

**ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Special Meeting
April 26, 2012**

Minutes of Meeting

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board held a special meeting on Thursday, April 26, 2012, at NorthWest Arkansas Community College in Bentonville in the Shewmaker Center for Workforce Technology Walmart Auditorium. Chairman Cook called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. with a quorum present.

Coordinating Board present:

Dr. Olin Cook, Chair
Dr. Charles Allen, Vice-Chair
Sarah Argue, Secretary
Dr. Joe Bennett
Bob Crafton
Horace Hardwick
Kaneaster Hodges
David Leech
Florine Milligan

Coordinating Board absent:

Dr. Bob Burns
Steve Luelf

Department staff present:

Shane Broadway, Interim Director
Harold Criswell, Interim Deputy Director
Cynthia Moten, Associate Director for Academic Programs
Rick Jenkins, Associate Director for Planning and Accountability
Zanette Douglas, Coordinator of Institutional Certification
Brandi Hinkle, Communications Officer
Nichole Abernathy, Administrative Support

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

Chairman Cook thanked presidents and chancellors for attending the Special Board meeting.

Chairman Cook then recognized former AHECB member Dick Trammel. Mr. Trammel said it was good to see everyone and be on the NWACC campus again.

Agenda Item No. 1
Annual Report on Credentials Awarded

Rick Jenkins presented summary and detailed information about annual student enrollment. He noted the total, on-schedule enrollment for fall 2011 in all sectors of Arkansas higher education (public and independent colleges and universities) was 175,997 students; representing a 1-year increase of 2.1 percent.

The annual unduplicated headcount enrollment for Academic Year 2011 (2010-2011) in Arkansas public higher education (4-year public universities and 2-year public colleges) was 202,963 students; representing a 1-year increase of 2.4 percent.

Based on institutions reporting coursework delivered via distance learning, 4,281 classes (up from 4,104 the previous year) were offered in fall 2011 representing a growth of 4.3 percent. There were 78,396 enrollments (up from 75,079 the previous year) in these courses representing a growth of 4.4 percent.

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

Since 1988, all entering first-year students seeking an associate degree or higher from an Arkansas public college or university must meet AHECB assessment and placement standards in the disciplines of English, mathematics, and reading. A cut-off subscore of 19 on the ACT exam (or the equivalent on the ASSET, SAT, or COMPASS tests) is used for each of the three areas.

In fall 2011, Arkansas's public institutions enrolled 23,253 first-time degree-seeking students and 23,176 of those students were tested for placement purposes.

Of the 23,176 students who were tested, 11,436 students (49.3 percent) were assigned to one or more remedial courses while the balances were placed in college-level coursework. This represents a decrease in the remediation rate of 3.3 percentage points from fall 2010.

Of the 11,436 students assigned to remediation, 5,101 (44.6 percent) were in the four-year sector, and 6,335 (55.4 percent) were in the two-year sector.

Dr. Charles Allen asked if independent schools were listed in this report. Mr. Jenkins said they were included in a different report.

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 2011, 2,954 students participated in athletics at 13 Arkansas institutions. In AY2007 there were 2,778 students participating in athletics. He noted that ten sports were included in the athletics reporting. Mr. Jenkins reported that UAF has the most student athletes, followed by UCA and ASUJ.

Ms. Milligan asked how many two-year institutions have athletic programs. Mr. Jenkins said two – Mid-South Community College and North Arkansas College.

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 2007-08 (after three years) and baccalaureate and graduate degree programs approved by the Coordinating Board in 2005-2006 (after five years) was presented to the Coordinating Board.

Agenda Item No. 5
Undergraduate Student Research Projects

Interim Vice President for Learning at NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC) Dr. Marvin Galloway discussed undergraduate student research projects. Several other NWACC staff discussed EAST Lab, EMPACTS, the Quapaw Nation, and the Tar Creek Superfund.

Florine Milligan commented that this seems like it would increase academic learning for students participating in the program. Students are being attained and learning more.

Dr. Joe Bennett asked if this could be brought to other institutions. Dr. Galloway said that NWACC has the model and would love to do it.

Agenda Item No. 6
Arkansas Education to Employment Report

Neal Gibson of the Arkansas Research Center provided a presentation on the Arkansas Education to Employment report. The 2011 Arkansas Education to Employment report analyzes employment outcomes for graduates of Arkansas public colleges and universities for the academic years 2002 through 2009. It provides a snapshot of what these graduates' employment outcomes are in 2010, as well as, one year, two years, and five years after their graduation.

Dr. Olin Cook asked why Arkansans are going out of state for employment. Mr. Gibson said he does not have the data.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

Sarah Argue, Secretary