

Minutes of Presidents Council Meeting
January 10, 2017

The Presidents Council met at 11:18 a.m. on January 10, 2017, at the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) in the first floor boardroom. Executive Council member present was Stephen Hilterbran. Margaret Ellibee (co-chair), Charles Welch (co-chair), Don Bobbitt and Jim Shemwell participated via conference call. Evelyn Jorgenson, Glen Jones and Laurence Alexander were unable to attend.

Staff members present were Maria Markham, Tara Smith, Marla Strecker, Ann Clemmer and Nichole Abernathy.

Margaret Ellibee moved to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2016 meeting. Don Bobbitt seconded and the council unanimously concurred.

Review of AHECB Agenda

Presidents Council members reviewed the agenda items for the January 27, 2017 Coordinating Board meeting. The finance agenda included the Annual Higher Education Financial Condition Report, Economic Feasibility of Loan Issue for the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and the Economic Feasibility of Loan Issue for the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

The academic agenda included a Certificate of Proficiency, Technical Certificate and Associate of Applied Science in Programming/Mobile Development by Arkansas State University Mountain Home, a Master of Business Administration by Arkansas Tech University, Off-Campus Center at Brightwater by NorthWest Arkansas Community College, the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee, the Letters of Notification and the Letters of Intent.

Also included were the Annual Enrollment Report and the Annual Report on First-Year Student Remediation for Fall 2016.

Don Bobbitt moved to approve the review of the agenda for the January 27, 2017 AHECB meeting. Margaret Ellibee seconded and the council unanimously concurred.

Information Items

Director Markham began by discussing three bills that are part of the Governor's legislative package; the new funding legislation, the ARFutures Grant and a revision to the Teacher Opportunity Grant (TOP). Already drafted, the Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR) is in the process of finding sponsors for all three bills, said Markham.

Markham then introduced Tim Staley, president of Empirical Energy Solutions (EES). Staley began by stating that EES has a partnership with Clear Energy and together they work with higher education institutions across the state. Staley presented information on funding alternatives available to the institutions and ways to fund energy and deferred maintenance through a comprehensive energy efficiency program or energy services performance contract.

Announcements

The Higher Education Coordinating Board will meet at SAU in Magnolia on January 27.

The 4-year presidents and chancellors will meet on Tuesday, January 17 at 3:00 p.m., at the ASU System Offices.

The Council members agreed to cancel the February 7 and March 7 meetings. The next Presidents Council meeting will be April 4, 2017.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.