

Agenda Item No. 1  
Higher Education Coordinating Board  
July 29, 2022

**ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD**  
**Regular Quarterly Meeting**  
**April 29, 2022**

**Minutes of Meeting**

The April 29, 2022, regular meeting of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) was held via Zoom and hosted by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education in Little Rock. Chair Al Brodell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., with a quorum present.

Coordinating Board present:

Al Brodell, Chair  
Graycen Bigger, Secretary  
Dr. Jim Carr  
Dr. Jerry Cash  
Kelley Erstine  
Lori Griffin  
Chad Hooten  
Andy McNeill  
Dr. Kyle Miller  
Greg Revels

Coordinating Board absent:

Keven Anderson, Vice Chair

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

Chair Brodell began by thanking everyone for participating in the virtual meeting. He then asked that any participant that would like to address the board during the National Park College Role and Scope request, please sign up at the link provided in the chat.

Chair Brodell then welcomed Mr. Kelley Erstine, from Conway, to his first Coordinating Board meeting. Brodell thanked Erstine for his willingness to serve.

Nichole Abernathy took role to confirm there was a quorum. Ten of eleven board members were present at that time.

Agenda Item No. 1  
Approval of Minutes

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

Agenda Item No. 2  
Director's Report

Director Markham began by announcing that she has begun her second tour of Arkansas's institutions of higher education. The routine visits give the institutions the opportunity to highlight their accomplishments as well as voice any concerns they may have.

*ADHE Staff Changes*

Tracy Harrell, Academic Affairs Program Specialist, began on February 7.

Melissa Sigel, Student Support Specialist, began on March 4.

Kim Walker, Accounting Operations Manager, began on April 4.

*ADHE Move*

Dr. Markham that the Division of Higher Education offices are moving across the street to the Main Street Mall (MSM) building. For the first time, all ADHE staff will be located on the same floor.

*Academic Program Efficiency Study*

During the January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, Keven Anderson asked ADHE staff to look at program efficiency for the state of Arkansas. After several conversations, ADHE staff are looking at several existing data elements, program viability, the program productivity report, as well as the strategic plan. Once completed, ADHE staff will come back to the board with our recommendations, said Markham.

*Out-of-State Institutions*

In response to previous questions regarding the process for applications from out-of-state and private institutions, Alana Boles presented relevant information to the board. She noted that when an institution applies for approval for the first time, ADHE collects information about the institution such as the status with the institution's accreditor, admission requirements, history of the institution, as well as the costs of attendance. Boles noted that institutions must pay \$500 per program for certification, follow credit hour requirements for degrees and report any changes in tuition prices. Boles explained that ADHE must approve Arkansas institutions offering distance technology programs for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA) participation based on institutional accreditation, financial stability, and student complaint resolution policy and procedures. Applications from out-of-state institutions have decreased as more states and institutions have joined SARA.

Agenda Item No. 3  
Rules Governing the Governor's Higher Education  
Transition Scholarship Program

In compliance with Act 215 of 2021, the rules for the Governor's Higher Education Transition Scholarship Program are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for initial approval.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Governor's Higher Education Transition 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 Governor's Higher Education Transition Scholarship Program.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Governor's Higher Education Transition Scholarship Program rules be approved for public comment release following the Governor's approval.

There were no questions.

Greg Revels moved to approve Agenda Item No. 3. Andy McNeill seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 4  
Rules Governing the Star-Spangled Banner Act

In compliance with Act 958 of 2021, the rules to the Star-Spangled Banner Act are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for adoption, pending approval of the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the proposed rules presented in this agenda item for implementation of the Star-Spangled Banner Act, pending approval of the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council.

**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 rules to implement the Star-Spangled Banner Act.

There were no questions.

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

Agenda Item No. 5  
Productivity Funding Distribution Policy Changes

In compliance with Act 148 of 2017, the amended rules to the Productivity Funding Distribution Policy are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for initial approval. Nick Fuller presented the minor technical changes to the board.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the proposed amendment to the rules presented in this agenda item for Productivity Funding Distribution Policy.

**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 rules to implement the Productivity Funding Distribution Policy.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the amended rules to the Productivity Funding Distribution Policy be approved for public comment release following the Governor's approval.

Dr. Jerry Cash asked if the 5% (within any consecutive 5-year period, an institution of higher education's RSA general revenue funding shall not decline by more than 5% due to productivity declines) represents state funding. Nick Fuller said it is a distribution of state funding and does not affect the institutions tuition.

Greg Revels moved to approve Agenda Item No. 5. Lori Griffin seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 6  
Annual Report on Student Retention and Graduation

Sonia Hazelwood presented summary and detailed information about annual student retention and graduation. When looking at both public sectors together, the state's fall-to-fall retention rate of 69.9% for the Fall 2020 cohort had less than a 1% decrease over the Fall 2016 cohort of 69%. The two-Year college retention rate average from Fall 2016 to Fall 2020 comes in at 58.7%.

Both male and female cohorts reported declines in their retention rates for our four-year public institutions when comparing the Fall 2020 cohort to the Fall 2019 cohort. For the two-Year college cohorts, when comparing the Fall 2017 cohort to the Fall 2020 cohort, the male students' retention rate has increased 2%, and females showed a retention rate decline of 0.2%.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 7  
Annual Report on Retention and Graduation  
of Intercollegiate Athletes

This report complies with Act 267 of 1989 that requires reporting of retention and graduation rates for first-time in college students who participate in Arkansas intercollegiate athletics. This information is collected through institutional data submissions to the Arkansas Higher Education Information System (AHEIS) from all public colleges and universities with athletic programs. In addition to retention and graduation rates, this report provides data on all athletic participation by sport and scholarship status.

In Academic Year 2020-21, 3,889 students participated in athletics at ten universities and seven two-year institutions. This is the most student-athletes ever reported for an academic year. This is an increase of 313 student-athletes over the 2019-20 academic year, including 440 student-athletes reported by two-year institutions.

Athletes are retained at higher rates than non-athlete students due to the commitment to and interest in participating in college athletics; also, a correlation may be made between participation and the impact of support services many institutions provide.

Dr. Jerry Cash asked if student athletes are required to take a certain amount of credit hours per year. Sonia Hazelwood said that she is uncertain what the NCAA rules are pertaining to student athletes.

Agenda Item No. 8  
Annual Report on First-Year  
Student Remediation for Fall

In accordance with A.C.A. §6-61-110, the Arkansas Division of Higher Education (ADHE) addresses the placement standards necessary for enrollment of students into mathematics, English composition, and reading based on appropriate indicators of potential student success rates.

In Fall 2021 (AY2022), 21,264 first-time entering, degree-seeking students enrolled in an Arkansas public institution of higher education. Of this population, 19,106 (90%) were classified as full-time students and 2,158 (10%) were classified as part-time students. With regards to gender, over half (57%) were female; 42% were male and less than 1% percent did not report. When examining the place of enrollment, 14,066 students (66%) enrolled at four-year institutions compared to 7,198 (34%) at two-year institutions.

Regarding the remediation count of all first-time entering students, 14,013 (66%) first time entering students did not take any remedial courses whereas 7,251 students (34%) were placed into one or more remedial courses.

Dr. Jerry Cash asked if all Arkansas four-year institutions offer remedial courses. Dr. Eric Flowers said they do.

Dr. Jim Carr asked if 43 percent of all Arkansas students at two-year institutions require remediation. Dr. Flowers said yes. Among the first-year entering students at two-year institutions, 43 percent of the students went through remediation versus 29 percent of the first-year population at the four-year institutions.

Dr. Carr asked if this data is shared with K-12. Dr. Flowers said yes.

Lori Griffin said that the Professional Learning Communities (PLC) Project, is designed to build cohorts to improve instruction across the state. The PLC also allows schools to become better through collaboration, said Griffin.

Agenda Item No. 9  
Annual Report on Productivity of  
Recently Approved Programs

Arkansas Code §6-61-214 requires the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) to establish standards for the academic programs offered by Arkansas colleges and universities and to create a seven-to-ten-year review cycle for all existing academic programs. The existing academic program review policies (AHECB Policy 5.12) were adopted in 1995 and 1998.

Dr. Jim Carr asked what happens to programs that do not meet productivity standards. Dr. Flowers said the board does have the power to discontinue programs that do not meet productivity standards.

Agenda Item No. 10  
Role and Scope Change  
National Park College

National Park College (NPC) proposes a change in its scope to include baccalaureate-level degrees to meet local workforce demand. NPC proposes the change in order to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN).

The costs for this change are minimal; two full-time faculty would be hired for approximately \$125,000. The institution currently employs 19 full-time nursing faculty.

The BSN program would be a total of 120 credit hours. Using NPC's existing coursework for its existing nursing program at the associate-level, the institution would need to develop 33 credit hours of coursework for the new program. NPC also states

that it expects an increase in the number of students in the associate-level nursing degree with this change.

Dr. Wade Derden, Vice President for Academic Affairs, provided opening remarks for the role and scope change request. He began by stating that NPC has no desire to change its role from that of a two-year college, nor seek to be a regional university. They are requesting that only their scope be expanded allowing them to offer a baccalaureate level program of study.

Scott Smith, Chief Executive Officer with the National Park Medical Center, spoke on behalf of the NPC program proposal. Smith stated that COVID has caused a surge in traveling nurses and National Park Medical Center has seen a significant increase. This program proposal will help Arkansas grow their own nurses.

Graycen Bigger asked Mr. Smith if National Park Medical Center had on-going partnerships with any other higher education institutions in the area. Smith said yes, they have connections all over the state.

Chair Al Brodell asked if this program would create new registered nurses (RNs). He noted that the program is an RN to BSN, therefore everyone that enters the program is already an RN. Mr. Smith said they do have a need for BSNs.

Houston Davis, President of the University of Central Arkansas, discussed the challenges the Coordinating Board will face trying to shape the future of higher education in Arkansas. He stated that partnering institutions and universities together is the way to go.

Dr. Doug Ross, President of CHI St. Vincent in Hot Springs, spoke on behalf of the NPC program proposal. He said that they hold BSNs at a very high threshold because they believe the BSNs provide a higher treatment of care. Dr. Ross said they will always have a need for RNs, but BSNs elevate their standard of care.

Ann Bain, Provost of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, explained that whether you graduate from an associate program or a four-year baccalaureate program, everyone takes the same National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX). Bain said that the growing consensus among nursing educators and institutional administrators is that we need to collaborate to use the resources that we currently have to facilitate advancing education across the state.

Gary Troutman, President and CEO of Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce, spoke on behalf of the NPC program proposal. As a strong proponent of workforce development and workforce education, we must meet the needs of our local community hospitals and other employers. The expansion of the current AS in nursing program to the BSN program is critical element is accomplishing this task.

Dr. Laurence Alexander, Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, said the proposal raises deep and far-reaching implications for higher education funding. It would also lead to the unnecessary duplication of RN to BSN programs at NPC and

possibly statewide. If approved, the resolution carries the very real potential for increasing the number of four-year programs at two-year institutions in Arkansas. Dr. Alexander said that he believes Arkansas has the capacity across the state and online to address the state's need for more BSNs without changing the scope of NPC.

Dr. Jim Carr inquired about UAPB's BSN program. He noted that the program has the capacity for 15, however, there are only four students currently enrolled. Dr. Alexander said that UAPB faces challenges due to the pandemic that has really affected the nursing area and they are working hard to attract more students to the BSN program. He noted that UAPB would be happy to welcome NPC students, as well as all of the two-year institutions, to their BSN program.

Pat McCabe, Mayor of Hot Springs and CEO of Levi Hospital, spoke on behalf of the NPC program proposal. Mayor McCabe said that NPC has continued to serve their community and the needs of their student body and what he is hearing is merely a restriction of health care.

Dr. Charles Welch, President of the ASU-System, voiced concern regarding institutions operating outside of their role and scope. We need to come together with collaborative understanding to decide what is best for efficiency, best for educating our students, best for avoiding duplication and what is best for moving Arkansas forward, said Dr. Welch.

Forrest Spicher, NPC Board of Trustees, spoke on behalf of the NPC program proposal. Many of our bright and talented students have moved to other parts of the state over the years. Today's proposal will fill a long-awaited need of producing BSN credentialed nurses, locally that want to remain and work locally.

Representative Bruce Cozart spoke on behalf of the NPC program proposal. NPC has a great nursing program, and this will be a great extension of that program, said Representative Cozart.

Representative Les Warren spoke on behalf of the NPC program proposal. He said that he is proud of NPC and what they have brought to the community. Hot Springs has had a tremendous amount of growth and with that growth, the healthcare needs have grown.

Representative Richard McGrew spoke on behalf of the NPC program proposal. NPC's service to the community has been tremendous and I offer for my support for the BSN program, said Representative McGrew.

Senator Bill Sample spoke on behalf of the NPC program proposal. One of our duties to our constituents is to provide a highly educated workforce, especially in the nursing area, said Senator Sample.

Dr. John Hogan, President of National Park College, expressed gratitude to everyone that spoke on behalf of the NPC program proposal. He thanked the Coordinating Board for their patience, attention, and time during this process. Dr. Hogan said that one of



NPC's goals is to increase the number of individuals that pursue the nursing profession. In conclusion, Dr. Hogan asked the Coordinating Board to approve the NPC role and scope change proposal.

Dr. Jim Carr questioned if enough Coordinating Board members were still present on the virtual meeting to have a quorum. Nichole Abernathy took role to confirm there was a quorum. *(Seven of eleven board members were still present: Chair Al Brodell, Graycen Bigger, Dr. Jim Carr, Kelley Erstine, Lori Griffin, Andy McNeill and Greg Revels)*

After several questions and comments from Coordinating Board members, the board voted on the NPC role and scope change proposal.

Graycen Bigger moved to approve Agenda Item No. 10. Lori Griffin seconded the motion. Chair Al Brodell announced that in a vote of 5/2, the motion failed. *(Graycen Bigger – Aye, Lori Griffin – Aye, Chair Al Brodell – Nay, Dr. Jerry Cash – Nay, Kelley Erstine – Nay, Andy McNeill – Nay, and Greg Revels – Nay)*

Graycen Bigger thanked everyone that took time to come out to express their opinions both for and against the proposal. She said she would like for there to be additional conversations regarding collaborations and educational overlaps in the state. With Hot Springs being the only metro not served by a university, there is a severe workforce shortage. If we are going to support our students, workforce and communities, we are going to have to have these kinds of discussions, said Bigger.

Lori Griffin noted that she is supporting this program proposal because it is a lower cost to students, NPC is funding it themselves, and the nursing positions can be filled today.

Noting that he did not find an appeal process in Higher Education policy, Dr. John Hogan asked what the next steps are for NPC going forward. Dr. Markham said that there is not an appeal process for board decisions, but that she would be happy to have conversations with Dr. Hogan regarding NPC's next steps.

#### Agenda Item No. 11 Distribution of Mineral Lease Funds

According to the provisions of A.C.A. §6-61-801 through §6-61-808, there is established the Arkansas Research Development Program for providing Arkansas Research Development Program Grants to publicly supported universities in Arkansas by the Division of Higher Education. Act 699 of 2021 provides that after the sum of \$13,200,000 has been deposited into the Higher Education Building Maintenance Fund, any additional deposits are to be transferred to the Research Development Fund to be used as provided by law.

In accordance with A.C.A. §6-61-803 and A.C.A. §6-61-807, "There is created a program to be known as the Arkansas Research Development program which shall be administered by the Director of the Division of Higher Education. Funds may be made

available for administration of the Arkansas Development Research Program, for purchasing state-of-the-art equipment, for minor renovations of laboratory space, for publication of findings, for employing scientists or research assistants, and for providing any other assistance to scientists in order to develop a continuing research capacity in this state which is recognized as exemplary.”

The current balance in the Higher Education Research Development Fund is \$288,425. The fiscal 2022 appropriation of \$500,000 is adequate for the authorization of distribution of up to \$350,000 requested by the Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network (ARE-ON) board of directors.

**RESOLVED**, That after review by the Legislative Council, the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education is authorized to distribute up to \$350,000 from the Higher Education Research Development Fund to the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville for continuing personal services and operating expenses related to ARE-ON.

Greg Revels moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 11 to the full Board for consideration. Andy McNeill seconded, and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 12  
Economic Feasibility of Bond Issue  
Southern Arkansas University

Southern Arkansas University requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds not to exceed \$39.8 million with a term of twenty-seven (27) years and an interest rate not to exceed 4.0 percent. Proceeds from the issue will be used to auxiliary purposes. The Southern Arkansas University Board of Trustees approved this financing at its February 3, 2022, meeting authorizing the sale of bonds.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers the economically feasible plans for Southern Arkansas University to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$39.8 million with a term of twenty-seven (27) years at an estimated annual interest rate not to exceed 4.0 percent. Proceeds from the auxiliary bond will be used to refund 2015, 2016 and 2018 series bonds secured through a privatized housing agreement.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education is authorized to notify the President and the Chair of the Board of Trustees of Southern Arkansas University and the President of Southern Arkansas University of the Coordinating Board’s resolution.

Dr. Jim Carr asked if the 4.0 percent interest rate was still available. Nick Fuller explained that the Coordinating Board has to approve this feasibility before SAU can lock in their interest rate. He noted that if the interest rate exceeds 4.0 percent, SAU will have to come before the board again with an amended agenda item.

Greg Revels asked if SAU is refinancing and there is no new money involved. Fuller said that is correct. The institution is issuing a loan to pay back the Alumni Association's loan.

Andy McNeill moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 12 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Kyle Miller seconded, and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 13  
Economic Feasibility of Lease Purchase  
Southeast Arkansas College

This request supplements the lease purchase agreement approved by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board at its October 29, 2021, meeting.

Southeast Arkansas College (SEAC) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to enter into a lease purchase agreement with a par amount not to exceed \$33.0 million for up to thirty (30) years, an estimated maximum coupon rate of 6.0 percent and an approximate annual base payment of \$2,271,700. The lease purchase agreement will be used for auxiliary purposes. The Southeast Arkansas College Board of Trustees approved this financing at its meeting on April 5, 2022.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for Southeast Arkansas College to enter into a lease purchase agreement with a par amount not to exceed \$33.0 million for up to thirty (30) years, an estimated maximum coupon rate of 6.0 percent and an approximate annual base payment of \$2,271,700 to facilitate the construction of an approximately 30,000 square foot student union building consisting of classrooms, conference center, dining hall, and health clinic, as well as up to 316 beds of student housing totaling approximately 65,000 square feet.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education is authorized to notify the President and the Chair of the Board of Trustees of Southeast Arkansas College of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

Andy McNeill asked for an example of auxiliary revenue. Nick Fuller said any item outside of the tuition and fee revenues, such as student housing, food services, or bookstore revenues.

Greg Revels asked if the \$1.25 per square foot in maintenance fees was included in the included in the \$2,271,700 approximate base lease payment. Fuller said it is included.

Dr. Jim Carr asked if this was SEAC's first housing venture. Fuller said it is.

President Steven Bloomberg explained that SEAC conducted a housing feasibility study to determine there is a sufficient need for housing.

Dr. Carr asked how many Arkansas two-year institutions provide student housing and if ADHE is seeing a trend. Fuller said currently five two-year institutions offer housing (ASU-Beebe, National Park College, Ozarka College, SAU-Tech and UA Rich Mountain).

Andy McNeill asked if the feasibility indicated that SEAC would have enough students to fill their slots and keep the institution in the black. Dr. Bloomberg said that is correct. The study indicates that they could build two housing units with over 600 beds, but they are only requesting one unit be built, said Dr. Bloomberg.

Greg Revels voiced concerns regarding the remaining operating revenue and whether it would be enough to cover expenses.

After numerous questions, comments and concerns, the finance committee voted to not recommend to the full board the economic feasibility of plans to enter into a lease purchase agreement by Southeast Arkansas College.

#### Agenda Item No. 14

Associate of Applied Science in Medical Technology  
University of Arkansas Cossatot Community College

The Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) degree program is 70 credit hours. The curriculum for the degree is based on the recommendations of the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification for Medical Laboratory Technicians.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technology (CIP 51.1004; 70 credit hours) at the University of Arkansas Cossatot, effective Summer 2022.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to inform the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas of the approval.

There were no questions.

Dr. Jerry Cash moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 14 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Jim Carr seconded, and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 15  
Associate of Applied Science in Registered Nursing  
University of Arkansas Cossatot

The Associate of Applied Science in Registered Nursing is a traditional pathway program that is 77 credit hours. This program is different than the institution's current nursing program in that students enrolling are not required to have a nursing license.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Associate of Applied Science in Registered Nursing (CIP 51.3801; 77 credit hours) at the University of Arkansas Cossatot, effective Fall 2022.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to inform the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas of the approval.

Dr. Jerry Cash asked what type of employment students could expect to receive, if they do not pass the test.

Kim Dickerson, University of Arkansas Cossatot Division Chair for Medical Education, said if a student does not pass the registered nursing portion of the program, they are allowed to take the practical nursing exam. Those students would not be able to practice as a nurse, but could do medical assisting or laboratory technology, among other positions.

Dr. Jim Carr asked if Dickerson thought their projections were practical. Dickerson said she does and they have been careful to not over inflate their projections.

Chair Brodell asked if they identified enough locations for clinical studies. Dickerson said they already have 16 slots and are looking at sharing ideas with local hospitals.

Graycen Bigger asked if the local hospitals and clinics had given any indication of how many slots they needed to fill. Dickerson said they have not specifically spoken about that. However, one of the biggest issues hospitals have is trying to keep local people employed there. Bigger agreed and said going forward it would be helpful to know how many available slots there are in Cossatot's community.

Dr. Jerry Cash moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 15 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Jim Carr seconded, and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 16  
Master of Healthcare Business Analytics  
Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Business Analytics  
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

The Master of Healthcare Business Analytics and the Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Business Analytics focuses on business analytics, and healthcare analytics applications. Issues such as encouraging electronic data users to employ analytics consistently for improving healthcare delivery, managing the reporting and sharing of data, and leveraging data and resources to improve healthcare at affordable costs are included in the curriculum.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Healthcare Business Analytics (CIP 51.2706; 30 credit hours) and the Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Business Analytics (CIP 51.2706: 12 credit hours) at the University of Arkansas Fayetteville, effective Fall 2022.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to inform the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas of the approval.

Dr. Jerry Cash moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 16 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Jim Carr seconded, and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 17  
Master of Arts in Art History in Arts of the Americas  
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

The Master of Arts in Art History in Arts of the Americas is 36 credit hours and is supported by an annual endowment of \$280,000 from the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation. The University of Arkansas Fayetteville will be collaborating with the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art to offer this program. Students will have opportunities for internships at Crystal Bridges and will travel to other area museums in the Southern U.S. while enrolled in the program.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Arts in Art History in Arts of the Americas (CIP 50.0703: 36 credit hours) at the University of Arkansas Fayetteville, effective Fall 2023.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to inform the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas of the approval.

Dr. Jerry Cash moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 17 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Jim Carr seconded, and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 18  
Bachelor of Arts in Teaching Drama Education  
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

The Bachelor of Arts in Teaching in Drama Education will prepare students with the knowledge of pedagogy, content, and field experiences in this 120-credit hour program.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Bachelor of Arts in Teaching in Drama Education (CIP 13.1205; 120 credit hours) at the University of Arkansas Fayetteville, effective Fall 2022.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to inform the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas of the approval.

Dr. Jerry Cash moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 18 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Jim Carr seconded, and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 19  
Institutional Certification Advisory Committee

**ADHE Executive Staff Recommendation**

**Initial Program Certification-Distance Technology**

**RESOLVED**, That pursuant to A.C.A. §6-61-301, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants initial certification to the institutions listed on pages 1 - 3 to offer the specified degree programs to Arkansas residents for a period of three years through December 31, 2025.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education is authorized to notify the administration of said institutions that the certification of the degree programs requires the institution to notify the Arkansas Division of Higher Education whenever any of the following occurs: (1) major reorganization of the controlling body; (2) changes in the charter or incorporation documents of the institution; or (3) changes in the method of operation of the institution's programs in Arkansas.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director to notify the administration of said institutions that any advertisement or published materials

using the name of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board or the Arkansas Division of Higher Education must contain the following statement:

Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board certification does not constitute an endorsement of any institution or program. Such certification merely indicates that certain criteria have been met as required under the rules and regulations implementing institutional and program certification as defined in A.C.A. §6-61-301.

### **Initial Program Certification – Distance Technology**

Community Care College, Tulsa, Oklahoma  
Fresno Pacific University, Fresno, California  
National University, La Jolla, California  
Reach University, Oakland, California  
San Jose State University, San Jose, California  
South University, Savannah, Georgia  
University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences, San Marcos, California  
Walden University, Minneapolis, Minnesota

### **Initial Certifications – Arkansas Campuses**

Arkansas Colleges of Health Education, Fort Smith, Arkansas  
Webster University, St. Louis, Missouri

### **New Institutions – Initial Program Certification – Distance Technology**

Sonoran Desert Institute, Tempe, Arizona

Dr. Jerry Cash moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 19 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Jim Carr seconded, and the Committee approved.

### Agenda Items No. 20 & 21 Letters of Notification and Letters of Intent

The Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education approved institutional requests for new programs not requiring Board action unless further review is requested by the Board. During this period, the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee received notice of requests from out-of-state institutions to offer degree programs to Arkansas residents. The program notice lists appear in the Letters of Notification on pages 20-1 through 20-30 and in the Letters of Intent on pages 21-1 through 21-6 of the agenda book.

### Report of the Committees

Chair Brodell presented the report of the Finance Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 11 – 12. Kelley Erstine seconded, and the board approved.



Lori Griffin presented the report of the Academic Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 14 – 19. Andy McNeill seconded, and the board approved.

Remarks by Presidents/Chancellors and Guest

Arkansas State University Three Rivers Saline County Career and Technical Campus (SCCTC) will host the next Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board on July 29, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Nichole Abernathy

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Graycen Bigger, Secretary