

Minutes of Presidents Council Meeting
January 7, 2014

The Presidents Council met at 11:10 a.m. on January 7, 2014 in the First Floor Board Room of the Department of Higher Education. Executive Council members present were Charles Welch (co-chair), Steve Cole (co-chair), Paul Beran, Bob Brown, Jackie Elliott and Barbara Jones. Don Bobbitt participated via phone call. Phillip Wilson was unable to attend.

Staff members present were Shane Broadway, Harold Criswell, Cynthia Moten, Rick Jenkins, Alana Boles, Brandi Hinkle, Micah Gilbert and Nichole Abernathy.

Steve Cole began by introducing new chancellor of ASU-Newport, Dr. Sandra Massey and new president of Northwest Arkansas Community College, Dr. Evelyn Jorgenson. He welcomed them to their first Presidents Council meeting.

Next, Bob Brown moved to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2013 meeting. Barbara Jones seconded and the council unanimously concurred.

Review of AHECB Agenda

President's Council members reviewed the agenda items for the January 31, 2014, Coordinating Board meeting. The finance agenda included the Annual Higher Education Financial Condition Report.

The academic agenda included the Associate of Applied Science in Apprenticeship Arts by the College of the Ouachitas, the Certificate of Proficiency and Technical Certificate in Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning by Arkansas State University – Mountain Home, the Certificate of Proficiency and Technical Certificate in Automotive Systems Repair by Arkansas State University – Mountain Home, the Master of Science in Strength and Conditioning Studies by Arkansas Tech University, the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee, Master of Science in Applied Sociology by Arkansas Tech University and the Bachelor of Science in Engineering by Southern Arkansas University – Magnolia.

Also included was the Annual Enrollment Report, Annual Report on First-Year Student Remediation for Fall 2013 and the Report on Academic Program Review and Program Viability.

Paul Beran asked if presidents and chancellors would receive the Enrollment and Remediation reports before the board meeting. Director Broadway said yes.

Steve Cole moved to approve the review of the agenda for the January 31, 2014, AHECB meeting. Jackie Elliott seconded and the council unanimously concurred.

Information Items

Director Broadway announced that ADHE will present the budget recommendations to the joint budget and legislative committees on January 14 at 1:00 p.m. The institutions need to have a representative there to answer any questions, he said. The balanced budget will be released that day as well from the Governor's office, and the hope is that it will include new funding. Due to inclement weather, we are still waiting to finalize the corrections from a couple of institutions and then we will post the budget books on the legislative website. Once posted, we will send the link out.

Regarding special language requests, ADHE staff are in the process of drafting letters that will go to legislative council. The staff will try to address all of those by Tuesday. So if you have made special language requests, hopefully the committee would be willing to address those that afternoon and there would not be a need for personnel subcommittee or special language subcommittee. Our hope is that everything in terms of the pre-session budget hearings would be finalized on Tuesday. So if something comes up, your bill is drafted based on the motion from last session. Therefore, if you have changes, you need to get those to ADHE so we can put them in the letter that will go to the legislative committees, said Broadway.

Steve Cole asked if this Friday, January 10, was the deadline for the pre-drafted letters that were sent to the institutions by ADHE staff. Director Broadway said yes.

Announcements

The Vision 2025 Commission will meet on January 17 at 1:30 p.m.

February 10 is the first day of the fiscal session. Whatever occurs with the private option will really have an impact on the institutions, said Broadway.

The Council agreed to cancel the February and March Presidents Council meetings. The next meeting will be April 1, 2014.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.