

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Special Meeting
October 26, 2017

Minutes of Meeting

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board held a special meeting on Thursday, October 26, 2017, at Arkansas State University – Mountain Home. Chair Sherrel Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m., with a quorum present.

Coordinating Board present:

Sherrel Johnson, Chair
Dr. Charles Allen
Keven Anderson
Al Brodell
Dr. Olin Cook
Lori Griffin
Greg Revels

Coordinating Board absent:

Dr. Jim Carr, Vice Chair
Dr. Michael Stanton, Secretary
Chris Gilliam
Sam Sicard

Department staff present:

Dr. Maria Markham, Director
Tara Smith, Deputy Director
Ann Clemmer, Senior Associate Director for Governmental Relations
Alisha Lewis, Associate Director for Communications
Lillian Williams, Program Specialist for Academic Affairs
Mason Campbell, Program Specialist for Academic Affairs
Nichole Abernathy, Executive Assistant

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

Chair Sherrel Johnson welcomed presidents and chancellors to the special board meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Johnson then introduced new AHECB member Lori Griffin and welcomed her to her first meeting.

Agenda Item No. 1
Bond/Loan Feasibility Update

Tara Smith presented an update of the actual terms for bond and loan issues receiving AHECB approval that occurred October 2016 through October 2017. An annual update was requested by the AHECB during the July 30, 2010 quarterly meeting.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 2
Report on AHECB Policy for Maintenance
of New Facilities

The AHECB policy for maintenance of new facilities passed October 29, 2010, states that a report on the amount transferred to plant funds would be presented annually at the October Board meeting. This policy was proposed to ensure that in the future, all newly constructed or purchased facilities would have a source of funding for maintenance of the new facility. Institutions seeking approval of a loan or a bond issue for the construction or purchase of a new facility must provide for the maintenance of that facility by transferring annually to plant funds an amount as recommended by the Association of Physical Plant Administrators of Universities and Colleges (APPA). This is currently \$2.50 per gross square foot for an educational and general facility or \$1.25 per gross square foot for an auxiliary facility. A lower rate per gross square foot for a specific building/facility can be approved with appropriate justification.

It is the expectation that the institution provide for the long-term maintenance of the facility for which the funds were accrued. Funds may be utilized for facility renovation and upkeep including upgrade or replacement of equipment and furnishings of the designated building. These funds will be transferred to the plant fund annually and shall begin in the fiscal year following the completion and occupancy of the facility and will continue as long as the building is in use. The funds can also be used for critical and deferred maintenance of the institution. This report includes the status of the FY2015-16 and FY2016-17 maintenance transfers.

Chair Johnson asked how long the current rates have been at \$2.50 and \$1.25. Tara Smith said the rates have been the same since ADHE adopted the policy in 2010.

Agenda Item No. 3
Report on Academic Program Deletions

Mason Campbell provided summary and detailed information about program deletions during Academic Years 2013 – 2017. Forty-two (42) programs were deleted in AY2017 as compared to 51 in AY2016, 43 deletions in AY2015, 39 deletions in AY2014, and 41 deletions in AY2013.

Chair Johnson asked if the numbers are where they should be. Campbell said that these are strong numbers; however, overall, the numbers are consistent and where they should be.

Greg Revels asked if the institutions keep up with the costs of deleting programs. Dr. Maria Markham said that ADHE does ask what the institution's plan is for phase out. Often times when we have a deletion, there is an addition at the same time. The institution is moving funds from a program that is not productive to one that is productive. With that said, we do not keep a running total of what is spent or saved, said Markham.

Agenda Item No. 4
Overview of Graduate Deans Association

Professor of Pediatrics and Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Dr. Robert McGehee presented information on the Arkansas Graduate Deans Association.

Dr. McGehee said the Association meets 2-3 times annually to discuss challenges, collaborations, regulatory changes (state and federal), critical issues and new programs. The association is very active in the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS), having hosted the CSGS's annual meetings in Little Rock in 1999, 2006 and next year in 2018.

Dr. Charles Allen questioned why more Arkansas institutions are not a part of the CSGS. Dr. McGehee explained that this is mostly the research-based Master of Science and Ph.D. programs.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

Dr. Michael Stanton, Secretary