

Agenda Item No. 1  
Higher Education Coordinating Board  
April 23, 2021

**ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD  
Regular Quarterly Meeting  
January 29, 2021**

**Minutes of Meeting**

The January 29, 2021, 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 Jim Carr called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., with a quorum present.

Coordinating Board present:

Dr. Jim Carr, Chair  
Al Brodell, Vice Chair  
Keven Anderson  
Bill Clary  
Lori Griffin  
Chad Hooten  
Andy McNeill  
Greg Revels  
Dr. Michael Stanton

Coordinating Board absent:

Chris Gilliam, Secretary

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

Chair Carr began by thanking everyone for participating in the virtual meeting.

Agenda Item No. 1  
Approval of Minutes

Chad Hooten moved to approve Agenda Item No. 1. Greg Revels seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 2  
Report of Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee (Chair Dr. Michael Stanton, Chris Gilliam, Lori Griffin and Chad Hooten) recommended the following slate of Board officers for 2021-2022.

President – Al Brodell  
Vice President – Keven Anderson  
Secretary/Treasurer – Lori Griffin  
Finance Committee Chair – Greg Revels  
Academic Committee Chair – Lori Griffin

Andy McNeill moved to accept the 2021-2022 nominations. Greg Revels seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 3  
State Board of Higher Education Foundation  
Election of Supervisory Committee

The State Board of Higher Education Foundation was established on May 2, 1992. The Board for the Foundation includes three annually elected members: a president, a vice president and a secretary/treasurer. The Foundation was established in order to accept private funds for specific projects for the benefit of higher education in Arkansas. The terms of the current members have lapsed, requiring a re-election or new appointments.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves and elects members to serve as the State Board of Higher Education Foundation Supervisory Committee as follows:

Chad Hooten – President  
Bill Clary – Vice President  
Andy McNeill – Secretary/Treasurer

Keven Anderson moved to approve Agenda Item No. 3. Al Brodell seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 4  
Reimbursement of Expenses for  
Members of the AHECB and ICAC

Although members of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board and its Institutional Certification Advisory Committee (ICAC) by law serve without compensation, they may receive expense reimbursement for performing official board duties after following certain procedures set out by Act 1211 of 1995 (A.C.A. §25-16-901 et seq.).

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board, by a majority vote of its total membership, authorizes expense reimbursement for each board member and member of the ICAC for performing official board duties.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the expense reimbursement shall not exceed the rate established for state employees by state travel regulations.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Division of Higher Education to send a copy of this resolution to the

Department of Finance and Administration to notify that agency of compliance with Act 1211 of 1995.

Al Brodell moved to approve Agenda Item No. 4. Keven Anderson seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 5  
Director's Report

*ADHE Staff Changes*

Tiffany Donovan, Operational Assistant, began on November 16. Donovan previously worked for ADE's Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.

LaShonia Williams, Financial Aid Student Applications Specialist, began on November 30. Williams previously worked as a Health Services Specialist for the Department of Health.

Sarah Ward, Outreach and Communications Officer for AmeriCorps, began on January 11, 2021.

Ann Clemmer has shifted to the private sector. Her last day at ADHE was January 6, 2021. Ann has over 30 years of higher education service.

*Institutional Leadership Changes*

Ike Wheeler is serving as interim chancellor of ASU-Newport. Wheeler has worked at ASUN for over 23 years, currently serving as vice chancellor for leadership and community engagement.

Dr. Johnny Moore will become the next chancellor of ASUN on February 8, 2021. Moore has spent the last four years as president of Pierpont Community & Technical College in Fairmont, W.Va. and served as president and CEO of Philander Smith College in Little Rock from 2012-2014.

*Higher Education COVID-19 Response*

ADHE has taken on a leadership role to coordinate the immediate responses to the pandemic. Higher Education has developed a robust COVID testing response by using the federal CARES funds that were allocated to the institutions to purchase fifteen Abbott ID PCR machines for campuses around the state. This allows institutions to do rapid tests for symptomatic students. ADHE has developed a testing partnership with Baptist Health, which helps quickly identify students and faculty that are positive. ADHE is also coordinating the contact tracing with a partnership with UAMS, as well as the purchasing and disbursement of personal protection equipment (PPE) for the institutions. The institutions have been supplied with over \$13 million in PPE. ADHE is working closely with the Department of Health to get vaccinations in the hands of the

institutions as quickly as possible. As of January 29, 2021, Arkansas institutions have vaccinated over 5,500 higher education employees.

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) was signed on December 27, 2020 and will provide \$191 million to Arkansas institutions in a second Education Stabilization Fund to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus. Of the \$191 million, \$58 million will go directly to students.

Al Brodell asked what feedback, if any, did ADHE receive from the institutions regarding social distancing, PPE, contact tracing, vaccinations and their immediate needs. Markham said the current efforts are meeting the institutions immediate needs.

Dr. Terisa Riley, Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith (UAFS) said they have partnered with a local pharmacy to conduct drive-through vaccination clinics. Their first clinic was with health sciences students and faculty. Next, the students will give the vaccinations to the UAFS employees.

### *Legislative Update*

Markham announced that ADHE currently has nine agency bills and eight of them have been filed and are making their way through committees. Of the nine bills, six are minor modifications of existing scholarship programs. The financial transparency bill was prompted by the difficulties at Henderson State University and it provides the agency with additional financial transparency which will increase financial oversight. ADHE staff are currently working on a needs based scholarship bill.

Keven Anderson asked if ADHE does an all-encompassing review of programs to determine if there is overlap and duplication. Markham said that information can be found in the draft of the five-year strategic plan, which will be presented to the board during the next regular meeting. She noted that Dr. Jessie Walker addresses program demand and duplication while preparing new program proposals, as well as during the program viability report.

Anderson recommended ADHE bring in outside experts to conduct an evaluation or study of existing programs to determine where they overlap and to make recommendations. Markham said ADHE has the internal capacity to conduct the review and will provide the data at the April AHECB meeting.

### *Regional Workforce Grants*

Since the October AHECB meeting, ADHE has awarded more than \$7 million in Regional Workforce Grants (\$2.5 million for computer programming, \$3.4 million for healthcare and \$1.4 million for transportation programs).

Agenda Item No. 6  
Review of Audit Report

In accordance with A.C.A. §10-4-418, the Director of the Division of Higher Education will report on the 2019 audit findings, comments and recommendations to the Higher Education Coordinating Board at its next regular scheduled meeting.

Dr. Markham noted there was one audit finding in the yearly audit report. It was based on the subsidiary ledgers for ADHE's financial aid loan programs not balancing with the main ledgers. This is a repeat finding from previous years. ADHE is looking at moving to a different third party servicing company for these loans that will help get these ledgers back in balance. ADHE has also updated the record keeping procedures surrounding these loans to ensure they are properly tracking balances and students who have met requirements to have their loans forgiven.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 7  
Annual Enrollment Report

Sonia Hazelwood presented summary and detailed information about annual student enrollment. She noted the total unduplicated enrollment for the fall 2020 term in all sectors of Arkansas higher education, including public universities, public colleges, private/independent colleges and universities, and nursing schools was 147,339 students; representing a 1-year decline of 5.6 percent.

The last time Arkansas higher education reported an increase in fall term enrollment was the fall 2011 term. Fall 2011 total unduplicated enrollment of 173,887 represents the largest fall term enrollment ever. Although the declines from year to year range from .5 to 5.6 percent, Arkansas higher education currently has over 26,000 fewer students compared to the fall 2011 term.

Of the 147,339 students enrolled in fall 2020, 1,446 students enrolled at more than one institution. This is only one percent of the total fall 2020 enrollment. The largest number of students attending more than one institution in the fall term was 3,110 in fall 2011, which was 1.8 percent of the total 173,887 students enrolled.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 8  
Annual Report on Institutional Certification

Alana Boles presented an update on the number of Arkansas residents pursuing academic degrees offered by out-of-state and for-profit institutions certified to operate in Arkansas under Arkansas Code Annotated §6-61-301.

Boles reported that in 2019-20, 16 Arkansas campuses, 25 institutions with programs delivered only through distance technology, 8 institutions offering programs both on

Arkansas campuses and through distance technology and 5 institutions offering programs only on an Arkansas campus were certified under ICAC rules.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 9  
Annual Higher Education Financial Condition Report

Nick Fuller presented the Annual Higher Education Financial Condition Report. The purpose of this report is to describe the financial condition as well as the difficulties and challenges experienced by Arkansas's Public Institutions of Higher Education.

Bill Clary asked if there were any financial issues that stood out in the report. Aside from Henderson State University's issue that is currently being resolved, there are no other issues, said Fuller.

Keven Anderson voiced concern regarding institution's future enrollment numbers and financial consequences due to COVID-19. Nick Fuller said the data will be available after this fiscal year and then we will know what adjustments will need to be implemented long term.

Anderson said institutions might need to look at repurposing their existing resources, particularly facilities and programs. He also suggested taking a hard look at some of the institutions finances.

Agenda Item No. 10  
Maintenance Report

The AHECB policy for maintenance of new facilities passed October 29, 2010, states that a report on the amount transferred to plant funds would be presented annually at the October Board meeting. This policy was proposed to ensure that in the future, all newly constructed or purchased facilities would 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.

It is the expectation that the institution provides for the long-term maintenance of the facility for which the funds were accrued. Funds may be utilized for facility renovation and upkeep including upgrade or replacement of equipment and furnishings of the designated building. These funds will be transferred to the plant fund annually, shall begin in the fiscal year following the completion and occupancy of the facility, and will continue as long as the building is in use. The funds can also be used for critical and deferred maintenance of the institution. This report includes the status of the FY2018-19 and FY2019-20 maintenance transfers.

Al Brodell asked if the maintenance fee policy applied to all facilities. Fuller said all new facilities constructed or purchased since October 29, 2010.

Brodell asked how institutions handle repairs that fall outside the purview of the new facilities maintenance policy. Fuller said some institutions are looking at sustainable building loans as well as other non-traditional ways to attain funding.

Brodell asked if ADHE believes the \$2.50 per gross square foot for an educational and general facility or \$1.25 per gross square foot for an auxiliary facility is sufficient to sustain the maintenance. He also questioned if any thought had been given to redefining the definition of maintenance. Fuller said he would present the definition of maintenance and the current rates at the next Coordinating Board meeting. This would allow the board to discuss potential changes to the policy.

Agenda Item. No. 11  
Economic Feasibility of Loan Issue  
University of Arkansas Community College at Hope-Texarkana

The University of Arkansas Community College at Hope-Texarkana (UACCH-T) economic feasibility of loan issue was moved to the April 23, 2021, AHECB meeting agenda.

Agenda Item No. 12  
Economic Feasibility of Bond Issue  
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds not to exceed \$168.0 million with a maximum term of thirty (30) years at an annual interest rate not to exceed 4.50 percent. Proceeds from the bond issue will be used for auxiliary purposes. The University of Arkansas Board of Trustees approved this financing at its meeting on December 15, 2020.

The auxiliary issue will be up to \$168.0 million with an estimated annual debt service of \$9,307,925 and a term of up to thirty (30) years. Proceeds from the bond issue will be used for certain facilities on or for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences campus ("UAMS"), including, but not limited to, the following: (a) the acquisition, construction, furnishing and equipping of the Radiation Oncology Center, a portion of which will consist of the Proton Therapy Center that is anticipated to be utilized by a limited liability company, of which UAMS will be a member, and may be leased in connection therewith or in connection with a future financing; (b) the acquisition, construction furnishing, and equipping of a surgical annex; and (c) the acquisition, construction, improvement, renovation, equipping and/or furnishing of other capital improvements and infrastructure and the acquisition of various equipment for UAMS (collectively, the "Project"). Coordinating Board policy regarding debt service for auxiliary projects provides that annual auxiliary revenues should be no less than 120 percent of total annual auxiliary debt service.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for the University of Arkansas acting for and on behalf of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences to issue bonds up to \$168.0 million with a term of thirty (30) years at a maximum annual interest rate of 4.50 percent for various facilities projects on and for the campus.

**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 the University of Arkansas and the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

There were no questions.

Chair Jim Carr moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No.12 to the full Board for consideration. Al Brodell seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 13  
Economic Feasibility of Loan  
Henderson State University

Henderson State University (HSU) of the Arkansas State University System requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to secure a loan not to exceed \$1.0 million with a term of ten (10) year at an annual interest rate not to exceed 0.00 percent. Proceeds from loan will be used for educational and general (E&G) purposes and auxiliary purposes. Henderson State University Board of Trustees approved this financing at its meeting on December 10, 2020.

The loan is being sought from the Arkansas Sustainable Building Design Revolving Loan Fund, which is managed by the Division of Building Authority (DBA). This fund was established with funds provided by the federal government under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for Henderson State University to secure a loan not to exceed \$1.0 million with a term of ten (10) years at an annual interest rate not to exceed 0.00 percent to replace the roof on the two-story portion of Huie Library, to replace a failing chiller in the Newberry residence hall and to replace some 1988 HVAC units on top of Wells Gym.

**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 the Arkansas State University System, and the Chancellor of Henderson State University of the Coordinating Board's resolution.



Greg Revels asked if the proposed new debt service was \$25,000. Fuller said that is correct.

Revels asked if ADHE was monitoring HSU to see if they are on course to better financial standing. Fuller said staff are monitoring their finances.

Dr. Charles Welch, President of the Arkansas State University System, said that they are monitoring HSU's finances daily and have developed short and long term plans to deal with both the debt and accounts payable. This is a multi-year turn around, said Welch.

Greg Revels moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No.13 to the full Board for consideration. Bill Clary seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 14  
Bachelor of Science in Occupational  
and Environmental Safety and Health  
Arkansas State University – Jonesboro

The proposed Bachelor of Science in Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health will be an interdisciplinary degree program to prepare occupational and environmental health professionals to effectively meet the needs of both private and public sector employers in the fields of manufacturing, industry, hospital settings, and the fields of oil and gas. Upon completion of the program, graduates will be prepared to complete certification examinations required for career advancement. The program will be 120 credit hours.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Bachelor of Science in Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health (CIP 51.226; 120 credit hours) offered by Arkansas State University - Jonesboro, effective Fall 2021.

**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 Arkansas State University - Jonesboro of the approval.

Dr. Karen Wheeler, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, provided additional information on the program.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 15  
 Associate of Applied Science in Computer Programming  
 Technical Certificate in Computer Programming  
 Certificate of Proficiency in Computer Programming  
 Certificate of proficiency in Database Programming  
 Arkansas State University Mid-South

The proposed 16 credit hour Certificate of Proficiency; 33 credit hours Technical Certificate; and 60 credit hour Associate of Applied Science in Computer Programming, programs will prepare students for careers in computer programming, and application development. While the 16 credit hour Certificate of Proficiency in Data Programming will offer a balanced set of courses that focus on client, server, and database programming skills. These programs will place emphasis on object-oriented programming applications, configuration of servers, creation, navigation of databases, and reusable software components. The programs will integrate industry certifications in software engineering, cloud development, front and back end development, and database development.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Certificate of Proficiency in Computer Programming, Technical Certificate in Computer Programming, Associate of Applied Science in Computer Programming (CIP 11.0201 CP-16 credit hours; CIP 11.0299; TC-33 credit hours; AAS-60 credit hours) and Certificate of Proficiency in Database Programming (CIP 11.0202; 16 credit hours) offered by the Arkansas State University Mid-South, effective Summer 2021.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to inform the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas State System and the Chancellor of the Arkansas State University Mid-South of the approval.

Jeffrey Gray, Vice Chancellor for Learning and Instruction, provided additional information.

Chair Jim Carr asked if this program was aided with any institutional resources. Gray explained that the program will almost entirely be supported by grant funds.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 16  
 Certificate of Proficiency and Technical Certificate  
 in Precision Machining Technology  
 Ozarka College

The proposed 15 credit hour programs will provide qualified individuals the skills and training for entry-level positions in the field of precision machining and manufacturing. Both certificates and associated curriculum have been developed as a direct response to the needs local industries within Ozarka College service

area. Also, the programs will address the imminent need for training for a facility that will be bringing over 200 jobs to the Sharp County area, which is expected to significantly impact the local economy.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Certificate of Proficiency and Technical Certificate in Precision Machining (CIP 48.000; CP-15 credit hours; CIP 48.0503; TC-15 credit hours) offered by Ozarka College, effective Fall 2021.

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

Dr. Chris Lorch, Associate Vice president of Academics, provided additional information.

Chair Carr asked if Emerson is making any contributions toward this program. Dr. Lorch said they are currently not making any contributions.

Chad Hooten asked if the Ash Flat facility was being used to train students. Dr. Lorch said that students will be trained at the Ash Flat facility as soon as equipment is moved in.

Hooten asked if 200 jobs were expected. Dr. Lorch said yes, Emerson will need welders, machine operators, general assemblers as well as general maintenance.

Hooten said this will be great for Sharp County.

Agenda Item No. 17  
Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Computer Science  
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

The Master's degree in Computer Science Education builds on the existing M.S. Degree in Computer Science and Technology and the master level education courses required for teacher certification. The M.Ed. degree program will use a combination of courses from the existing M.S. degree in Computer Science and Technology (18 hours) and the core education requirements for the M.Ed. (18 hours). Specifically, the curriculum will require 36 hours: 15 core education hours, 18 hours of specialization courses in computer science, and a 3-hour educational foundation elective.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Education in Computer Science (CIP 13.1321; 36 credit hours) offered by the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, effective Fall 2021.

**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 System and the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff of the approval.

Dr. Robert Carr, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, provided additional information.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 18  
Associate of Science in Manufacturing  
Arkansas Tech University

The proposed 64 credit hour Associate of Science (AS) in Manufacturing will prepare students with an understanding of the processes, problems, and overall environment of the manufacturing industry. The program consists of courses common to the first two years of the institution's Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering program. There is no new incurred cost for new faculty because it will be administered by the Department Head for Mechanical Engineering. It is anticipated that the renovations for the new lab and lab equipment for the program will be covered by funds held by the Arkansas Tech Foundation. This degree also would provide an option for students to continue in their educational journey to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Associate of Science in Manufacturing (CIP 15.0613; 64 credit hours) offered by Arkansas Tech University, effective Fall 2021.

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

Dr. John Krohn, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, provided additional information.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 19  
Associate of Applied Science in Supply Chain Management  
Southeast Arkansas College

The proposed 61 credit hour Associate of Applied Science in Supply Chain Management with a Transportation option will prepare students for careers in supply chain management and entry-level employment. Students will receive a fundamental introduction to the field of Supply Chain Management in conjunction with basic business technology success skills, ranging from acquisitions to receiving and handling, through the internal allocation of resources to operations units, to the handling and delivery of output. This program includes instruction in acquisitions and purchasing, inventory control, resource estimation and allocation, and budgeting. The

AAS will include stackable credentials, Certificate of Proficiency in Commercial Drivers Licensing, a Technical Certificate in Supply Chain Management Transportation Option.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Associate of Applied Science in Supply Chain Management (CIP 52.0203; 61 credit hours) offered by Southeast Arkansas College, effective Spring 2021.

**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 Southeast Arkansas College of the approval.

Lyric Seymore, Dean of Technical Studies, provided additional information.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 20  
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 - 2 to offer the specified degree programs to Arkansas residents for a period of three years through December 31, 2024.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Director of the Arkansas Department 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 Department 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 Department 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.

Brandman University, Irvine, California  
National University, La Jolla, California  
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California

There were no questions.

Dr. Michael Stanton moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Items No.14 - 20 to the full Board for consideration. Chad Hooten seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Items No. 21 & 22  
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 21-1 through 21-33 and in the Letters of Intent on pages 22-1 through 22-6 of the agenda book.

Report of the Committees

Keven Anderson presented the report of the Finance Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 12 – 13. Al Brodell seconded and the board approved.

Lori Griffin presented the report of the Academic Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 14 – 20. Keven Anderson seconded and the board approved.

AHECB Resolution

During the October 30, 2020 Regular AHECB Meeting, the board unanimously voted to send former AHECB member Dr. Olin Cook a resolution thanking him for years of service to higher education in Arkansas. The following resolution was recorded.

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO DR. OLIN COOK FOR SERVICE  
TO THE ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD**

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Cook joined the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) in 2008 and has advanced the mission and agenda of the Board through his twelve years of service and steadfast advocacy and commitment; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Cook displayed able leadership as Chair of the Coordinating Board from 2012 to 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, during his term as chair, the AHECB approved the implementation of the Arkansas Common Course Numbering System as well as approved numerous policy amendments; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Cook’s contributions as an intelligent, hard-working, dedicated, and consistent source of advice are unparalleled and will be greatly missed by the Higher Education Coordinating Board; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Cook’s tireless efforts to engage presidents, chancellors, students, faculty, staff, families, business leaders, elected officials, and countless others — set a high standard for action;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Division of Higher Education highly commend and thank Dr. Olin Cook for his leadership, vision and for the example he has set in higher education in Arkansas.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this statement of appreciation be conveyed to Dr. Olin Cook, with a copy to be included in the official minutes of the January 29, 2021, meeting of the Coordinating Board.

#### AHECB Member Appointment Certificates

Although they already serve on the Higher Education Coordinating Board, Chair Carr presented the AHECB members with official appointment certificates to show his appreciation for their continued dedication and service to higher education in Arkansas.

#### Remarks by Presidents/Chancellors and Guest

Chair Carr stated that it has been his distinct pleasure to serve as the AHECB chair for the past two years. The staff at the Division of Higher Education are excellent. Dr. Markham has done a fine job of assembling an incredible group of professionals. There is no doubt Mr. Brodell will serve the board well as chair and do a fine.

This has been a challenging year for everyone. As I depart the role of chair, I would like to leave you with a few final thoughts and challenges, said Dr. Carr. There are three issues that I believe will remain front and center for Arkansas. The issue of accessibility, our need for improvement, and our lack of preparation. In closing, Chair Carr thanked each campus for serving the incredible students of Arkansas.

“Dr. Carr, thank you for your service as Chair of the Coordinating Board. Your service has been well documented. Thank you again,” said Dr. Robert Carr.

“Thank you for your service and for the challenge you have put before us to be imminent. We appreciate you,” said Dr. Terisa Riley.

“We are obliged to you Dr. Carr. Thank you for your leadership,” said Dr. John Hogan.

“Thank you, Dr. Carr. You are truly one of the most genuine, kind individuals I've ever had the opportunity of knowing! I appreciate your care and concern for the future of Arkansas! You are one in a million,” said Lori Griffin.

“Thank you for your kind words and high bar, Dr. Carr. We hope we make you proud,” said Dr. Cathie Cline.

“Thank you, Dr. Carr,” said Dr. Steven Bloomberg and Dr. Terry Martin.

On behalf of the Coordinating Board, in-coming Chair Al Brodell thanked Dr. Carr for his leadership over the years.

The Arkansas Division of Higher Education will host the next Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board via Zoom on April 23, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

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Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

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Lori Griffin, Secretary