to 104 in AY 2018, 69 deletions in AY 2017, 46 deletions in AY 2016, and 43 deletions in AY 2015. Of the 108 programs deleted in AY 2019, 2-Year Colleges deleted 49, while the 4-Year Universities deleted 59 programs. Out of the 108 Academic Program deletions in AY 2019, 28% of them were from Health

Professions and Business, Management and Marketing programs. Another 12% were from the Education field of study.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 2  
Report on 2018 Fall College-Going Rate

Ms. Hazelwood presented the college-going rate, which measures the proportion of students enrolling in postsecondary education in the fall semester after finishing high school. Of the 31,745 public high school students graduating from an Arkansas public high school in 2018, 14,965 enrolled at an Arkansas public or private/independent institution in Fall 2018, the fall term immediately following their high school graduation. This represents a College-Going Rate of 47.1%, which is a 1.1% decrease from the previous year of 48.2%.

Greg Revels asked if during the past five years, ADHE received consistent data from the institutions and if we were concerned about the over 4% drop in the college-going rate.

Hazelwood said that this drop has not been as significant compared to the overall enrollment drop. This includes adult non-traditional students.

Revels asked why the Department of Education and other state agencies could obtain data from the National Student Clearinghouse, but ADHE couldn't.

Hazelwood said that ADHE was unaware that the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) had the files. However, once ADHE requested the data from DESE, they immediately shared it.

Revels expressed concern over the 5% drop in five years.

Dr. Charles Allen asked if there was a way to compare Arkansas with the national decline. Is there a trend and where would we stand nationally?

Hazelwood said it is hard to compare the two because the way the data is collected and calculated isn't comparable.

Lori Griffin asked if ADHE tracked online and out-of-state students.

Hazelwood said that ADHE does not collect data on Arkansas students that enroll out-of-state or online.

Agenda Item No. 3  
Annual Status Report for  
Sexual Assault Prevention on Campus

Under Act 563 of 2017, the Higher Education Coordinating Board was directed to develop an action plan to address the prevention of sexual assault. ADHE collected the plans from all but one campus (as of this report date), reported Ann Clemmer. This information was relayed to the AHECB and reported to the House and Senate Chairs of Education Committees and the House and Senate Chairs of the Committees of Public Health, Welfare, and Labor. ADHE has collected the annual campus status reports for the 2018–2019 academic year, as required by the legislation.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 4  
Unplanned Pregnancy Prevention Annual Report

Under Act 943 of 2015, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) was directed to develop an action plan to address unplanned pregnancies on college campuses. In the uncodified portion of the legislation, the high rate of unplanned pregnancy among older teens of college age was addressed and institutions of higher education were called upon to act. ADHE has collected the campus implementation reports for 2018-2019.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 5  
Review of Audit by Governing Board

In accordance with A.C.A. §10-4-418, the audit report and accompanying comments and recommendations relating to any entity of the state or political subdivision of the state were reviewed by the applicable governing body if the entity has such a governing body.

The governing body shall take appropriate action relating to each finding and recommendation contained in the audit report. The minutes of the governing body shall document the review of the findings and recommendations and the action taken by the governing body.

In accordance with A.C.A. §10-4-418, the Director of the Department of Higher Education reported on the 2018 audit findings, comments and recommendations to the Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Dr. Markham noted that the audit findings had been addressed by ADHE staff.

Greg Revels noted that ADHE has had multiple student loan findings over the years.

Dr. Markham explained that the issue is due to a third party collection service. ADHE is encouraged that the issue will be resolved due to changes in the collection service. Markham noted that ADHE has committed their resources to resolving the issue.

Next, Dr. Terisa Riley, chancellor of the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith, briefly explained a few logistical changes for the evening events.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

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Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

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Chris Gilliam, Secretary