

Minutes of Presidents Council Meeting  
January 5, 2021

The Presidents Council met at 11:00 a.m. on January 5, 2021, via conference call. Executive Council members present by phone call were Charles Welch (co-chair), Steve Rook (co-chair), Martin Eggensperger, Cathie Cline, Laurence Alexander, Jeff Weaver and Houston Davis. Debra West was unable to participate.

Staff members present were Maria Markham, Nick Fuller, Jessie Walker and Nichole Abernathy.

Martin Eggensperger moved to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2020 meeting. Laurence Alexander seconded and the council unanimously concurred.

Review of AHECB Agenda

Presidents Council members reviewed the agenda items for the January 29, 2021 Coordinating Board meeting. The finance agenda included the Annual Higher Education Financial Condition Report, Maintenance Report, Economic Feasibility of Loan for the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope-Texarkana, Economic Feasibility of Loan for Henderson State University and the Economic Feasibility of Bond Issue for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

The academic agenda included: Bachelor of Science in Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health by Arkansas State University – Jonesboro; Certificate of Proficiency, Technical Certificate, Associate of Applied Science in Computer Programming & Certificate of Proficiency in Database by Arkansas State University Mid-South; Associate of Science in manufacturing by Arkansas Tech University; Certificate of Proficiency & Technical Certificate in Precision Machining Technology by Ozarka College; Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Computer Science by the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff; Institutional Certification Advisory Committee Report; and the Letters of Notification and Intent.

The Annual Report on Institutional Certification, Fall 2020 and 2019-20 Annual Enrollment Report, and the Audit Report Review were also on the agenda.

There were no questions.

Houston Davis moved to approve the review of the agenda for the January 29, 2021 AHECB meeting. Laurence Alexander seconded and the council unanimously concurred.

Information Items

Director Markham began by discussing upcoming legislation. Amendments to ACA 6-60-1 require links to each state supported IHE be added to the ADHE website and require each IHE to include its website specified information regarding governing board members and activities.

Amendments to ACA 6-82-108(c), 6-82-306(b)(1)-(5), 6-82-1901(b), require completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for applications to various state aid scholarship programs not previously required.

Amendments to ACA 6-85-302(1) will add Northwest Technical Institute as an eligible entity for inclusion for the Workforce Challenge Scholarship.

The amendment to ACA 6-85-403(b) will change the continuing eligibility for Concurrent Challenge from a letter grade of “C” or better to a minimum of 2.5 GPA. This amendment also clarifies language for enrollment provisions should a student GPA fall below the 2.5 requirement.

ACA 6-85-1 will repeal the Academic Challenge Part 1 in its entirety. All students served under this section have completed eligibility and therefore the program no longer exists.

#### Announcements

Charles Welch announced that the legislative meetings of the statewide presidents and chancellors would be held every other Monday at 3:00 p.m., via zoom.

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) will meet via Zoom on January 29, 2021.

The Council members agreed to cancel the February 2 and March 2 meetings. The next Presidents Council meeting will be April 6, 2021.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.