

**ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Special Meeting via Conference Call
May 26, 2016**

Minutes of Meeting

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board held a special meeting via conference call on Thursday, May 26, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. The purpose of the meeting was to accept the resignation of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education Director Brett Powell. The meeting convened at 10:00 a.m., with a quorum present.

Coordinating Board present:

Bob Crafton, Chair
Sherrel Johnson, Vice Chair
Chris Gilliam, Secretary
Dr. Jim Carr
Dr. Olin Cook
Florine Milligan
Ben Pickard
Greg Revels
Dr. Michael Stanton
Jim von Grep

Coordinating Board absent:

Dr. Charles Allen
Sam Sicard

Department staff present:

Dr. Brett Powell, Director
Harold Criswell, Senior Associate Director of Administration and Finance
Dr. Marla Strecker, Senior Associate Director for Research and Planning
Lisa Smith, Communications/Outreach Coordinator
Lillian Williams, Academic Affairs Program Specialist
Alana Boles, Academic Affairs Program Specialist
Nichole Abernathy, Executive Assistant

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

Chairman Crafton thanked the Coordinating Board members and guests for participating on the call.

Nichole Abernathy conducted a roll call to confirm that there was a quorum.

Agenda Item No. 1
Accept Resignation of
ADHE Director Brett Powell

On Monday, May 23, 2016, Director Brett Powell submitted a letter of resignation to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) and Arkansas

Department of Higher Education (ADHE), effective July 29, 2016. Powell stated that he had accepted a position as the Vice President for Finance and Administration at Henderson State University and was scheduled to begin August 1, 2016. Powell said it had been a genuine pleasure working with the Coordinating Board, ADHE staff and the presidents and chancellors across the state. Though his time at the Department was short, the work was challenging and quite productive. He also expressed his willingness to assist in the transition of his replacement, if needed.

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

Dr. Jim Carr said that he reluctantly voted to accept Dr. Powell's resignation and that he would greatly be missed.

Dr. Michael Stanton said that while he is happy for Powell, he is disappointed that he is leaving ADHE. He also expressed appreciation for everything Powell has done for higher education in Arkansas.

Florine Milligan also wished Powell well stating that she too reluctantly voted to accept his resignation.

Agenda Item No. 2 Appoint Search Committee

Chairman Crafton began by reading excerpts from Senate Bill 812 (Act 533), which was amended during the 2013 Regular Session. Crafton reminded AHECB members that SB 812 amended the requirements for the director of ADHE. He explained that while SB 812 gives the AHECB the authority to appoint a director through a search and selection process, along with the recommendation from the Presidents Council, the recommendation is still subject to confirmation by the Governor.

Crafton then appointed Chris Gilliam, Dr. Jim Carr, Dr. Olin Cook and himself to serve on the search committee, along with the Presidents Council's co-chairs Dr. Charles Welch and Dr. Margaret Ellibee.

Crafton stated that like in the past, the full board will play a large role in the selection process.

Dr. Michael Stanton moved to approve Agenda Item No. 2. Sherrel Johnson seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 3
Authorization of Harold Criswell
to Manage Director Search

ADHE staff as designated by the Committee will conduct the initial screening of all applications/nominations. ADHE staff as designated by the Committee will draft, for approval by the Committee, the initial documents to be utilized in the search, i.e., position announcements and submission procedures. Letters notifying candidates who were not selected will be sent expressing appreciation for applying, by the ADHE staff as designated by the Committee.

Crafton said he designated ADHE Senior Associate Director Harold Criswell to manage the director search, since Criswell had managed the search in the past and done a fine job.

Chris Gilliam moved to approve Agenda Item No. 3. Jim von Grep seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Criswell said he would begin immediately advertising statewide and nationally for the director's position.

Agenda Item No. 4
Other Items

Crafton reminded members of the upcoming Board Retreat on June 21 – 22 at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute at Petit Jean Mountain. He stated he was a little leery having the retreat with Powell leaving in July.

Powell reminded the board that both the Closing the Gap Implementation Plan and the Outcomes-Based Funding Formula would be on the agenda for the July 29 Coordinating Board meeting. The retreat would give the board the opportunity to review the items and ask ADHE staff questions before the board meeting.

Dr. Olin Cook agreed that he would like additional time to review those two items.

Ben Pickard requested a presentation be included outlining the Coordinating Board authority and duties. Powell said it will be on the agenda.

Chairman Crafton thanked everyone for participating in the special meeting and announced that the next regular meeting would be July 29, 2016, at the Arkansas Department of Higher Education in Little Rock.

Nichole Abernathy conducted a final roll call confirming there was a quorum.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

APPROVED:

Nichole Abernathy

Chris Gilliam, Secretary