

**ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Regular Quarterly Meeting
October 25, 2019**

Minutes of Meeting

The October 25, 2019, regular meeting of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) was held at the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith. Chairman Jim Carr called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., with a quorum present.

Coordinating Board present:

Dr. Jim Carr, Chair
Al Brodell, Vice Chair
Dr. Olin Cook
Lori Griffin
Greg Revels

Coordinating Board absent:

Dr. Charles Allen
Keven Anderson
Chris Gilliam
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
Sonia Hazelwood, Associate Director for Research and Analytics
Alisha Lewis, Director of Communications
Nichole Abernathy, Executive Assistant

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

Chairman Carr began by thanking Chancellor Terisa Riley for her hospitality on Thursday evening. He then introduced Dr. Riley for a welcome.

Dr. Riley began by thanking everyone for coming to her campus for the meeting. She then thanked her staff for their work to make the meeting a great success. Dr. Riley noted that UAFS was awarded a \$2.25 million, five-year Title III grant from the Department of Education. This funding allows us to put programs into place that will benefit our students, said Dr. Riley.

Chairman Carr thanked Dr. Riley for her welcome.

Agenda Item No. 1
Approval of Minutes

Greg Revels moved to approve Agenda Item No. 1. Al Brodell seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 2
Appointment of Nominating Committee

Chair Jim Carr appointed members of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board nominating committee. The nominating committee will recommend Board officers for 2020-21 at the January 31, 2020 meeting. The members included Dr. Michael Stanton (Chair), Chris Gilliam and Lori Griffin.

Greg Revels moved to approve Agenda Item No. 2. Al Brodell seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 3
Approval of 2020 Coordinating Board
Meeting Schedule

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board meets quarterly to act upon Board initiatives and to respond to campus proposals.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board agrees to the following dates for regular quarterly meetings during 2020: January 31, April 24, July 31, and October 30.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board expresses its appreciation and accepts the invitations to meet in January and April at the Arkansas Division of Higher Education, in July at Arkansas State University - Jonesboro and in October at the Division of Higher Education.

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

Agenda Item No. 4
Director's Report

Staff Changes

Dr. Markham announced that Financial Aid Director Jonathan Coleman transferred to UA Little Rock. His last day was September 27, 2019. Lisa Smith has been appointed the interim Director for Financial Aid.

Veterans Training

Dr. Markham announced that as part of the Governor's transformation efforts, ADHE has added the State Approving Agency for Veterans Training (SAA). In Arkansas, the SAA has the single responsibility for approval of all schools and training sites that wish to provide veterans' education and training. The SAA approves all public and private university, college, and technical/vocational school programs so that the veteran can use his/her education benefits. In addition, the Arkansas SAA is responsible for

approval of On-the-Job Training and Apprenticeship programs that are offered to veterans.

Institutional Leadership Changes

Christina Drale, Ph.D., has been named chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Drale has served as interim executive vice chancellor and provost of the campus since October 2018.

Elaine Kneebone, General Counsel for Henderson State University, will serve as acting president until an interim search is completed. Kneebone is a 1997 graduate of Henderson State University with a bachelor of arts degree in history.

Closing the Gap Award Recipient

Dr. Barbara Johnson, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Arkansas Tech University (ATU), provided information about the Career Advancement Academy at ATU. Founded in 2017, the ATU Norman Career Services Elevate program utilizes National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) career readiness standards and makes career preparation accessible to all students by providing it through self-paced, online learning.

HSU Financial Update

Dr. Elaine Kneebone, Acting President at Henderson State University, provided a financial update following the institutions request for a \$6 million advance from the Budget Stabilization Trust Fund. Dr. Kneebone explained that due to an increase in the number of unpaid student accounts, HSU ended fiscal year 2019 with a \$4.9 million deficit. Other contributing factors were deferred maintenance costs, over estimated revenues and under estimated expenses. As part of the approval for the advance, HSU agreed to explore the possibility of joining a system, to improve financial controls and provide other advantages. Dr. Kneebone outlined additional corrective measures taken by HSU to improve their financial controls and increase their financial reserves.

Greg Revels asked if HSU would be able to pay back the \$6 million loan at the end of the year. Dr. Kneebone said they have to. The question is, whether or not they will have to request another loan at the end of the year, said Kneebone.

Greg Revels questioned the deferred maintenance costs, asking why the AHECB mandated maintenance fee wasn't set aside or used. Nick Fuller explained that the maintenance fees only cover routine maintenance and only applies to new facilities constructed after 2010.

Dr. Carr asked if HSU had to terminate any employees since they cut salaries by 3% and cut back on TIAA-CREF. Dr. Kneebone said no.

Dr. Charles Welch, President of the ASU System, clarified that the policy on maintenance fees, predated the HSU buildings that required maintenance.

Agenda Item No. 5
Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship

In compliance with Act 456 of 2019, the proposed rules and regulations for the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for review. If approved, the rules will go to the Governor and the 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 Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or her designee is authorized to provide the rules and regulations presented in this agenda item to the Governor and Administrative Rules and Regulations Committee.

Greg Revels asked if there is enough funds to cover this scholarship. Nick Fuller said currently there is enough.

Greg Revels moved to approve Agenda Item No. 5. Al Brodell seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 6
Recommendation for Distribution of Productivity Funding
for State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education

A.C.A. §6-61-234 directs the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) to adopt polices developed by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education (ADHE) necessary to implement a productivity-based funding model for state-supported institutions of higher education.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the recommendation for distribution of productivity funding to the Arkansas public institutions of higher education in the 2020-21 fiscal year as included in Table A.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education is authorized to prepare appropriate documents for transmission to the Governor and the General Assembly of the 2020-21 productivity funding distribution recommendation of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That should any errors of a technical nature be found in this recommendation, the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education is authorized to make appropriate corrections consistent with the policy established by the Board's action on these recommendations.

Al Brodell asked if ADHE received concerns or feedback regarding the funding, from the institutions. Nick Fuller stated that there were no public comments during the rules change process. There isn't a perfect model; however, this is the best model to distribute the funds at this time, said Fuller.

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

Agenda Item No. 7
Report on Intercollegiate Athletic Revenues
and Expenditures for 2018-19

Act 245 of 1989 (A.C.A. §6-62-106) directed the Coordinating Board to develop and establish uniform accounting standards and procedures for reporting revenues and expenditures. Based on these standard definitions and formats, the Coordinating Board is to collect the financial data and provide a uniform report of each institution's athletic revenues and expenditures for the previous fiscal year to the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee and the public by November of each year.

Athletic revenues and expenditures for 2018-19 for each institution have been collected according to uniform standards and compiled in a summary report that follows this agenda item. An explanation of the reporting format follows:

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board accepts the Report of 2018-19 Intercollegiate Athletic Revenues and Expenditures as prepared in accordance with Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board uniform accounting standards and definitions for athletic reporting.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board authorizes the Director to transmit the Report of 2018-19 Intercollegiate Athletic Revenues and Expenditures to the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee according to the provisions of A.C.A. §6-62-106.

Nick Fuller noted that policy states that institutions must present a budget to ADHE prior to the fiscal year. However, three institutions did not submit one prior to reporting their expenses at the end of the year. ADHE did receive letters from all three institutions explaining why they did not follow the procedure.

Greg Revels asked what the penalty is for not following the procedures. Fuller said there is no penalty outlined in law.

Revels asked if the AHECB could develop the penalties since they developed the procedures. Fuller said yes, they could go through the rules process.

Dr. Jim Carr questioned the three institutions rationale for not following the procedures. Fuller said the institutions were unaware that they needed to submit a budget to ADHE.

Revels stated that Act 366 of 1991 prohibits athletic deficits. However, if there is a deficit, a student fee must be charged. There are four institutions with a deficit. Fuller said that corrected information had been sent in by two of the institutions. Therefore, only two still have a deficit.

Dr. Jim Carr moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 7 to the full Board for consideration. Greg Revels seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 8
Bond/Loan Feasibility Update

Nick Fuller presented an update of the actual terms for bond and loan issues receiving AHECB approval that occurred October 2018 through October 2019. An annual update was requested by the AHECB during the July 30, 2010 quarterly meeting.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 9
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, 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 FY2017-18 and FY2018-19 maintenance transfers.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 10
Bachelor of Science in Data Science
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

The proposed Bachelor of Science in Data Science is a 120 credit hour program designed to leverage the state of Arkansas's strengths in data science and analytics. Students pursuing the Bachelor of Science in Data Science will have the choice to choose from a variety of pathways with concentrations in Accounting Analytics; Bioinformatics; Biomedical and Healthcare Informatics; Business Data Analytics; Computational Analytics; Data Science Statistics; Geospatial Data Analytics; Operations Analytics; Social Data Analytics; and Supply Chain Analytics. The concentrations are 20-21 credit hours and provide specific domain knowledge in addition to the required 47 credit hour data science core. The proposed program will integrate real-world industry-based open-ended challenges for workforce development and education by creating a rigorous data science curriculum as a partnership of the College of Engineering, the Walton College of Business, and the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences. The objective of the program is to develop graduates who will be prepared for successful careers in data science with an amalgamation of capabilities.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Bachelor of Science in Data Science with concentrations in Accounting Analytics; Bioinformatics; Biomedical and Healthcare Informatics; Business Data Analytics; Computational Analytics; Data Science Statistics; Geospatial Data Analytics; Operations Analytics; Social Data Analytics; and Supply Chain Analytics (CIP 30.7099; 120 credit hours) offered by the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, effective Fall 2020.

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, Fayetteville of the approval.

Dr. Terry Martin, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs at the University of Arkansas, provided additional background information for this program.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 11
Master of Science in Economic Analytics
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

The proposed Master of Science in Economic Analytics is a 100% online 30 credit hour graduate program that will guide students through economic modeling and theory to computational practice and cutting-edge tools, providing a thorough training in descriptive, predictive, and prescriptive analytics. Students will gain a solid knowledge of econometric and machine learning methods, optimization, and computing. These "big-data" skills, combined with knowledge of economic modeling, will enable them to identify, assess, and seize the opportunity for data-driven value creation in the private

and public sector. Further, the proposed program will enable students to analyze, digest, visualize, and ultimately harness the data to drive decision making in business, science, and society. Upon successful completion of the proposed program, students will be eligible to apply for an Enterprise Systems (Business Analytics Concentration) Graduate Certificate in addition to the Master of Science in Economic Analytics degree.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Science in Economic Analytics (CIP 45.0603; 30 credit hours; 100% online) offered by the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, effective Fall 2020.

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, Fayetteville of the approval.

Dr. Terry Martin provided additional background information for this program.

Dr. Jim Carr commended UA for having no new costs associated with their program.

Lori Griffin asked how many positions are currently available. Dr. Jessie Walker said approximately 20 positions were listed in the program proposal.

Agenda Item No. 12
Master of Science in Healthcare Data Analytics
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

The proposed 39 credit hour Master of Science in Healthcare Data Analytics takes a multidisciplinary approach to train individuals with the analytical, informatics, and computational skills required to be competitive for health analytics and data science positions in the current and future job markets. The competency-based curriculum offered by the program provides students with advanced skills in data aggregation methods, statistical methods, data mining and forecasting algorithms, visualization techniques, and data management, including database skills and database design techniques. Graduates of the proposed program can expect to be proficient in multiple state-of-the-art software tools and have a deep understanding of complex data analytic approaches. In the final semester of the proposed program, students will be required to complete a thesis/capstone project to synthesize and apply knowledge of the methods and theories gained during coursework.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Science in Healthcare Data Analytics (CIP 26.1103; 39 credit hours) offered by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, effective Fall 2020.

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 for Medical Sciences of the approval.

Dr. Kristen Sterba, Associate Provost for Students and Administration at UAMS, provided additional background information for this program.

Dr. Carr expressed concern regarding the projected enrollment number saying it should be higher based on the need demand. Dr. Sterba said she anticipates the program will expand as the need grows.

Al Brodell asked if this program was geared more towards mapping and projecting patient demographics as it applies to reimbursement. Dr. Sterba said yes.

Agenda Item. No. 13
James Black School of Bladesmithing and Historic Trades
University of Arkansas Community College at Hope-Texarkana

The administration and Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System and the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope-Texarkana (UAHT) request Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to recognize an off-campus instructional site in Washington, Arkansas to be called the James Black School of Bladesmithing and Historic Trades. UAHT is also requesting Coordinating Board approval to offer the Certificate of Proficiency in Bladesmithing degree. The proposed program will be completed at the off-campus site.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) approves the establishment of the James Black School of Bladesmithing and Historic Trades at the Historic Washington State Park in Washington, AR; and the offering of the Certificate of Proficiency in Bladesmithing degree, effective Spring 2020.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) 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 Community College at Hope-Texarkana of the approval. Dr. Jim Coleman, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs provided additional information.

Laura Clark, Vice Chancellor for Academics at UAHT, provided additional information for this program.

Dr. Jim Carr asked how many students do they expect to have in this program. Ms. Clark said the program anticipates 8 – 16 graduates. She noted that Master Bladesmith Jerry Fisk, helped UAHT design the program.

Agenda Item No. 14
Institutional Certification Advisory Committee

ADHE Executive Staff Recommendation

Initial Program Certification-Distance Technology

RESOLVED, That pursuant to A.C.A. §6-61-301, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants initial certification to the institutions listed on pages 1 - 2 to offer the specified degree programs to Arkansas residents for a period of three years through December 31, 2022.

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 A.C.A. §6-61-301.

New Institution – Distance Technology

Central Christian College of Kansas, McPherson, Kansas

There were no questions.

Agenda Items No. 15 & 16
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 15-1 through 15-34 and in the Letters of Intent on pages 16-1 through 16-34 of the agenda book.

Dr. Jim Carr moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Items No. 10 - 14 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Olin Cook seconded and the Committee approved.

Report of the Committees

Al Brodell presented the report of the Finance Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 6 – 7. The board approved.

Lori Griffin presented the report of the Academic Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 10 – 14. The board approved.

Remarks by Presidents and Chancellors

After a brief announcement regarding the number of students that go on to college nationally, Dr. Carr announced that the next Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board meeting would be held at the Arkansas Division of Higher Education on January 31, 2020.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

Chris Gilliam, Secretary