

**ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Regular Quarterly Meeting
July 28, 2017**

Minutes of Meeting

The July 28, 2017, regular meeting of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) was held at Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas in Ashdown (UA Cossatot). Chair Sherrel Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with a quorum present.

Coordinating Board present:

Sherrel Johnson, Chair
Dr. Jim Carr, Vice Chair
Dr. Charles Allen
Keven Anderson
Dr. Olin Cook
Greg Revels

Coordinating Board absent:

Dr. Michael Stanton, Secretary
Al Brodell
Chris Gilliam
Lori Griffin
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
Alisha Lewis, Associate Director of Communications
Nichole Abernathy, Executive Assistant

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

Chair Sherrel Johnson introduced new Coordinating Board member Keven Anderson and welcomed him to his first official board meeting. Mr. Anderson thanked Chair Johnson and said it is an honor to serve on the Coordinating Board.

Johnson then introduced Dr. Steve Cole, President of UA Cossatot, for a welcome. Cole began by thanking everyone for coming to the Ashdown campus of UA Cossatot. He noted that the Ashdown campus is the smallest of the three Cossatot campuses and is geared mainly towards technical training. Dr. Cole discussed the model used by UA Cossatot to impact workforce education in Southwest Arkansas.

Chair Johnson asked if Dr. Cole had retention numbers on the students that matriculated into the industries. Dr. Cole said he would get the information for chair Johnson.

Chair Johnson thanked Dr. Cole for his welcome.

Agenda Item No. 1
Approval of Minutes

Dr. Charles Allen moved to approve Agenda Item No. 1. Greg Revels seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 2
Director's Report

ADHE Staff Changes

Dr. Markham began by announcing a couple of new staff changes. Starting May 18, Program Specialist Angela Lasiter is acting interim program director for the Career Pathways Program. Mason Campbell began on July 31 as a new program specialist for Academic Affairs.

Institutional Leadership Changes

Markham announced that Dr. Kelly Damphousse, who served as dean or interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Oklahoma in Norman since 2013, began his duties as chancellor at A-State on July 1. He succeeds interim chancellor Dr. Doug Whitlock.

Agency Projects

Between now and December, ADHE will review all of their higher education policies and will update them on the ADHE website.

Act 365, placed the classification, compensation and benefits authority of employees of institutions of higher education under ADHE and away from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). ADHE staff are working on this transition, said Markham.

Project Pipeline Repair Initiative

Dr. Esther J. Robinson, University of Arkansas Pine Bluff Assistant Professor, presented information regarding a grant the institution received for Project Pipeline Repair: Restoring Minority Male Participation and Persistence in Educator Preparation Programs. The grant funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation will fund the development and implementation of academic enrichment opportunities to prepare underrepresented male high school juniors and seniors for success in a postsecondary educator preparation program. This is in response to a growing national crisis – the absence of a critical mass of African-American and Latino males to meet the needs of states' increasingly diverse P-12 classrooms. It is a research-based strategy that also responds to states' needs to address escalating teacher shortages and gaps in student achievement.

Annual Faculty Performance Review

Dr. Marla Strecker reported that ADHE staff is required to monitor faculty evaluation processes adopted at Arkansas public institutions and report annually to the AHECB and Legislative Council.

Dr. Charles Allen asked if the reviews changed often. Dr. Strecker said, no.

Greg Revels said, if the reviews don't change, does that mean the board isn't doing anything. Strecker said the board is still holding the institutions accountable.

Agenda Item No. 3
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.

ADHE Executive Staff recommend that the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approve the following resolution:

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 moved to approve the review of Agenda Item No. 3. Dr. Charles Allen seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 3b
Concurrent Enrollment Policy

Arkansas law allows for the enrollment of high school students in college-level courses under certain conditions. Concurrent enrollment allows students to obtain credit toward a high school diploma at the same time they earn college credit.

AHECB Resolutions (Adopted July 26, 2013, Effective Fall 2013)

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the policy amendment on concurrent enrollment effective Fall 2013. The concurrent enrollment policy outlines the guidelines for concurrent program participation; however, Arkansas state-supported colleges and universities are

not required to participate in a concurrent enrollment program; and a high school/school district may choose to partner with more than one Arkansas college/university for concurrent courses.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That any Arkansas state-supported college or university that chooses to participate in a concurrent enrollment program with a public school district, private high school, or home-school student shall implement and administer the concurrent program in accordance with the policies of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the rules of the Arkansas State Board of Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That any college or university that chooses to participate in a concurrent enrollment program must be accredited by the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) or must be authorized by Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board no later than August 1, 2015. A college/university not offering concurrent courses currently must have AHECB initial authorization for the institutional concurrent enrollment program prior to the offering of concurrent courses.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That Arkansas state-supported colleges and universities will not participate with Arkansas Early College High School (AECHS) in the delivery of blended AP/concurrent courses for college credit.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That Arkansas state-supported colleges and universities will not participate with AECHS in the offering of single courses for multiple higher education institutions.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That ADHE staff will review, in cooperation with the Arkansas Department of Education, the blended AP/concurrent course offerings throughout the state to determine if these courses are in keeping with the concurrent enrollment policy as outlined in this agenda item.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the ADHE staff to submit an annual report on concurrent course enrollment to the Board which will include institutional data on concurrent course offerings and locations, and could include ADHE Executive Staff Recommendations for policy amendments on the administration, continuance, and funding of the concurrent enrollment program.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to provide a copy of the amended policy to presidents and chancellors, academic affairs officers, students affairs officers, and institutional research officers at Arkansas state-supported colleges and universities.

Dr. Jim Carr moved to approve the review of Agenda Item No. 3b. Greg Revels seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 4
Economic Feasibility of Loan Issue
Arkansas State University – Beebe
Arkansas State University – Newport

Arkansas State University System on behalf of Arkansas State University-Beebe and Arkansas State University-Newport, requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to obtain a loan from the College Savings Bond Revolving Loan Fund not to exceed \$1.1 million with a term of up to fifteen (15) years at an annual interest rate not to exceed 1.31 percent. Proceeds from the loan will be used for educational and general (E&G) purposes. Arkansas State University Board of Trustees approved this financing at its meeting on June 8, 2017.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for Arkansas State University System on behalf of Arkansas State University-Beebe and Arkansas State University-Newport to obtain a loan from the College Savings Bond Revolving Loan Fund not to exceed \$1.1 million with a term of up to fifteen (15) years at an expected annual interest rate not to exceed 1.31 percent to provide needed campus-wide energy improvements to include lighting retrofits, water and waste management strategies, chiller upgrades as well as installation of other energy control mechanisms. A portion of the ASUN project includes installation of a solar panel array to generate renewable energy for the campus. As required by the AEPC Program, these improvements will generate annual savings guaranteed by the Energy Service Company, which will exceed the total project cost (construction, equipment and financing).

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 Arkansas State University System, and the Chancellors of Arkansas State University-Beebe and Arkansas State University-Newport of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

Chair Johnson asked if staff knew the total amount in the College Savings Bond Revolving Loan Fund, which is managed by the Arkansas Building Authority. ASU System Executive Vice President Julie Bates said she believes they will receive the last of the funds.

Keven Anderson moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 4 to the full Board for consideration. Sherrel Johnson seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 5
Economic Feasibility of Loan Issue
Arkansas State University – Beebe
Arkansas State University – Newport

Arkansas State University System on behalf of Arkansas State University-Beebe and Arkansas State University-Newport, requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to obtain a loan not to exceed \$1.25 million with a term of up to ten (10) years at an annual interest rate not to exceed 0.00 percent. Proceeds from the loan will be used for educational and general (E&G) purposes. Arkansas State University Board of Trustees approved this financing at its meeting on June 8, 2017.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for Arkansas State University System on behalf of Arkansas State University-Beebe and Arkansas State University-Newport to obtain a loan not to exceed \$1.25 million with a term of up to ten (10) years at an expected annual interest rate not to exceed 0.00 percent to provide needed campus-wide energy improvements to include lighting retrofits, water and waste management strategies, chiller upgrades as well as installation of other energy control mechanisms.

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 Arkansas State University, and the Chancellors of Arkansas State University-Beebe and Arkansas State University-Newport of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

Greg Revels asked if both loans would repay themselves. Tara Smith said, yes. It is one big project using two different loan funds to support it.

Keven Anderson moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 5 to the full Board for consideration. Sherrel Johnson seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 6
Economic Feasibility of Bond Issue
University of Central Arkansas

The University of Central Arkansas requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds not to exceed \$8.5 million with a term of thirty (30) years at an annual interest rate not to exceed 5.50 percent. Proceeds from the bond issue will be used for auxiliary purposes. The University of Central Arkansas Board of Trustees approved this financing at its meeting on May 12, 2017.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for the University of Central Arkansas to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$8.5 million with a

term of thirty (30) years at an estimated interest rate not to exceed 5.50 percent for auxiliary purposes to fund the design and renovation of two housing facilities.

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 Central Arkansas of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

There were no questions.

Keven Anderson moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 6 to the full Board for consideration. Sherrel Johnson seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 7
Certification of Intercollegiate Athletic Revenues
and Expenditures for 2017-18

A.C.A. §6-62-805 (Act 366 of 1991) requires each state-supported institution of higher education to annually certify by June 15 to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board that its intercollegiate athletic program will generate sufficient revenues to meet expenditures or that any athletic deficit will be met by separate institutional board-sanctioned student athletic fees.

A.C.A. §6-62-804 requires that any student athletic fees assessed must be clearly defined in all publications and institutional board minutes, and listed separate and distinct from tuition or other student fees on student tuition and fee statements. All institutions assessing a student athletic fee have certified to the Department compliance with this requirement and have submitted copies of their student fee billing statements illustrating the disclosure of the athletic fee to each student.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board accepts the Certification of Intercollegiate Athletic Revenues and Expenditures Budgeted for 2017-18 as prepared in accordance with Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board uniform accounting standards and definitions for athletic reporting.

Chair Johnson questioned why UAM has a \$5 increase. Ms. Smith explained that this has been their first increase for some time. Their athletic budget is not growing by that amount, but they are projecting that their student athletic fees will have to make up a bigger portion of their athletic budget.

Greg Revels asked that as institutions deal with their athletic budgets that they do consider the students as much as possible.

Keven Anderson moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 7 to the full Board for consideration. Sherrel Johnson seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 8
Productivity-based Funding Distribution Policy

Due to recent adjustments, the productivity-based funding distribution policy has been delayed pending review by the presidents and chancellors. Then, a special meeting of the AHECB will be scheduled to review the policy.

Agenda Item No. 9
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, 2020.

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.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, Florida

Simmons College, Boston, Massachusetts

South University, Savannah, Georgia

Ultimate Medical Academy, Tampa, Florida

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California

New Institution – Distance Technology

Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California

Evangel University, Springfield, Missouri

Dr. Jim Carr asked if Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University would be bringing in aircrafts to train students. Ms. Clemmer said she would find out.

Agenda Item No. 10
Nurse Anesthesia Option in the Doctor of Nursing Practice
Arkansas State University Jonesboro

The Nurse Anesthesia Option in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is a program that will be offered as a post baccalaureate or post master's professional registered nurse (RN) degree. The practice-focused doctoral program will prepare professional RN's for the nurse anesthesia role at the highest level of clinical nursing practice. In 2004, the American Associate of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) proposed that the DNP be the entry level for advanced practice nursing. In 2009, the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Education Programs (COA) mandated that all nurse anesthesia programs must be at the doctoral level by 2025. In October 2015, the COA mandated that all accredited programs must offer a doctoral degree for entry into practice by January 1, 2022. Currently, Arkansas State University offers the Master of Science in Nursing with an option in nurse anesthesia. This option will be required to change to the DNP degree plan to be in compliance with the COA's mandate.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Nurse Anesthesia Option in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (CIP 51.3818; 114 credit hours) offered by Arkansas State University - Jonesboro, effective Spring 2018.

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 State University System and the Chancellor of Arkansas State University – Jonesboro of the approval. Program continuation is contingent on ASUJ meeting and maintaining program accreditation requirements of the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Education Programs.

Dr. Jim Carr asked what the total capacity of the new program would be. Dean of Liberal Arts at ASU-Jonesboro Dr. Gina Hogue said, thirty students the first year and every year for three years we will add 30 students (90 total). Ninety nine percent of those students are currently graduating at the Master's degree level are employed in the first six months of completion of the program.

Agenda Item No. 11
Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Medicine
Henderson State University

The proposed Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Medicine Technology is a 120 credit hour program that is a collaboration between Henderson State University (HSU) and Baptist Health Schools-Little Rock (BHSLR). The proposed program will train students as nuclear medicine technologists to perform procedures using dedicated imaging equipment and detectors to perform functioning imaging in specialized areas such as nuclear cardiology, PET/CT and general nuclear medicine imaging. Students will complete the first three years at HSU and the final year at BHSLR.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Medicine Technology (CIP 51.0905; 120 credit hours) offered by Henderson State University, effective August 2017.

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 Henderson State University of the approval.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 12
Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering
University of Central Arkansas

The Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering is a 126 semester credit hour program designed to prepare graduates to develop and adapt computer hardware for applications. The University of Central Arkansas (UCA) currently offers Bachelor of Science degrees in Computer Science and Information Systems; and the Bachelor of Business Administration in Management Information Systems that have a software emphasis with limited exposure to hardware. Software specialists are in high demand; there also is an unmet need for graduates in computer engineering who have a greater understanding of hardware systems. Further, existing Bachelor of Science degrees in Computer Science, Mathematics, and Physics will support the proposed program by providing some of the foundation and elective courses.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering (CIP 14.0901; 126 credit hours) offered by the University of Central Arkansas, effective August 2017.

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 Central Arkansas of the approval.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 13
Master of Arts in Sport Management
University of Central Arkansas

The proposed Master of Arts (MA) in Sport Management is a 30 semester credit hour program offered in an executive format for students who desire to enhance their knowledge base of sport management. The online only program will support students who are currently working and possess the desire to achieve an advanced degree to progress his/her career in the sport industry. Students will obtain knowledge in the sophisticated workings of the management, marketing, leadership, legal, and financial aspects of the sport industry. Graduates of UCA's MA in Sport Management will have a thorough understanding of the sport management industry with the ability to critically analyze data and situations involving various industry aspects in order to make better-informed decisions; possess the skills to run a sport organization through different aspects of its operations (finance, decision-making, marketing, production, and leadership); and acquire the knowledge needed to understand both macro- and micro-level issues facing the sport management industry. Some of the employers who have jobs for these graduates and who responded to the Employer Needs Survey are the Arkansas Activities Association, Arkansas Travelers Baseball Club, Inc., Arkansas United Soccer Club, Fayetteville Parks & Recreation, and the Northwest Arkansas Naturals Baseball Club. These jobs range from coordinator to director positions at average salaries of \$50,000.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Arts in Sport Management (CIP 31.0504; 30 credit hours) offered by the University of Central Arkansas, effective August 2017.

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 Central Arkansas of the approval.

Chair Johnson asked how many students are enrolled on a regular basis in the four existing programs. Dr. Strecker said she would find out.

Dr. Jim Carr moved to recommend the approval of the review of Agenda Items No. 9 - 13 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Olin Cook seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Items No. 14 & 15
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 14-1 through 14-93 and in the Letters of Intent on pages 15-1 through 15-12 of the agenda book.

Greg Revels asked what is viability. Dr. Strecker said that in 1989, the AHECB adopted program productivity standards and established benchmarks of an average of 3 graduates per year over five years for undergraduate programs, 2 graduates per year for master's programs, and 1 graduate per year for doctoral programs. Programs identified as below the viability threshold will have two (2) *additional* years to meet the threshold or will be removed from the AHECB approved programs inventory.

Report of the Committees

Greg Revels presented the report of the Finance Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 4 - 7. The board approved.

Dr. Charles Allen presented the report of the Academic Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 9 - 13. The board approved.

Remarks by Presidents and Chancellors

Dr. Martin Eggensperger announced that Arkansas State University at Mountain Home would be hosting the next Coordinating Board meeting on October 26-27, 2017.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

Dr. Michael Stanton, Secretary