

**ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Regular Quarterly Meeting
May 1, 2015**

Minutes of Meeting

The May 1, 2015, regular meeting of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) was held at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia. Chairman Crafton called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.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
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 introduced Dr. David Rankin, President for Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia (SAUM), for a welcome. Rankin began by thanking everyone for coming to SAUM. He stated that SAUM started in 1909 because of the community's desire for the farm kids to have an education. He then showed a brief video about SAUM.

Chairman Crafton thanked Dr. Rankin for his welcome.

Next, Crafton introduced Shane and Debbie Broadway. February 6 was Broadway's last day at ADHE, said Crafton. Regretfully, he departed before the AHECB had the opportunity to express their gratitude to him for his service to higher education. The board felt there was no better way to honor Shane than to honor his wife, Debbie. They invited all the individuals, including present and former AHECB members as well as presidents and chancellors of the public

institutions, who have had the opportunity to work with Shane while he was director of ADHE, to join as they raised funds for the National MS Society Arkansas Chapter (NMSAC) in Debbie's honor, said Crafton. The response was overwhelming. The AHECB received \$3,640.00 in donations. Crafton then welcomed Sarah Webber with the NMSAC and presented her with the donation. He then thanked everyone for their participation and support.

Next, Ben Pickard read a congratulatory letter to Shane Broadway on behalf of Former Governor Mike Beebe.

Agenda Item No. 1 Approval of Minutes

Ben Pickard moved to approve Agenda Item No. 1. Chris Gilliam seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 2 Agency Updates

ADHE Staff Changes

Dr. Powell began by announcing that Program Specialist Rod Sweetman, Financial Aid Program Specialist Chris Wilson and Software Support Analyst Karpagam Arul, all resigned for new work opportunities.

Institutional Leadership

Chancellor Steven Murray's last day at Phillips Community College of the U of A is June 30; President Glen Fenter's last day at Mid-South Community College (ASU Mid-South) is June 30; President David Rankin's last day at Southern Arkansas University is June 30; and Chancellor David Gearhart's last day at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville is July 31, announced Powell.

Dr. Roderick Smothers is the new President of Philander Smith College, Dr. Trey Berry will begin on July 1 as the President for Southern Arkansas University and Dr. Dan Ferritor will begin on July 31 as the Interim Chancellor for the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, announced Powell.

Academic Challenge Scholarship Updates

Next, Powell announced legislative changes to the Academic Challenge Scholarship. The Smart Core and GPA were removed from the eligibility requirements (19 ACT or ACT equivalent score to qualify, still remains). Starting with the 2016-2017 academic year, the award amounts will change to \$1,000 in the first year, \$4,000 for the second and third years, and \$5,000 for the fourth and final year. Award amounts at two-year institutions will change to \$1,000 and

\$3,000. Powell noted that the awards will also go from semester-based to an hours-earned basis.

Governor's Scholarship Updates

Recent legislation eliminated the separate programs of Governor's Scholars and Governor's Distinguished. Now, only Governor's Distinguished exists and one per county is still required. Although a total of 599 students were awarded due to additional funding, only 465 have accepted, said Powell.

Realignment of Higher Education

The AHECB was asked to study the advantages and disadvantages of realigning state-supported institutions of higher education. We will need to identify current redundancies that exist with the current structure of higher education in Arkansas, determine what mechanisms are currently available or could be available to provide cost savings to state-supported institutions of higher education and to students, and improve accountability. Powell said that he would like to have a report to legislators by November 2016.

Unplanned Pregnancies

Act 943 of 2015 requires the AHECB, in collaboration with the public presidents and chancellors, to develop an action plan to address the prevention of unplanned pregnancy by November 3, 2015. The plan should identify opportunities to raise awareness and provide unplanned pregnancy prevention information to students. Identifying grant funds for prevention activities and identifying educational challenges for single parents is also a requirement. The AHECB will report on the status by July 1, 2015, said Powell.

Sherrel Johnson asked if ADHE was planning on reaching out to the Single Parent Scholarship Fund to utilize their resources. Powell said yes.

Sarah Argue asked if there was anything in the Act that suggested coordination between K12. Powell said he doesn't believe there is anything in the act that requires it.

State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)

Alana Boles presented an update on SARA, a national initiative backed by a grant from the Lumina Foundation in cooperation with SREB and other regional education compacts and accrediting agencies. ADHE must certify Arkansas colleges and universities offering distance technology programs for SARA participation based on institutional accreditation, financial stability, and student complaint resolution policy and procedures. Boles noted that SARA participation is optional. Colleges and universities must pay a nominal participation fee to SARA annually. However, ADHE will not charge Arkansas colleges and universities a fee for SARA participation. ADHE submitted the state application for SARA

participation in January 2015 with an effective date of July 2015 for Arkansas colleges and universities to participate in SARA.

Launch of New ADHE Website

Jake Eddington presented information on the launch of the new ADHE website. A few of our goals with the new website were to make it faster, easier to navigate and more user friendly. The site's homepage features an uncluttered design as well as a banner that can be updated regularly. After demonstrating how to navigate the new website, Eddington said that the new site is slated to go live the first of August.

Master Plan

In closing, Powell gave an update on the Higher Education Master Plan. He said that he would like to put together a plan that provides more detail about where we are, where we need to be and some strategies to get there. Although the AHECB is already working hard towards this goal, let's take some work that's being done in the institutions and compile it so we know what's happening and what progress is being made, said Powell.

Agenda Item No. 2b Workforce Initiative Act of 2015

Senate Bill 891, the Workforce Initiative Act, created a program that will award grants by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) to regional partnerships to create career and technical education programs. In accordance with A.C.A. §6-60-105, the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) shall act as the disbursing entity for all funds for the Workforce Initiative Act.

RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to disburse funds for the Workforce Initiative Act in accordance with the attached Workforce Initiative Act Regional Workforce Grant Guidelines.

Greg Revels moved to approve Agenda Item No. 2b. Florine Milligan seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 3 Performance Funding Outcomes

Act 1203 of 2011 repealed Arkansas Code §6-61-223 and amended §6-61-224, §6-61-228, §6-61-229, and §6-61-230. The act directed the Department of Higher Education to develop an outcome-centered component of the funding formula for colleges and universities by December 31, 2011. The Department of Higher Education, in conjunction with the presidents, chancellors and key staff at the universities and colleges and the Executive Director and key staff at the Arkansas

Association of Two-Year Colleges, developed the outcome-centered component of the funding formula that was approved by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board on December 2, 2011. The funding recommendations are now based on the need component of student enrollment and the output components of student success and other performance measures. The proportion of the funding recommendation begins with five percent based on outcome-centered measures in 2013-14, increasing by five percent each year to reach 25 percent in 2017-18. In addition, A.C.A. §6-61-233 states that the implementation of the funding component of the outcome-centered formula shall not progress beyond the 2014-2015 school year until such time as the Department of Higher Education determines that all institutions are funded at the minimum standard of equity defined as seventy-five percent (75%) of needed state funding, as determined by the needs-based component of the funding formula models.

Sherrel Johnson asked if the grants and awards were federally funded and didn't include private funds. Tara Smith said that was correct, they were only federal funds.

Greg Revels commented that there are a couple of institutions that are close to 6 points. He asked if they were aware of that fact and if so, if they were working on getting their scores above that. Smith said that ADHE is taking a whole new look at the funding formula and many discussions will take place in the future.

Jay Jones, Interim Chancellor for the University of Arkansas at Monticello said that while he is not happy that UAM is slated to lose their \$82,000, he is even unhappier with what lead to the reduction. UAM was close in a number of areas, unfortunately close doesn't count. Jones said that this is something that UAM takes seriously and something that they hope does not repeat.

Horace Hardwick commended ADHE staff for their work on the performance funding outcomes. He noted that 12 years ago while in the legislature, he and others worked diligently trying to come up with funding outcomes. While this may still be a work in progress, it is definitely a step in the right direction, said Hardwick.

Greg Revels moved to recommend the approval of the review of Agenda Item No. 3 to the full Board for consideration. Sherrel Johnson seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 4 Distribution of Mineral Lease Funds

According to the provisions of A.C.A. §6-61-801 through §6-61-808, there is established the Arkansas Research Development Program for providing Arkansas Research Development Program Grants to publicly-supported universities in Arkansas by the Department of Higher Education. Act 104 of 2014 provides that after the sum of \$13,200,000 has been deposited into the Higher Education Building Maintenance Fund, any additional deposits are to be transferred to the Research Development Fund to be used as provided by law.

RESOLVED, That after review by the Legislative Council, the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to distribute up to \$750,000 from the Higher Education Research Development Fund to the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville for continuing personal services and operating expenses related to ARE-ON.

Horace Hardwick asked if this fund was audited by legislative audit. Tara Smith said it is.

Chris Gilliam moved to approve Agenda Item No. 4. Sherrel Johnson seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 5
Master of Science in Psychological Science
Arkansas State University – Jonesboro

The Master of Science in Psychological Science is a 36-semester credit hour program designed to provide education in basic and applied psychological research combined with advanced education in core content areas of psychology. The program is designed for graduates of undergraduate psychology programs who desire advanced-level training in psychology before seeking admission to doctoral programs in psychology or before seeking entrance into the labor force as applied researchers or community college faculty.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Science in Psychological Science (CIP 42.0101, 36 semester credit hours) offered by Arkansas State University-Jonesboro, effective Fall 2015.

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.

Sarah Argue asked how many MS programs are there in Arkansas. Ann Clemmer said she was not sure.

Argue asked how frequently do psychologists acquire Masters if they are not pursuing their doctorate. Clemmer said that it is her understanding that if you have a psychology bachelor's degree, you really need a Master's degree in order to practice psychology.

Agenda Item No. 6
Bachelor of Arts in Cultural
and Geospatial Studies
Arkansas Tech University

The proposed Bachelor of Arts in Cultural and Geospatial Studies draws from courses in Anthropology and Geography, providing students with skills necessary for jobs in economic development, city and regional planning, cultural resource management, natural resource management, transportation networking, food distribution, real estate, education, heritage preservation, parks and recreation administration along with a range of other fields. The 120-semester credit hour program combines the research, analysis, and communication skills in computer-based Geographic Information Systems. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) manage spatial data using detailed, multi-layered, and interactive maps. As demonstrated by such applications as Google Earth, GIS is a widely used communication platform for things ranging from human migration patterns to predator population changes to road and waterway evolution. Private industry and public institutions use GIS to assess community needs for all kinds of new products and infrastructure. The Cultural and Geospatial Studies degree will offer students essential and highly marketable skills in GIS while also providing a solid foundation in the Geographer's and Anthropologist's methods of identifying, analyzing, and solving problems.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Bachelor of Arts in Cultural and Geospatial Studies (CIP 45.0799, 120 semester credit hours) offered by Arkansas Tech University, effective Fall 2015.

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 Tech University of the approval.

Sherrel Johnson asked how ATU decided that Arkansas needed this program.

Dr. Jeff Woods, ATU Dean of Arts and Humanities, said that ATU combines traditional liberal arts skills with new technological skills. The applications for this are tremendous. For example, Arby's uses GIS to map where new locations are. Non-governmental organizations use GIS to better create resources to prevent diseases.

Clemmer noted that this is the only program of this kind in the state.

Agenda Items No. 7
Technical Certificate in Auto Collision
Structural Repair Technology
Black River Technical College

The technical certificate (TC) in Auto Collision Structural Repair Technology prepares students for specialized training in structural repair of automobiles. Students will gain knowledge and hands-on experience in refinishing, general body repairs, glass removal and replacement, straightening and alignment of body panels, computerized estimation and appraisal, restraint systems, structural repair methods, different paint systems techniques. Graduates can be hired in body shops, collision repair centers, insurance adjusting or appraising and as paint specialists with paint companies or in industrial centers. Employers surveyed in the area indicated a favorable employment outlook with jobs averaging \$20 per hour. Many of the employers need employees immediately and others average two new hires per year.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Technical Certificate in Auto Collision Structural Repair Technology (CIP 47.0603, 34 semester credit hours) offered by Black River Technical College, effective Fall 2015.

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 Black River Technical College of the approval.

Dr. Olin Cook said that this is an example of an institution supplying a need and jobs.

Agenda Item No. 8
Technical Certificate in Aerospace Fabrication and Repair
National Park Community College

The proposed technical certificate (TC) prepares students for entry-level positions in the aerospace fabrication and repair industry. Students will gain the skills and knowledge necessary for employment in the production and repair of metallic and composite aerospace structures, the ability to interpret technical drawings, and understand aerospace production systems. Students will be taught by lecture, instructor-led group discussion and problem solving sessions, demonstrations of equipment, tools, and machinery, use of audio-visual aids, homework, practical hands-on projects, and formal written and practical examinations. Upon completion of the 30-semester credit hour TC, all hours will apply toward the Associate of Applied Science in General Technology degree.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Technical Certificate in Aerospace Fabrication and Repair (CIP

47.0607, 30 semester credit hours) offered by National Park Community College, effective Fall 2015.

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 National Park Community College of the approval.

Sarah Argue asked how many additional adjunct faculty would be hired.

Project Coordinator William Polk said that they would hire one additional adjunct faculty for the program.

Chairman Crafton asked what kind of additional facilities and equipment would be required for this program. Polk said ASU just renovated their 3,000 square foot lab and they did acquire some additional equipment.

Greg Revels moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 8 to the full Board for consideration. Sherrel Johnson seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 9
Master of Education in Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education
Southern Arkansas University

The Master of Education in Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education is a 33-semester credit hour online program that provides coursework in foundations, curriculum and teaching, organization and administration, research, and electives. The program is designed for students to create an emphasis area to fit their career aspirations. The proposed program includes a core of set courses as well as project-based learning experiences culminating in a capstone portfolio which must contribute to the body of research in the student's chosen professional field. The program provides an educational pathway for faculty or other educators seeking to improve their teaching techniques for adult learners, individuals seeking to advance into administrative or management positions in various educational settings, or others who work with adult learners in a variety of agencies. This could include, but is not limited to, adult learning center management, professional development coordinator/trainer, or management roles in a variety of educational settings. Students may select either higher education or adult education as their emphasis area; however, students may elect to take courses in both emphasis areas.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Education in Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education (CIP 13.0101, 33 semester credit hours) offered by Southern Arkansas University, effective Fall 2015.

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 Southern Arkansas University of the approval.

There were no questions.

Chris Gilliam moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 9 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Charles Allen seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 10
Bachelor of Social Work
University of Arkansas – Fort Smith

Similar programs exist in Arkansas but are primarily within the central Arkansas area and two in eastern Arkansas. The closest, University of Arkansas Fayetteville, is an hour and a half away. The need for this proposed program at University of Arkansas – Fort Smith (UAFS) is to address the lack of sufficient number of trained social workers in this region and to help facilitate the availability and delivery of current services for those in this region of the state. UAFS surveyed 716 UAFS students enrolled in Psychology Orientation, General Psychology, and Developmental Psychology and declared Psychology majors during the spring 2014 semester. UAFS surveyed students about the possibility of them changing majors if a Bachelor of Social Work degree was offered. Ninety-eight (98) of the 162 responses stated they would likely change their major should this program be offered at UAFS, eleven of the 162 responded they would not change due to upcoming graduation date and seventeen of the 162 stated they would not change majors.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Bachelor of Social Work (CIP 44.0701), 120 semester credit hours, offered by University of Arkansas–Fort Smith, effective Summer 2015.

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–Fort Smith of the approval. Program continuation is contingent on University of Arkansas–Fort Smith maintaining program accreditation with the Council on Social Work Education.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 11
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 1-6 to offer the specified degree programs to Arkansas residents for a period of three years through December 31, 2018.

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.

American Intercontinental University, Schaumburg, Illinois

Bethel University, McKenzie, Tennessee

Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts

The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Los Angeles, California

Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, Wisconsin

Excelsior College, Albany, New York

George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, Arizona

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland

Northcentral University, Scottsdale, Arizona

Post University, Waterbury, Connecticut

Simmons College, Boston, Massachusetts

University of Wisconsin-Stout, Menomonie, Wisconsin

William Woods University, Fulton, Missouri

Initial Program Certification - Arkansas Campus

ITT Technical Institute, Carmel, Indiana – Little Rock Campus

Vista College, Richardson, Texas-Fort Smith Campus

New Institutions – Distance Technology

Quinnipiac University, Hampden, Connecticut

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Whitewater, Wisconsin

Utah Valley University, Orem, Utah

Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

New Institution – Arkansas Campus

Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas

Sarah Argue asked if there was a lot of overlap with ICAC programs in Arkansas. Ann Clemmer said that when it comes to dealing with ICAC institutions, ADHE is restricted by federal laws.

Alana Boles commented that all of the programs approved do meet the standards set by Arkansas.

Mary Anne Salmon moved to recommend Agenda Items No. 5 - 11 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Olin Cook seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Items No. 12 & 13
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 12-1 through 12-67 and in the Letters of Intent on pages 13-1 through 13-21 of the agenda book.

Report of the Committees

Horace Hardwick presented the report of the Finance Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 9 - 11. Greg Revels seconded the motion and the Board approved.

Sarah Argue presented the report of the Academic Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 13 - 19. Sherrel Johnson seconded the motion and the Board approved.

Remarks by Presidents and Chancellors

Chairman Crafton announced that the next Coordinating Board meeting would be at the Arkansas Department of Higher Education in Little Rock on July 31, 2015.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

Sarah Argue, Secretary