

**ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD  
Special Meeting via Conference Call  
July 20, 2016**

**Minutes of Meeting**

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board held a special meeting via conference call on Wednesday, July 20, 2016. The purpose of the meeting was to review the Closing the Gap Implementation Plan and the Outcomes-Based Funding Formula. The meeting convened at 1:00 p.m., with a quorum present.

Coordinating Board present:

Bob Crafton, Chair  
Sherrel Johnson, Vice Chair  
Dr. Jim Carr  
Dr. Olin Cook  
Ben Pickard  
Greg Revels  
Jim von Grempp

Coordinating Board absent:

Chris Gilliam, Secretary  
Dr. Charles Allen  
Florine Milligan  
Sam Sicard  
Dr. Michael Stanton

Department staff present:

Dr. Brett Powell, Director  
Harold Criswell, Senior Associate Director of Administration and Finance  
Tara Smith, Senior Associate Director for Institutional Finance  
Lillian Williams, Academic Affairs Program Specialist  
Jake Eddington, Institutional Finance, 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  
Review of Closing the Gap Implementation Plan**

On October 30, 2015, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) adopted the Closing the Gap 2020: A Master Plan for Arkansas Higher Education as prepared in accordance with A.C.A. § 6-61-205. In support of the Governor's priorities, the department staff collaborated with representatives from institutions across the state to draft a master plan that addressed enrollment and attainment rates of targeted populations, completion and graduation rates of students, college affordability and the alignment of state resources with these goals. These collaborative consortia have continued working to identify a range of

strategies that can be adopted by the Department and by institutions to achieve the goals enumerated in the master plan. This implementation plan is a summary of that work.

Dr. Olin Cook noted that a lot of work remains to be done on the master plan. Director Powell said that is correct. However, a number of the strategies that you find in the plan are already under way.

Chairman Crafton asked if Director Powell would continue utilizing the various steering committees as he proceeds with the implementation plan. Director Powell said, yes. Specifically the steering committee that has been working and guiding the program since October.

Ben Pickard asked if the steering committees would include institutional financial aid advisors. Director Powell said that was a good suggestion and he would consider it.

## Agenda Item No. 2 Review of Outcomes-Based Funding Formula

Outcomes-based funding can be used to properly align institutional funding with statewide priorities for higher education by encouraging programs and services focused on student success and incentivizing progress toward statewide goals. At the same time, such models encourage accountability to students and policymakers by focusing on the success of students through the achievement of their educational goals. Any new funding model must be built around a set of shared principles embraced by institutions, employing appropriate outcomes metrics, and aligned with goals and objectives for post-secondary attainment in our state.

Chairman Crafton asked what work remained to be completed between now and the fall. Powell said if the framework were adopted next week, we would begin drafting legislation with hopes of getting it passed during the next session in January. If that were successful, we would come back to the Coordinating Board to ask you to adopt policies that would implement the last two steps.

Sherrel Johnson asked if ADHE received any feedback from the presidents and chancellors. Powell said that everyone is supportive of the concept of adopting an outcomes-based funding formula model. They believe it is the right direction and it will be very helpful to the state and institutions. With that said, some are hesitant and want to know what this will do to their specific institution, said Powell.

In closing, Chairman Crafton thanked everyone for participating in the call and encouraged AHECB members to participate in the interviews for the new ADHE director on July 26, 2016.

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

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

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Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

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Chris Gilliam, Secretary