

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Regular Quarterly Meeting
October 29, 2021

Minutes of Meeting

The October 29, 2021, regular meeting of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) was held via Zoom video conferencing. 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
Chad Hooten
Andy McNeill
Dr. Kyle Miller
Greg Revels
Dr. Michael Stanton

Coordinating Board absent:

Lori Griffin, Secretary
Allan Bohn

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 virtual meeting.

Agenda Item No. 1
Approval of Minutes

Keven Anderson 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 appointed members of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board nominating committee. The nominating committee will recommend Board officers for 2022-23 at the January 28, 2022, meeting. The members included Greg Revels (Chair), Graycen Bigger and Lori Griffin.

Chad Hooten moved to approve Agenda Item No. 2. Andy McNeill seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 3
Approval of 2022 Coordinating Board
Meeting Schedule

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board meets quarterly to act upon Board initiatives and to respond to campus proposals. Director Maria Markham noted that in lieu of social distancing measures, all AHECB Meetings would be held via Zoom until further notice.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board agrees to the following dates for regular quarterly meetings during 2022: January 28, April 29, July 29, and October 28.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board expresses its appreciation for your patience during these challenging times and will continue to meet virtually in January, April, July, and October.

Chair Brodell asked if ADHE had any guidance or measures in place for in-person meetings. Dr. Markham said currently there are no measures in place.

Graycen Bigger 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

Terry Hunkapiller, Perkins Federal Program Manager, began on August 11.

Felexia Thomas, Program Advisor for Veterans Training, began on August 16.

Jamaal Gaines, Systems Specialist, began on September 7.

Starr Crow, Outreach and Events Officer, began on September 7.

Dr. Eric Flowers, New Assistant Director for Academic Affairs, began October 27.

Institutional Changes

Charles F. Robinson, Ph.D., provost and executive vice chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, was named interim chancellor on August 16, 2021.

School Closure

Vista College in Richardson, Texas closed on October 8; they had a branch campus in Fort Smith. The college offered associate degrees and certificates. There were 354 students at the Fort Smith campus at the time of the closure. ADHE has obtained their transcripts and are sending them out upon request. Several public colleges and universities have been in contact with Vista College students in hopes of salvaging their earned credits.

Career Pathways Initiative Update

Monieca West, CPI/Perkins Program Director, presented information on the Career Pathways initiative (CPI). The CPI program was created to help end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by improving the educational and employment outcomes for TANF and TANF-eligible adults.

Agenda Item No. 5
Report on Annual Review of Faculty Performance

The Annual Review of Faculty Performance was removed from the agenda.

Agenda Item No. 6
Annual Status Report for
Sexual Assault Prevention on Campus

Dr. Markham 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 2020–2021 academic year, as required by the legislation.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 7
Unplanned Pregnancy Prevention Annual Report

Dr. Markham 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 2020-2021.

Andy McNeill voiced concern regarding the number of non-academic reports ADHE is required to provide.

Agenda Item No. 8
Rules Governing the Star-Spangled Banner Act

In compliance with Act 958 of 2021, the proposed rules to the Star-Spangled Banner Act are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for initial approval.

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.

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.

Keven Anderson asked if there were any consequences for violating this act or is it just a reporting request. Dr. Markham said violators would be reported to legislators as their only consequence. There are no provisions for enforcement.

Keven Anderson moved to approve Agenda Item No. 8. Greg Revels seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 9
Recognition of Institute as Non-Formula Unit
by Arkansas Tech University

The administration and Board of Trustees of Arkansas Tech University (ATU) request official recognition of the Arkansas Tech Institute (ATI) as a non-formula unit of ATU.

As stated in House Bill 1287, the Act for the ATU appropriation for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, ATI "shall explore, develop, implement, and evaluate new and better ways to integrate the teaching, study and performance of business, engineering, emergency management, agriculture, healthcare, technical programs and computer science for academic, economic, and economic development purposes in Arkansas.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board recognizes the Arkansas Tech Institute as a non-formula unit of Arkansas Tech University.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board recognizes the Arkansas Tech Institute to offer non-credit credentials and that such authority will reside in the Arkansas Tech Institute as a non-formula unit of Arkansas Tech University.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to notify the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Arkansas Tech University of this action.

Chief of Staff Dr. Mary Gunter and ATU Ozark Campus Chancellor Bruce Sikes, provided additional information.

Dr. Jim Carr asked if approval would help ATU acquire private grants and funding. Dr. Gunter said it would be very beneficial and enhance those efforts.

Dr. Jim Carr moved to approve Agenda Item No. 9. Andy McNeill seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 10 Report on Academic Program Deletions

Rachel Lewis 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 64 programs in AY 2021 as compared to 80 in 2020, 108 deletions in 2019, 104 deletions in 2018, and 69 deletions in 2017. Of the 64 programs deleted in 2021, 2-Year Colleges deleted 39, while the 4-Year Universities deleted 25 programs.

Dr. Jim Carr expressed concern over the number of deleted health professions programs and asked if they were nursing programs. Ms. Lewis said they are not affiliated with nursing but are more administrative programs.

Dr. Jerry Cash asked if the certificates of proficiencies were included in the funding formula and why so many were deleted. Ms. Lewis said they are included in the formula and typically programs are deleted because a newer STEM specific program replaced it, as well as program viability.

Agenda Item No. 11 Annual Report on Credentials Awarded

Rachel Lewis presented summary and detailed information about credentials awarded. Arkansas higher education institutions overall experienced a slight increase of .2% in the number of credentials awarded in 2021 compared to 2020. There was an increase of 85 credentials awarded in 2021. The 4-year universities had an increase of .8%, while the 2-year colleges reported a slight decline from 2020 to 2021 of 1.5%. The private and independent colleges and universities reported an increase of 6.8% in the number of credentials awarded. Our Nursing Schools and Northwest Technical Institute experienced the largest percentage loss comparing 2020 to 2021 of almost 14%, said Lewis.

Dr. Jerry Cash asked if ASU had any graduates from their Osteopathic Medicine program. Ms. Lewis said she would get the graduate information for Dr. Cash.

Dr. Jim Carr commended the institutions and ADHE staff for helping to increase the number of certificates and degrees awarded. An increase of almost 10 percent between 2017 and 2021.

Agenda Item A
Minority Masters Fellows Program
Rules Repeal

The rules to the Minority Masters Fellows Program were presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for repeal.

RESOLVED, That the Minority Masters Fellows Program is no longer active and does not receive funding.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the repeal of the rules presented in this agenda item for the Minority Masters Fellows Program.

There were no questions.

Dr. Jim Carr moved to approve Agenda Item A. Keven Anderson seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item B
Minority Teacher Scholars Program
Rules Repeal

The rules to the Minority Teacher Scholars Program are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for repeal.

RESOLVED, That the Minority Teacher Scholars Program is no longer active and does not receive funding.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the repeal of the rules presented in this agenda item for the Minority Teacher Scholars Program.

There were no questions.

Dr. Jerry Cash moved to approve Agenda Item B. Keven Anderson seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item C
Emergency Secondary Education Loan
Rules Repeal

The rules to the Emergency Secondary Education Loan Program are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for repeal.

RESOLVED, That the Emergency Secondary Education Loan Program is no longer active and does not receive funding.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the repeal of the rules presented in this agenda item for the Emergency Secondary Education Loan Program.

There were no questions.

Greg Revels moved to approve Agenda Item C. Dr. Jim Carr seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda item No. 12
Recommendation for Distribution of Productivity Funding
for State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education

A.C.A. §6-61-234 directs the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) to adopt polices developed by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education (ADHE) necessary to implement a productivity-based funding model for state-supported institutions of higher education.

This distribution recommendation results in a total request for new general revenue funds of \$7,425,742.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the recommendation for distribution of productivity funding to the Arkansas public institutions of higher education in the 2022-23 fiscal year as included in Table 12B.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education is authorized to prepare appropriate documents for transmission to the Governor and the General Assembly of the 2022-23 productivity funding distribution recommendation of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That should any errors of a technical nature be found in this recommendation, the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education is authorized to make appropriate corrections consistent with the policy established by the Board's action on these recommendations.

There were no questions.

Keven Anderson moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 12 to the full Board for consideration. Chad Hooten seconded and the committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 13
Operating Recommendations for FY2022-23

A.C.A. §6-61-234 (Act 148 of 2017) directs the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) to adopt polices developed by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education (ADHE) necessary to implement a productivity-based funding model for state-supported institutions of higher education. That language reads as follows:

For the **universities**, an increase in funding is recommended for those institutions with productivity increases for a total change in university funding of \$8,508,875.

For the **two-year colleges**, an increase in funding is recommended for those institutions with productivity increases for a total change in two-year college funding of \$2,897,559.

For the **non-formula entities**, the recommendation is for a 2.5% increase based on the HEPI index and a recommendation of full funding of Operations and Program Enhancement requests which combined would require an additional \$22.2 million, of which \$2.4 million would be for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS).

The individual institutional recommendations for all three types of institutions (Colleges, Universities, and Non-Formula Entities) were determined in the following manner: The general revenue funds were distributed based upon the productivity funding distribution policy adopted by the AHECB in October 2017. The non-formula needs were based on the justifications submitted by the institutions. **The total funding recommendation for 2022-23 for Colleges and Universities is \$11,406,434 in new revenue with \$3,980,692 of that being redistributed from one-time incentive funds. The total recommendation for 2022-2023 for the Non-Formula Entities is \$22,166,725 in new revenue.**

In addition to these funding recommendations, an additional appropriation increase recommendation of 2% of the formula-based entities funding recommendation has been added to address any changes in disbursements for Educational Excellence Trust Fund revenues or any other state funding adjustments. This increase totals \$9,703,113 for the **universities** and \$3,616,267 for the **two-year colleges**.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the recommendations for state funding of the educational and general operations of Arkansas public institutions of higher education in the 2022-23 fiscal year as included in Tables 13A, 13B, 13C, and 13D.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education is authorized to prepare appropriate documents for

transmission to the Governor and the General Assembly of the 2022-23 operating recommendations of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That should any errors of a technical nature be found in these recommendations, the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education is authorized to make appropriate corrections consistent with the policy established by the Board's action on these recommendations.

Dr. Jerry Cash asked what institutions make up non-formula entities. Nick Fuller explained that programs that do not generate full-time equivalent students are categorized as non-formula. The U of A Division of Agriculture, the Criminal Justice Institute and the Regional Education Network are examples of non-formula entities, said Fuller.

Chad Hooten moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 13 to the full Board for consideration. Keven Anderson seconded and the committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 14 Personal Services Recommendations

A.C.A. §6-61-209 requires the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to present a consolidated budget request from the state-supported colleges and universities to the General Assembly and the Governor prior to each regular session of the General Assembly. As part of this process, the quantity of positions, titles, and line-item maximum salaries for all non-classified administrative, academic, and auxiliary positions at each Arkansas public institution of higher education have been reviewed, and changes are recommended.

Institutions of higher education, apart from UAMS, have 27,989 positions currently authorized. For the 2022-23 Fiscal Year, institutions requested an increase of 113 positions and the deletion of 36 positions, for a net new request of 77 positions. ADHE staff recommends this net increase of 77 positions, for a total recommendation of 28,066 positions (a 0.3 percent increase). UAMS currently has 11,559 authorized positions and did not submit a request to change this total. ADHE staff recommends the current level of 11,559 positions.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the recommended number of positions, titles, and maximum salaries for non-classified positions in academic, administrative, and auxiliary positions for the 2022-23 fiscal year as recommended by staff.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education is authorized to make technical corrections consistent with Coordinating Board action.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board requests the Director to transmit the Personal Services recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly for consideration for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Dr. Jim Carr asked if there was an enrollment increase for the public institutions. Nick Fuller said the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville is the only institution with an increase in enrollment.

Keven Anderson asked how many of the authorized positions are filled. Fuller said that ADHE is currently reviewing positions that have been vacant for two years and will make a recommendation to the legislature next year regarding those positions.

Keven Anderson moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 14 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Kyle Miller seconded and the committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 15
Report on Intercollegiate Athletic Revenues
and Expenditures for 2020-21

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 2020-21 total amount of athletic expenditures reported by state-supported universities is \$169,508,885 and two-year colleges is \$2,086,736. The statewide total is \$171,595,621 – a decrease of \$21,614,436 (11.2%) from \$193,210,057 in 2019-20.

A comparison of 2020-21 actual expenditures to 2020-21 budgeted revenues certified to the Coordinating Board in July 2020 is also illustrated at the bottom of the summary chart. Certified budgeted expenditures for 2020-21 totaled \$199,150,149 for all institutions. Total actual expenditures for 2020-21 for all institutions was below this budgeted amount by 13.8% percent. Actual expenditures varied from the Board of Trustees-certified budgeted expenditures by a range of 19.6 percent below to 6.3 percent over the budgeted amount.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board accepts the Report of 2020-21 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 2020-21 Intercollegiate Athletic

Revenues and Expenditures to the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee according to the provisions of A.C.A. §6-62-106.

There were no questions.

Keven Anderson moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 15 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Kyle Miller seconded and the committee approved.

Agenda Item. No. 16
Economic Feasibility of Bond
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 \$148.6 million with a maximum term of thirty (30) years at an estimated annual interest rate not to exceed 4.50%. Proceeds from the bond issues will be used for auxiliary purposes. The University of Arkansas Board of Trustees approved this financing at its meeting on September 17, 2021.

Proceeds from the bond issue for \$109.6 million will be used for the acquisition, construction, furnishing, and equipping of the Northwest Arkansas UAMS Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine Facility, including an associated land acquisition with an annual debt service of \$9,356,625. Coordinating Board policy regarding debt service for auxiliary projects provides those 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 for Medical Sciences to issue bonds not to exceed \$148.6 million with a term of up to thirty (30) years at an expected annual interest rate not to exceed 4.50 percent for the acquisition, construction, furnishing, and equipping of the Northwest Arkansas UAMS Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine Facility, including associated land acquisition and to refund Parking System Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2011; and for the acquisition, construction, furnishing, and equipping of the Parking 4 parking deck.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department 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.

Dr. Kyle Miller moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 16 to the full Board for consideration. Keven Anderson seconded and the committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 17
Economic Feasibility of Line of Credit Loan
University of Arkansas - Grantham

The University of Arkansas-Grantham requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to obtain a line of credit loan not to exceed \$8.0 million at an annual interest rate not to exceed 3.25%. Proceeds from the line of credit loan will be used for education and general (E&G) purposes. The University of Arkansas Board of Trustees approved this financing at its meeting on September 17, 2021.

Proceeds from the revolving line of credit will be used to facilitate the purchase and operation of Grantham University by providing Grantham funds for the continuation of existing facility and equipment leases, to acquire and maintain information technology infrastructure and to acquire and maintain other contracts and services related to operation and use of its facilities. This line of credit will not be a term loan, but rather a mechanism to ensure funding for servicing contracts related to normal operations of the university, as well as assuring timely distribution of student financial aid during the transition. It is anticipated that the line would be repaid as soon as funds are available. Coordinating Board policy regarding debt service for educational and general projects provides that a maximum of 25 percent of net tuition and fee revenue may be pledged to educational and general debt service.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for the University of Arkansas-Grantham to obtain a line of credit loan not to exceed \$8.0 million at an annual interest rate not to exceed 3.25% to facilitate the purchase and operation of Grantham University by providing Grantham funds for the continuation of existing facility and equipment leases, to acquire and maintain information technology infrastructure and to acquire and maintain other contracts and services related to operation and use of its facilities.

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 of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

Dr. Jerry Cash asked if there was an estimate of the campus value and does it include buildings. Gina Terry, Vice President for Finance and CFO for the University of Arkansas System, stated that an evaluation was done on the online university. It does include a leased space in Kansas. The university was appraised at 23.8 million in 2020.

Dr. Kyle Miller moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 17 to the full Board for consideration. Keven Anderson seconded and the committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 18
Economic Feasibility Lease Purchase Agreement
Southeast Arkansas College

Southeast Arkansas College (SEAC) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to enter into a lease purchase agreement with a par amount of not to exceed \$42.0 million for up to thirty (30) years and a coupon rate not to exceed 4.0 percent and an approximate annual base payment of \$2,503,400. The lease purchase agreement will be used for auxiliary purposes. The Southeast Arkansas College Board of Trustees approved this financing at its meeting on October 11, 2021.

The approximate base lease payment in the amount of \$2,503,400 annually. The lease purchase agreement will 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 619 beds of student housing in two buildings totaling approximately 130,000 square feet. Coordinating Board policy regarding debt service for auxiliary projects provides those 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 Southeast Arkansas College to enter into a lease purchase agreement with a par amount of not to exceed \$42.0 million for up to thirty (30) years and a coupon rate not to exceed 4.0 percent and an approximate annual base payment of \$2,503,400 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 619 beds of student housing in two buildings totaling approximately 130,000 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.

There were no questions.

Keven Anderson moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 18 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Kyle Miller seconded and the committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 19
Bond/Loan Feasibility Update

Nick Fuller presented an update of the actual terms for bond and loan issues receiving AHECB approval that occurred October 2020 through October 2021. An annual update was requested by the AHECB during the July 30, 2010, quarterly meeting.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 20

Certificate of Proficiency and Technical Certificate in Pre-Health Diagnostic
Medical Sonography – University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
NorthWest Arkansas Community College

The Certificate of Proficiency in Pre-Health Diagnostic Medical Sonography will allow students in the program to earn some of the prerequisite requirements under the MOU with UAMS to enter their Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) program. No additional curriculum modifications, program costs, faculty resources or institutional resources are needed to provide this certificate, which requires 19 credit hours.

The technical certificate in Pre-Health Diagnostic Medical Sonography will provide the prerequisite requirements under the MOU with UAMS to enter their Diagnostic Medical Sonography program. Curriculum for the certificate consists of general education courses required as prerequisites to the UAMS Bachelor of Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography as outlined in the MOU.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Certificate of Proficiency in Pre-Health Diagnostic Medical Sonography (CIP 51.0910; 19 credit hours; Spring 2022) and the Technical Certificate in Pre-Health Diagnostic Medical Sonography (CIP 51.0910; 48-52 credit hours; Spring 2022) offered by NorthWest Arkansas Community College and University of Arkansas Medical Sciences (Northwest campus).

FURTHER RESOLVED, 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 NorthWest Arkansas Community College and the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences (Northwest campus) of the approval.

Dr. Ricky Tompkins, Vice president of Learning and Chief Academic Officer, provided additional program information.

Graycen Bigger asked if the students receiving the certificate of proficiency and technical certificates were able to immediately find employment or if this is a bridge program into UAMS Northwest. Dr. Tompkins said this is a bridge program that allows students to receive their general education and then move over to UAMS.

Dr. Jerry Cash asked if students completing this program are required to be state board certified. Dr. Tompkins said there is no certification process while at NWACC.

Chair Brodell asked if NWACC knew the number of positions available at the local hospitals and facilities. Dr. Tompkins said well over a hundred positions are currently available.

Agenda Item No. 21
Master of Science in Marketing
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

The Master of Science in Marketing in the Sam M. Walton College of Business is designed for early-career professionals who want to receive advanced, specialized training in marketing. Students enrolling in the Master of Science in Marketing (MSM) must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution. The total number of credit hours for this degree is 30.

RESOVLED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Science in Marketing (CIP 52.1401; 30 credit hours; Spring 2022) at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

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

Dr. Terry Martin, Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, provided additional program information.

Graycen Bigger asked if this program was going to be in-person or online. Dr. Martin said it will be an online program.

Agenda Item No. 22
Institutional Certification Advisory Committee

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 466using 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.

Initial Program Certification – Distance Technology

Walden University, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Initial Program Certification – Arkansas Location

Baptist Health College Little Rock, Little Rock, Arkansas

There were no questions.

Dr. Jim Carr moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Items No. 20 - 22 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Jerry Cash seconded and the Committee approved.

There were no questions.

Agenda Items No. 23 & 24 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 23-1 through 23-18 and in the Letters of Intent on pages 24-1 through 24-8 of the agenda book.

Chair Brodell commented on the number of comments received from institutions regarding the National Park College Role and Scope change request listed in the letters of intent. John Hogan, President of National Park College said that their intent is to proceed with their proposal and they will ask the board to consider it at a future date.

Dr. Jim Carr said while he admires NPC and the work they do, if this is the beginning of another four-year institution he would be reluctant to approve it in the future. However, if it is just a nursing program, then he would consider it. Dr. Hogan said NPC is focused on changing their scope only and not their role. Our goal is to remain a community college, said Hogan.

Chair Brodell asked Director Markham if she could provide a timeline for the role and scope change process. Director Markham explained that the official public comment phase has passed. Next, NPC will develop a full proposal that will be presented to the board for approval.

Keven Anderson asked if NPC had considered partnering with another institution that already has an existing program. Dr. Hogan said that NPC has several partnerships, however, he doesn't believe the nursing program is a good fit for a partnership.

Report of the Committees

Greg Revels presented the report of the Finance Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 12 – 18. Dr. Kyle Miller seconded, and the board approved.

Keven Anderson presented the report of the Academic Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 20 – 22. Dr. Jerry Cash seconded, and the board approved.

Remarks by Presidents and Chancellors

Chair Brodell announced the next Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board meeting would be held on January 28, 2022, via Zoom (the meeting was later changed to an in-person meeting at the Arkansas Division of Higher Education).

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

Lori Griffin, Secretary