

**ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD**  
**Regular Quarterly Meeting**  
**October 28, 2022**

**Minutes of Meeting**

The October 28, 2022, regular meeting of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) was hosted by the University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton (UACCM). Chair Al Brodell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., with a quorum present.

Coordinating Board present:

Al Brodell, Chair  
Keven Anderson, Vice Chair  
Graycen Bigger  
Dr. Jim Carr  
Dr. Jerry Cash  
Kelley Erstine  
Chad Hooten  
Greg Revels

Coordinating Board absent:

Andy McNeill  
Dr. Kyle Miller

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

Chair Brodell began by thanking everyone for participating in the meeting. He then announced that Lori Griffin resigned from the Coordinating Board. Next, he introduced Dr. Richard Counts, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academics, for a welcome.

Dr. Counts welcomed everyone to UACCM on behalf of Chancellor Lisa Willenberg, who was under the weather and unable to attend. Next, Dr. Counts provided background information on the Workforce Training Center and highlighted some of their education programs.

Agenda Item No. 1  
Approval of Minutes

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

Agenda Item No. 2  
Appointment of Nominating Committee

Chair Al Brodell will appoint members of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board nominating committee at the October 28, 2022, meeting. The nominating

committee will recommend Board officers for 2023-24 at the January 27, 2023, meeting. The members included Al Brodell (Chair), Graycen Bigger and Dr. Jerry Cash. Greg Revels moved to approve Agenda Item No. 2. Chad Hooten seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 3  
Approval of 2023 Coordinating Board  
Meeting Schedule

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board meets quarterly to act upon Board initiatives and to respond to campus proposals.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board agrees to the following dates for regular quarterly meetings during 2023: January 27, April 28, July 28, and October 27.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Board expresses its appreciation and accepts the invitations to meet in January at Arkansas State University Mid-South in West Memphis, in April at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, in July at NorthWest Arkansas Community College in Bentonville, and in October at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock.

Greg Revels moved to approve Agenda Item No. 3. Dr. Jim Carr seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 4  
Director's Report

*ADHE Staff Changes*

Hannah Calhoon, AmeriCorps Program Officer, began on September 5 and Jake Vannada, AmeriCorps Program Officer, began on October 10.

*New ICAC Members*

Legislation authorized the Coordinating Board to appoint a nine-member advisory committee, the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee (ICAC), to assist ADHE and the Coordinating Board in the development of certification rules and the review of applications submitted by out-of-state and non-public institutions for certification. The newly appointed members are:

- Dr. Martin Eggensperger, President of Black River Technical College
- Phyllis Bell, Director of the Arkansas Residential Assisted Living Association
- Nick Stevens, Program Director at the Creative Institute of Central Arkansas

*SAMS Launch*

On Monday, October 3 at 8:00 a.m., ADHE upgraded and migrated from the YOUiversal System to the Scholarship Application Management System (SAMS) portal. Alisha Lewis, Assistant Director for ADHE, announced that feedback from students and institutions has been positive since the implementation of the new system.

*Educator Effectiveness and Licensure*

Johnny Key, Secretary of the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) and Dr. Ivy Pfeffer, Deputy Commissioner of the ADE Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, presented information on the Arkansas Teacher Residency Model.

Director Markham concluded her report by announcing that Dr. Brian Prescott with the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), would be providing an update on the review of Arkansas' institutions' role and mission designations, during the January 27, 2023, AHECB meeting.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 5  
Annual Report on Credentials Awarded

Director Markham presented summary and detailed information about credentials awarded. Arkansas higher education institutions overall experienced an increase of 3.7% in the number of credentials awarded in 2022 compared to 2021. There was an increase of 1,773 credentials awarded in 2022. The 4-year universities had a slight decrease of .6%, while the 2-year colleges reported an increase from 2021 to 2022 of 11.5%. The private and independent colleges and universities reported a decrease of 3.9% in the number of credentials awarded. Our Nursing Schools and Northwest Technical Institute experienced the largest percentage increase comparing 2021 to 2022 of almost 16%.

Keven Anderson asked what the average number of credentials per student has done in the same time period. Director Markham said it has increased.

Chair Brodell asked if the almost 12 percent increase in credentials awarded by two-year institutions was a nationwide trend. Director Markham said it is a nationwide trend, however, not to that degree. We are leading the SREB states in short term certificate growth.

Agenda Item No. 6  
Report on Academic Program Deletions

Mason Campbell provided summary and detailed information about academic program deletions at all Public Arkansas Colleges and Universities for the 2021 academic year. Colleges and universities deleted 59 programs in AY 2022 as compared to 134 in 2021, 101 deletions in 2020, 90 deletions in 2019, and 49 deletions in 2018. Of the 59

programs deleted in 2022, 2-Year Colleges deleted 19, while the 4-Year Universities deleted 40 programs.

Dr. Jim Carr asked if the 21 programs deleted by UALR reflected their decline in enrollment. Dr. Ann Bain, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost at UALR, explained that these programs were deleted as a result of a comprehensive review of UALR's programs to make sure they were congruent and in line with their mission.

Agenda Item No. 7  
Annual Status Report for  
Sexual Assault Prevention on Campus

Mason Campbell presented the Annual Status Report for Sexual Assault Prevention on Campus. Under Act 563 of 2017, the Higher Education Coordinating Board was directed to develop an action plan to address the prevention of sexual assault. ADHE has collected the annual campus status reports for the 2021–2022 academic year, as required by the legislation.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 8  
Unplanned Pregnancy Prevention Annual Report

Mason Campbell presented the Unplanned Pregnancy Prevention Annual Report. Under Act 943 of 2015, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) was directed to develop an action plan to address unplanned pregnancies on college campuses. In the uncodified portion of the legislation, the high rate of unplanned pregnancy among older teens of college age was addressed and institutions of higher education were called upon to act. ADHE has collected the campus implementation reports for 2021-2022.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 9  
Maintenance Policy Review

The Maintenance Policy ensures that all newly constructed or purchased facilities will have a source of funding for maintenance of the new facility. Institutions seeking approval of a loan or a bond issue for the construction or purchase of a new facility must provide for the maintenance of that facility by transferring annually to plant funds an amount as recommended by the Association of Physical Plant Administrators of Universities and Colleges (APPA). This is currently \$2.50 per gross square foot for an educational and general facility or \$1.25 per gross square foot for an auxiliary facility. A lower rate per gross square foot for a specific building/facility can be approved with appropriate justification.

This policy is presented for review as requested by the Higher Education Coordinating Board during the July 2022 AHECB meeting. After reviewing the most recently available data from APPA, the average Maintenance Cost per gross square footage in 2019 was \$1.84. This still falls below the \$2.50 per gross square foot required in the current policy.

Nick Fuller stated that staff will continue to monitor this data for updates from more recent years and recommend changes as trends dictate. Greg Revels asked if staff would be reactive or proactive. Fuller said proactive.

Revels voiced concern about the rising costs of building supplies and the amount set aside by institutions for maintenance.

Agenda Item No. 10  
Report on Intercollegiate Athletic Revenues  
and Expenditures for 2021-22

Act 245 of 1989 (A.C.A. §6-62-106) directed the Coordinating Board to develop and establish uniform accounting standards and procedures for reporting revenues and expenditures. Based on these standard definitions and formats, the Coordinating Board is to collect the financial data and provide a uniform report of each institution's athletic revenues and expenditures for the previous fiscal year to the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee and the public by November of each year.

The 2021-22 total amount of athletic expenditures reported by state-supported universities is \$216,894,095 and two-year colleges is \$3,039,112. The statewide total is \$219,933,207 – an increase of \$48,337,586 (28.2%) from \$171,595,621 in 2020-21.

A comparison of 2021-22 actual expenditures to 2021-22 budgeted revenues certified to the Coordinating Board in July 2021 is also illustrated at the bottom of the summary chart. Certified budgeted expenditures for 2021-22 totaled \$197,548,730 for all institutions. Total actual expenditures for 2021-22 for all institutions was above this budgeted amount by 11.3% percent. Actual expenditures varied from the Board of Trustees-certified budgeted expenditures by a range of 18.7 percent below to 71.2 percent over the budgeted amount.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board accepts the Report of 2021-22 Intercollegiate Athletic Revenues and Expenditures as prepared in accordance with Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board uniform accounting standards and definitions for athletic reporting.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board authorizes the Director to transmit the Report of 2021-22 Intercollegiate Athletic Revenues and Expenditures to the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee according to the provisions of A.C.A. §6-62-106.

Dr. Jerry Cash asked if the increase in the total amount of athletic expenditures reported by institutions, was due to COVID. Nick Fuller said ,yes.

Keven Anderson moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 10 to the full Board for consideration. Kelley Erstine seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 11  
Bond Loan Feasibility Update

Nick Fuller presented an update of the actual terms for bond and loan issues receiving AHECB approval that occurred October 2021 through October 2022. An annual update was requested by the AHECB during the July 30, 2010, quarterly meeting.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 11b  
Economic Feasibility of Loan Issue  
Southeast Arkansas College

Southeast Arkansas College (SEAC) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to secure a loan not to exceed \$5.0 million with a term of up to twenty (20) years at an annual interest rate of approximately 4.75 percent. Proceeds from the bond issue will be used for education and general (E&G) purposes. The Southeast Arkansas College Board of Trustees approved this financing at its meeting on September 29, 2022.

The E&G loan issue will be up to \$5.0 million with an annual debt service of \$391,500 and a term of up to twenty (20) years. Proceeds from the loan will be used to fund several energy cost reduction measures identified via an investment grade audit performed by an energy service company participating in the Arkansas Energy Office's Arkansas Energy Performance Contracting Program.

Coordinating Board policy regarding debt service for E&G projects provides that a maximum of 25 percent of net tuition and fee revenue less unrestricted E&G scholarship expenditures may be pledged to E&G debt service.

**RESOLVED,** That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for Southeast Arkansas College to secure a loan not to exceed \$5.0 million with a term of up to twenty (20) years at an annual interest rate of approximately 4.75 percent to fund several energy cost reduction measures identified via an investment grade audit performed by an energy service company participating in the Arkansas Energy Office's Arkansas Energy Performance Contracting Program.

**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 Southeastern Arkansas College of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

Greg Revels asked how much the return on this investment was. Dr. Steven Bloomberg, President of SEARK, explained that this contract will yield approximately \$3 million in energy savings and about \$8 million in capital savings.

Keven Anderson asked if the improvements helped their insurance rates. Dr. Bloomberg said it should help their insurance rates and their environmental footprint.

Greg Revels asked if SEARK is going to sell off the energy savings. Dr. Bloomberg said, yes.

Keven Anderson moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 11b to the full Board for consideration. Kelley Erstine seconded and the Committee approved.

#### Agenda Item No. 12

##### Associate of Applied Science, Technical Certificate and Certificate of Proficiency in Cybersecurity Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas

The proposed programs in Cybersecurity prepare individuals for entry-level employment as well as advancement in the field of cybersecurity. UA Cossatot is partnering with UALR, UAPB, UAPT, UAHT, UACCB, and UACCM to offer the cybersecurity program through the Cyber Learning Network (CyberLearnN).

The Associate of Applied Science degree program is 60 credit hours, the Technical Certificate is 21 credit hours, and the Certificate of Proficiency is 12 credit hours. A program coordinator and one faculty member will be hired. The institution has received a Good Jobs Challenge grant through the Arkansas Association of Community Colleges to fund the program coordinator for the first three years.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Associate of Applied Science, Technical Certificate, and Certificate of Proficiency in Cybersecurity (CIP 11.1003) at Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas, effective Spring 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.

Greg Revels asked if this program is a partnership with other institutions and how long they have had the program.

Dr. Steve Cole, Chancellor for UA Cossatot, said it is. He noted that the University of Arkansas at Little Rock is the lead institution on this project.

Graycen Bigger asked if this program would be taught online or in the classroom. Dr Cole said, both.

Bigger asked if UA Cossatot had partnerships setup for internships. Dr. Ashley Aylett, Vice Chancellor of Academics, said they do not have internships setup in their local communities, yet.

Graycen Bigger encouraged UA Cossatot to put an advisory committee together so they can keep the students in their local region after graduation.

Greg Revels noted that this would be a great opportunity for the small businesses in that area.

Dr. Jim Carr stated that ten projected annual enrolled seemed like a small number for two faculty. Dr. Aylett said they will probably start out with only one faculty.

Agenda Item No. 13  
Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education  
University of Arkansas at Fort Smith

The Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education (non-licensure) degree program is 120 credit hours and will be offered 100% online. This degree program will strengthen the partnership between the institution's School of Education and the Arkansas Early Childhood Association's Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.). scholarship program.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education (non-licensure) (CIP 13.1210) at the University of Arkansas Fort Smith, effective Spring 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. Shadow Robinson, UAFS Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, provided additional background information.

Dr. Jerry Cash how this scholarship is funded. Dr. Robinson said it comes through the Arkansas Early Childhood Association.

Graycen Bigger asked how does the pay scale differ for a lead teacher with a four-year degree verses someone with an associate degree. Dr. Shadow said they estimate the increase will be between \$4,800 - \$11,000, per year.



Graycen Bigger said that since Arkansas needs more qualified teachers right now, will this be an accelerated program. Dr. Robinson said it is not an accelerated program, but it is designed for the working adult.

Agenda Item No. 14  
Institutional Certification Advisory Committee

**Appointment of Institutional Certification Advisory Committee Members**

**RESOLVED**, That, pursuant to ACA §6-61-302, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board appoints Dr. Martin Eggensperger, President of Black River Technical College, as a member of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee. Dr. Eggensperger will fill one of two positions designated for Public Postsecondary Education Institution Chief Administrators. This term expires December 31, 2031.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board appoints Ms. Phyllis Bell, Executive Director of the Arkansas Residential Assisted Living Association, as a member of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee. Ms. Bell will fill one of two positions designated for Chief Administrators of Proprietary Schools. This term expires December 31, 2031.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board appoints Mr. Nick Stevens, Program Director of the Creative Institute of Central Arkansas, as a member of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee. Mr. Stevens will fill one of two positions designated for Chief Administrators of Proprietary Schools. This term expires December 31, 2031.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Coordinating Board expresses appreciation to these individuals for their willingness to serve as members of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to communicate this appreciation to the members.

**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 Certifications – Distance Technology**

DeVry University, Naperville, Illinois

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California

Walden University, Minneapolis, Minnesota

### **Initial Program Certifications – Arkansas Campus**

Vincennes University, Vincennes, Indiana

There were no questions.

Graycen Bigger moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Items No. 12 - 14 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Jerry Cash seconded and the Committee approved.

### Agenda Items No. 15 & 16 Letters of Notification and Letters of Intent

The Director of the Arkansas Department 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 15-1 through 15-38 and in the Letters of Intent on pages 16-1 through 16-6 of the agenda book.

There were no questions.

### Report of the Committees

Chad Hooten presented the report of the Finance Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 10 and 11b. Greg Revels seconded, and the board approved.

Dr. Jim Carr presented the report of the Academic Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 12 – 14. Chad Hooten seconded, and the board approved.

Remarks by Presidents and Chancellors

Chair Brodell announced the next Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board meeting would be held at the University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College campus on January 27, 2023.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

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Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

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Graycen Bigger, Secretary