

**ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD  
Special Meeting  
August 26, 2021**

**Minutes of Meeting**

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board held a special meeting on Thursday, August 26, 2021, via Zoom. Chair Dr. Al Brodell called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m., with a quorum present.

Coordinating Board present:

Al Brodell, Chair  
Keven Anderson, Vice Chair  
Lori Griffin, Secretary  
Graycen Bigger  
Dr. Jim Carr  
Dr. Jerry Cash  
Dr. Michael Stanton

Coordinating Board absent:

Allan Bohn  
Chad Hooten  
Andy McNeill  
Dr. Kyle Miller  
Greg Revels

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

Chairman Brodell welcomed presidents and chancellors to the special board meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Agenda Item No. 1  
Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship  
Rules and Regulations

In compliance with Acts 80, 81, and 636 of 2021, the proposed amendments to the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program rules and regulations were presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for initial approval.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the rules and regulations presented in this agenda item for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or her designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections when necessary in the program rules for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program.

Dr. Jim Carr asked if there were any major changes. Dr. Markham said they were all technical changes.

Chair Al Brodell asked if these were the same items that were pulled from the July 30<sup>th</sup> board agenda. Dr. Markham said they are. The approval process has changed and therefore the items had to be removed and reviewed by the Secretary of Education, said Dr. Markham.

Dr. Jerry Cash asked if remedial and concurrent credit hours count toward the Academic Challenge Scholarship requirements. Dr. Markham explained that students are required to complete remediation within the first 30 hours and those hours do count towards their 27-hour scholarship requirement for the first year. If a student has earned at least 27 college credit hours (concurrent) prior to their freshman year, they are eligible to request an increase in their Academic Challenge Scholarship funding from the freshman level to the sophomore or junior level.

Dr. Keven Anderson noted that ADHE did not define “net Revenue” in the rules and regulations. Dr. Markham said staff will review the rules and regulations.

Dr. Jim Carr moved to approve Agenda Item No. 1. Dr. Jerry Cash seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 2  
Arkansas Future Grant Scholarship  
Rules and Regulations

In compliance with Act 388 of 2021, the proposed amendments to the Arkansas Futures Grant rules and regulations were presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for initial approval.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the rules and regulations presented in this agenda item for the Arkansas Futures Grant to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or her designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections when necessary in the program rules for the Arkansas Futures Grant.

There were no questions.

Dr. Jim Carr moved to approve Agenda Item No. 2. Dr. Jerry Cash seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 3  
Arkansas Governor's Scholars Program  
Rules and Regulations

In compliance with Act 743 of 2021, the proposed amendments to the Arkansas Governor's Scholars Program rules and regulations were presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for initial approval.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the rules and regulations presented in this agenda item for the Arkansas Governor's Scholars Program to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or her designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections when necessary in the program rules for the Arkansas Governor's Scholars Program.

Dr. Jerry Cash asked for the definition of "permanent resident alien". Dr. Markham explained that a permanent resident alien is considered an immigrant who has been legally and lawfully recorded as a resident of the country. Permanent Resident Aliens residents have the right to legally and permanently reside and work in the United States.

Keven Anderson asked if there is a cap on the number of students that can receive the Governor's Scholars Scholarship. Dr. Markham said initially there was a cap on the minimum number of students that could receive the Governor's Scholars Scholarship. Currently, ADHE is funding close to a thousand student per year, said Markham.

Keven Anderson asked what happens when a Governor's Scholars recipient's immigration status changes. Alisha Lewis explained that once a recipient is in the pipeline, ADHE does not have a mechanism to follow up on a student's immigration status.

Keven Anderson asked why the FAFSA is now required to receive the Governor's Scholars. Dr. Markham explained that the new requirement is in compliance with Act 331 of the 2021 Regular Session. This requirement will allow students to take advantage of all of the scholarship dollars that are available to them, said Markham.

Dr. Jerry Cash moved to approve Agenda Item No. 3. Lori Griffin seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 4  
Arkansas Workforce Challenge Program  
Rules and Regulations

In compliance with Act 636 of 2021, the proposed amendments to the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Program rules and regulations were presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for initial approval.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the rules and regulations presented in this agenda item for the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Program to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or her designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections when necessary in the program rules for the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Program.

There were no questions.

Dr. Jim Carr moved to approve Agenda Item No. 4. Graycen Bigger seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 5  
Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program  
Rules and Regulations

In compliance with Acts 82 and 636 of 2021, the proposed amendments to the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program rules and regulations were presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for initial approval.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the rules and regulations presented in this agenda item for the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or her designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections when necessary in the program rules for the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program.

There were no questions.

Keven Anderson moved to approve Agenda Item No. 5. Dr. Jim Carr seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 6  
Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents Scholarship Program  
Rules and Regulations

In order to provide clarity and uniformity in Division of Higher Education financial aid rules, the proposed amendments to the Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents Scholarship Program rules and regulations were presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for initial approval.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the rules and regulations presented in this agenda item for the Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents Scholarship Program to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or her designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections when necessary in the program rules for the Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents Scholarship Program.

Keven Anderson voiced support noting that it would be good if these changes were codified and in legislation.

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

Agenda Item No. 7  
Military Dependents Scholarship Program  
Rules and Regulations

In compliance with Act 988 of 2021, the proposed amendments to the Military Dependents Scholarship Program rules and regulations were presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for initial approval.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the rules and regulations presented in this agenda item for the Military Dependents Scholarship Program to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or her designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections when necessary in the program rules for the Military Dependents Scholarship Program.

There were no questions.

Keven Anderson moved to approve Agenda Item No. 7. Dr. Jim Carr seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 8  
Out-of-State Veterinary Medical Education  
Loan Repayment Program  
Rules and Regulations

In compliance with Act 755 of 2019, the proposed amendments to the Out-of-State Veterinary Medical Education Loan Repayment Program rules and regulations were presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for initial approval.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the rules and regulations presented in this agenda item for the Out-of-State Veterinary Medical Education Loan Repayment Program to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or her designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections when necessary in the program rules for the Out-of-State Veterinary Medical Education Loan Repayment Program.

Dr. Jerry Cash asked if the veterinary program that allowed Arkansans to attend colleges in neighboring states was still active. Dr. Markham said this loan repayment program is only for Mississippi State. She noted, there is a separate scholarship program that pays a portion of students' out-of-state tuition.

Dr. Jerry Cash moved to approve Agenda Item No. 8. Lori Griffin seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 9  
Recognition of Online Campus as an Organizational Unit  
University of Arkansas System

The administration and Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System (UA System) request official recognition of the University of Arkansas – Grantham as an organizational unit of the UA System upon successful closure of the acquisition of Grantham University (GU) by the Board of Trustees of the UA System and receipt of all regulatory approvals.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board recognizes the University of Arkansas – Grantham as an organizational unit of the University of Arkansas System upon successful closure of the acquisition of Grantham University by the

Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System and receipt of all regulatory approvals.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board recognizes the University of Arkansas – Grantham to offer degrees and that such authority will reside in the University of Arkansas – Grantham as an organizational unit of the University of Arkansas System.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to notify the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System of this action.

Dr. Don Bobbitt, president of the University of Arkansas System, presented background information for this agenda item.

Dr. Jerry Cash asked if the degree would be earned from Grantham University or the University of Arkansas System. Dr. Michael Moore, vice president for Academic Affairs, said that students that graduate prior to the acquisition closure will graduate from Grantham University. Students that receive their diplomas after the acquisition date will graduate from the University of Arkansas – Grantham.

Dr. Jim Carr asked if Grantham University marketed outside of the military. Dr. Moore said that Grantham’s online marketing is targeted towards all populations. He also noted that the military makes up 2/3 of their enrollment.

Dr. Jim Carr moved to approve Agenda Item No. 9. Dr. Jerry Cash seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Dr. Jerry Cash asked how the institutions spent their COVID-19 relief funds. Dr. Markham said that while half of the funds were used as direct student aid, millions of dollars were also spent on PPE, contact tracing and testing protocols, among other things.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

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Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

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Lori Griffin, Secretary