

**ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD**  
**Special Meeting**  
**April 30, 2015**

**Minutes of Meeting**

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board held a special meeting on Thursday, April 30, 2015, at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia. Chairman Crafton called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. with a quorum present.

Coordinating Board present:

Bob Crafton, Chair  
Horace Hardwick, Vice Chair  
Sarah Argue, Secretary  
Dr. Olin Cook  
Chris Gilliam  
Sherrel Johnson  
Florine Milligan  
Ben Pickard  
Greg Revels  
Mary Anne Salmon

Coordinating Board absent:

Dr. Charles Allen  
Sam Sicard

Department staff present:

Dr. Brett Powell, Director  
Harold Criswell, Senior Associate Director of Administration and Finance  
Ann Clemmer, Senior Associate Director for Academic Affairs  
Rick Jenkins, Associate Director for Planning and Accountability  
Tara Smith, Senior Associate Director for Institutional Finance  
Jake Eddington, Program Specialist for Institutional Finance  
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 welcomed presidents and chancellors to the special board meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Agenda Item No. 1  
Annual Report on Credentials Awarded

Rick Jenkins presented summary and detailed information about credentials awarded. Figures shown to the board indicated a 19.7 percent increase in credentials awarded from 2010 to 2014, up from 34,052 to 40,745 during the

current 5-year period. Credentials range from certificates of proficiency to doctoral degrees and students may obtain more than one credential over the course of an educational career.

Dr. Olin Cook asked if the enrollment growth and credentials go down the same.

Jenkins said on page 1-5, it shows that enrollment does impact the growth of credentials, but not a complete impact.

Chairman Crafton asked if the recession contributed to the two-year institutions enrollment being lower.

Jenkins said that based on studies, the recession typically tends to reverse the effects of two-year institution's enrollment.

Agenda Item No. 2  
Annual Report of Student Retention  
and Graduation

The one-year retention rate for students who first enrolled in Fall 2014 is 64.8%, up from 63.9% the year prior. The six-year graduation rate for public universities is also up at 40%, while the three-year graduation rate at community colleges increased slightly compared to the prior year. 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.

Greg Revels asked if ADHE factored in whether or not a student moved from a two-year to a four-year institution, when calculating their retention rate.

Jenkins said the information could be found in the agenda book on pages 2-5 (graph illustrating the retention rates of remediated students) and 2-6 (table showing state-wide retention).

Revels commented on the retention rates of remediated students. He questioned why the remediation rate is at 40 percent, and 50 percent of those remediated don't return to school. I believe we should be concerned about their education and not where they go, said Revels.

Ben Pickard shared Revels concerns.

Florine Milligan voiced concerns and said she is worried that if we don't identify the correct problem, then we won't fix the correct problem. She asked Jenkins what steps he was taking to identify problem areas.

Jenkins said that he is working in conjunction with ADHE staff and the AHECB to come up with a solution.

Pickard requested that Jenkins provide information detailing which institutions increased their tuition and fees since the implementation of the lottery scholarship.

Agenda Item No. 3  
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, full-time, degree-seeking student athletes participating in football, basketball (men's and women's), cross country/track programs and other sports programs.

Mr. Jenkins reported that in Academic Year 2014, 3,037 students participated in athletics at 12 Arkansas institutions. In AY2010 there were 2,825 students participating in athletics. He noted that ten sports were included in the athletics reporting. Mr. Jenkins reported that football has the most participants, followed by baseball, track and other.

Dr. Olin Cook asked if all institutions define full athletic scholarships the same and how do they determine them.

Dr. Powell said that full athletic scholarships are determined by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

This report stated that athletes are retained at higher rates than non-athlete students. Milligan asked if Jenkins knew why.

Jenkins said he assumed it was because of the support services that many institutions provide to their athletes, among other things.

Sherrel Johnson asked if athletes received preferential treatment.

Southern Arkansas University President Dr. David Rankin said that NCAA rules prohibit institutions from giving athletes preferential treatment.

Cook said he would like to see a study to find out what the private institutions are doing to retain their students.

Agenda Item No. 4  
Annual Report on Productivity of  
Recently Approved Programs

Degree productivity of certificate and associate degree programs approved by the Coordinating Board in 2010-11 (after three years) and baccalaureate and graduate degree programs approved by the Coordinating Board in 2008-2009 (after five years) was presented to the Coordinating Board. Ann Clemmer stated that of the 67 active degree programs (levels 1-4) at Arkansas's public institutions, 33 are on track to meet viability standards. Of the 21 active degree programs (levels 5-18) at Arkansas's public institutions, 17 are on track to meet viability standards.

Chris Gilliam asked Clemmer what she meant by on track.

Clemmer explained that on track meant certificate and degree programs currently meeting productivity standards or on course to meet them. Because programs need time to develop and produce graduates, productivity is measured in 7 year cycles.

Sarah Argue said that because Arkansas had some of the lowest viability standards in the country, in 2008 the AHECB changed them.

Revels asked if ADHE staff looks at the viability standards before they recommend a program to the AHECB.

Chairman Crafton asked if the staff actually reviewed the program beforehand.

Clemmer said that while they ask if the standards have been met, they basically take the institution's word.

Olin Cook noted that many of the programs that did not meet productivity standards are business related. He said ADHE staff might want to look further into this.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

---

Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

---

Sarah Argue, Secretary