

Minutes of Presidents Council Meeting  
January 7, 2025

The Presidents Council met at 11:00 a.m. on January 7, 2025, via conference call. Executive Council members present by phone call were Houston Davis (co-chair), Summer DeProw (co-chair), Dennis Rittle, Brian Shonk, Todd Shields, and Jennifer Methvin. Terisa Riley and Charles Robinson were unable to attend.

Dennis Rittle moved to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2024, meeting. Summer DeProw seconded, and the council unanimously concurred.

Review of AHECB Agenda

Presidents Council members reviewed the agenda items for the January 24, 2025, Coordinating Board meeting. The finance agenda included the Annual Higher Education Financial Condition Report, Maintenance Report and Economic Feasibility for North Arkansas College.

The academic agenda included: Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technician by Northwest Arkansas Community College; Role and Scope Change for a Doctor of Philosophy in Forest Resources by the University of Arkansas Monticello; Arkansas Public Institutions Letters of Notification and Letters of Intent; Out-of-State and Arkansas Private Institutions, and the Out-of-State and Arkansas Private Institutions Letters of Notification and Letters of Intent.

The Report of Nominating Committee Members for Board Officers, Reimbursement of Expenses for Members of the AHECB and ICAC, Fall Annual Enrollment Report, Report on Fall College-Going Rate, Annual Report on Arkansas Enrollments in Out-of-State and Private Institutions, Report on Academic Program Viability, Program Review Policy Updates, Rules Governing the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program and the Rules Governing the Uniform Course Credit for Institutions of Higher Education, were also on the agenda.

Houston Davis asked if academic program viability is becoming a point of focus. Mason Campbell said it is not. This is just an update in the process.

Brian Shonk moved to approve the review of the agenda for the January 24 AHECB meeting. Jennifer Methvin seconded, and the council unanimously concurred.

Information Items

Commissioner Warden said the Governor's higher education bill should be released soon, noting that he is collaborating with legislators to help use lottery proceeds towards private and career and technical schools. He also noted that ADHE staff are working with institutions on 90-hour degrees and the Course Choice piece is currently on hold.

Summer DeProw asked for the Commissioner's impression on the new rules from DESE regarding distance and digital learning, governing, grading and course credit. Warden said he would anticipate that we will see legislation that standardizes the approach that districts take in weighting credits, making concurrent credits on par with AP courses and Cambridge diplomas.

## Announcements

The Council members agreed to cancel the February 4 and March 4 meetings. The next Presidents Council meeting will be April 1, 2025.

The next AHECB will be on Friday, January 24, 2025, at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.