

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Regular Quarterly Meeting
October 30, 2020

Minutes of Meeting

The October 30, 2020, regular meeting of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) was held via Zoom video conferencing. Chair Jim Carr called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., with all members present.

Coordinating Board present:

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

Coordinating Board absent:

Department staff present:

Dr. Maria Markham, Director
Dr. Jessie Walker, Assistant Director for Academic Affairs
Nick Fuller, Assistant Director for Finance
Ann Clemmer, Assistant Director for Governmental Relations
Sonia Hazelwood, Assistant Director for Research and Analytics
Micah Gilbert, Network Support Specialist
Nichole Abernathy, Executive Assistant

Presidents, chancellors, institutional representatives, members of the press, and guests also participated.

Chair Carr began by thanking everyone for participating in the virtual meeting. He then said that Dr. Olin Cook has decided to resign from the Higher Education Coordinating Board. Chair Carr asked that a proclamation be sent to Dr. Cook thanking him for his years of service to higher education in Arkansas.

Agenda Item No. 1
Approval of Minutes

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

Agenda Item No. 2
Appointment of Nominating Committee

Chair Jim Carr appointed members of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board nominating committee. The nominating committee will recommend Board officers for 2021-22 at the January 29, 2021 meeting. The members included Dr. Michael Stanton (Chair), Chris Gilliam, Lori Griffin and Chad Hooten.

Al Brodell moved to approve Agenda Item No. 2. Bill Clary seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 3
Approval of 2021 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.

R RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board agrees to the following dates for regular quarterly meetings during 2021: January 29, April 23, July 30, and October 29.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board expresses its appreciation and accepts the invitations to meet in January, April, July and October via Zoom.

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

Agenda Item No. 4
Director's Report

Dr. Markham began by thanking presidents, chancellors and the board for their participation in the non-traditional format and also for maintaining quality on campus during a global pandemic.

ADHE Staff Changes

Dr. Cortez Henderson is the new program coordinator for Academic Affairs. Henderson began on October 19 and previously served as Vice President of Student Affairs at ASU Three Rivers.

Institutional Changes

Dr. Sandra Massey, Arkansas State University-Newport Chancellor, is retiring at the end of the year. Before becoming chancellor, Dr. Massey served as ASU-Newport's Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. She has been at ASU-Newport for seven years.

Challenge Scholarship/Lottery Funded Scholarships Update

This presentation is reflective of the overall engagement of the higher education institutions this Fall, said Dr. Markham. Our preliminary enrollment numbers reflect a statewide decline of approximately 4.4%. She noted that Arkansas is performing better than the national numbers on engagement in higher education.

Higher Education COVID Responses

A lot of time has been devoted to coordinating COVID funding and COVID responses on campuses, said Markham. Arkansas received over 28 million in federal CARES Act funds dedicated to testing, contact tracing, and providing PPE to the institutions. Markham noted that the funds are set to expire on December 31. Without another stimulus package, we are unable to extend those funds, said Markham.

The points of contact for the private and public institutions meet weekly to discuss logistical issues, to trouble shoot any process problems, and to provide the latest CDC guidelines. The hesitancy of students to submit to COVID testing and cooperation with contact tracers is the most immediate concern, said Markham.

Legislative Update

Higher Education budget hearings began this week and the appropriations were approved for FY 2022. Markham noted that ADHE has several agency bills that will be presented during next year's regular session, including the Challenge Plus, a needs-based scholarship.

There were no questions.

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

Arkansas Code Annotated §6-63-104 and Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) policy 5.5 require that each college and university conduct an annual performance review of faculty members. Pursuant to this statute, Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) staff is required to monitor the faculty evaluation processes adopted at public institutions, and make a report to the Coordinating Board and Legislative Council each year. Each institution must have on file with ADHE a plan detailing the procedures for faculty evaluation at each institution. Appendix A contains ADHE instructional report on the annual review of faculty performance instrument. Significant amendments to these plans are to be submitted for Board approval.

Faculty performance was assessed using a variety of methods including assessment by students, classroom visits by administrators, peer review, and self-evaluation activities. Findings were shared with faculty members being evaluated and, when appropriate, an improvement plan was jointly developed between the faculty member and the administrator who conducted the evaluation. Evaluation methods and timeframes of the process varied among institutions. All teaching faculty members including teaching assistants as well as full-time, part-time, adjunct, and visiting faculty were evaluated.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 6
Report on Academic Program Deletions

Sonia Hazelwood provided summary and detailed information about academic program deletions at all Public Arkansas Colleges and Universities for the 2020 academic year. Colleges and universities deleted 80 programs in AY 2020 as compared to 108 in 2019, 104 deletions in 2018, 69 deletions in 2017, and 46 deletions in 2016. Of the 80 programs deleted in 2020, 2-Year Colleges deleted 46, while the 4-Year Universities deleted 34 programs. It is likely the Covid-19 pandemic and the shift back in the spring semester to all online instruction played a part in the decline of academic program deletions for 2020, said Hazelwood.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 7
Report on 2019 Fall College-Going Rate

Ms. Hazelwood presented the college-going rate, which measures the proportion of students enrolling in postsecondary education in the fall semester after finishing high school. Of the 32,325 public high school students graduating from an Arkansas public high school in 2019, 15,674 enrolled at an Arkansas public or private/independent institution in Fall 2019, the fall term immediately following their high school graduation. This represents a College-Going Rate of 48.5%, which is a 1.4% increase from the previous year of 47.1%.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 8
Annual Report on Credentials Awarded

Sonia Hazelwood presented summary and detailed information about credentials awarded. Arkansas higher education institutions experienced a slight decline of .9% in the number of credentials awarded in 2020 compared to 2019. There were 422 fewer credentials awarded in 2020. The 4-year universities held steady, while the 2-year colleges reported a slight decline from 2019 to 2020 of less than 1%. The private and independent colleges and universities reported a 5.5% decline in the number of credentials awarded.

This is the first decline in total credentials since the 2011 and 2012 academic years. It is likely the Covid-19 pandemic played a significant role in delaying graduation for many students who expected to graduate in Spring 2020, said Hazelwood.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 9
Annual Status Report for
Sexual Assault Prevention on Campus

Ann Clemmer 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 collected the plans from all but one campus (as of this report date), reported Ann Clemmer. This information was relayed to the AHECB and reported to the House and Senate Chairs of Education Committees and the House and Senate Chairs of the Committees of Public Health, Welfare, and Labor. ADHE has collected the annual campus status reports for the 2018–2019 academic year, as required by the legislation.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 10
Unplanned Pregnancy Prevention Annual Report

Ann Clemmer 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 2018-2019.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 11
Report on Intercollegiate Athletic Revenues
and Expenditures for 2019-20

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.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board accepts the Report of 2019-20 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 2019-20 Intercollegiate Athletic Revenues and Expenditures to the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee according to the provisions of A.C.A. §6-62-106.

Greg Revels questioned the actual amounts budgeted verse the requested amounts. He stated that the requests ranged from 14% below to 90% over the budged amount. Nick Fuller stated that National Park College was over 90% of what they budgeted due to equipment, uniforms and supplies, which was probably a one-year hit for those purchases.

Dr. John Hogan, President of National Park College, explained that the overage was due to startup costs related to the addition of baseball and softball which were not accounted for in the initial budget.

Al Brodell moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 11 to the full Board for consideration. Bill Clary seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 12
Bond/Loan Feasibility Update

Nick Fuller presented an update of the actual terms for bond and loan issues receiving AHECB approval that occurred October 2018 through October 2019. An annual update was requested by the AHECB during the July 30, 2010 quarterly meeting.

There were no questions.

Greg Revels moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 12 to the full Board for consideration. Chris Gilliam seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 13
Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering
Henderson State University

The proposed Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Engineering will emphasize the ability of developing and adapting computer hardware for applications and prepares broadly trained computer engineers who are experienced in both software and hardware engineering. Computer engineers design, implement, program, verify, and analyze computing systems. By understanding a computer system from application software to operating systems to hardware and circuits, computer engineers are well prepared to create the wide array of computing systems and devices that we all use and depend upon every day.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering (CIP

14.0901; 120 credit hours) offered by the Henderson State 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 Henderson State University of the approval.

Kenneth Taylor, Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate School, provided additional information.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 14
Associate of Science in Cybersecurity
North Arkansas College

The proposed Associate of Science in Cybersecurity is a 60 credit hour program that will prepare students for positions in business and industry to prevent the threat from attacks on information systems. Students within the program will be trained to understand the techniques used to compromise and infiltrate systems as well as the proven methods to protect diverse data. The program will include courses in programming, wireless technologies, mathematics, and networking with focused concentrations in both theory and practical hands-on experience. As well as, curriculum in forensics and incident response, virtualization, introduction to computer architecture, basic operating systems theory, network configuration, legal issues in cybersecurity, large scale distributed systems, best practices in software design, and hardware configuration.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Associate of Science in Cybersecurity (CIP 11.1003; 60 credit hours) offered by North Arkansas College, effective Spring 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 North Arkansas College of the approval.

Dr. Rick Massengale, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, provided additional information.

Chair Jim Carr asked how many institutions are there that have less than five students enrolled in this program. Dr. Massengale explained that the program is designed so students can move on to four-year programs.

Agenda Item No. 15
Technical Certificate in Programming
Associate of Science in Data Science
North Arkansas College

The proposed 61 credit hour Associates of Science in Data Science is designed to provide students real-world training in identifying, cleaning, transforming, modeling and presenting data in order to identify useful relationships, inform conclusions, and support decision-making. The proposed degree was developed in collaboration with the University of Arkansas to enable transfer into the University's new B.S. in Data Science.

The proposed Technical Certificate is a 30 credit program that will prepare students for positions in business and industry, while at the same time support the new Associates of Science in Data and Cybersecurity programs.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Associate of Science in Data Science (CIP 30.7001; 61 credit hours), Technical Certificate in Programming (CIP 11.0201; 30 credit hours) offered by North Arkansas College, effective Spring 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 North Arkansas College of the approval.

Dr. Massengale provided additional information.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 16
Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity
University of Arkansas Little Rock

The proposed 121 credit hour Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity is designed to produce graduates who can identify, assess, and manage cyber threats. Cybersecurity comprises both the technologies and techniques used to protect information and the underlying systems. The proposed program will leverage existing expertise at UALR-National Security Agency (NSA) Center of Academic Excellence, minor in Information Assurance (IA).

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity (CIP 11.1003; 120 credit hours) offered by the University of Arkansas-Little Rock, 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 University of Arkansas at Little Rock of the approval.

Ann Bain, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost, provided additional information.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 17
Associate of Applied Science in Massage Therapy
Certificate of Proficiency in Aesthetics
University of Arkansas Rich Mountain

The proposed Associate of Applied Science of Massage Therapy degree program will expand student's knowledge beyond initial licensure in Massage Therapy. It prepares students for industry recognized licensure/certification examinations and then furthers their education in performing massage in clinical and medical settings, such as chiropractor offices, nursing homes, hospitals as well as upscale spa settings and health clubs. The degree is intended to broaden student skills in writing, mathematics, and social science in addition to earning enough clinical hours to become a Master Massage Therapist. The program will be supported by an existing Technical Certificate in Massage Therapy.

The Certificate of Proficiency in Aesthetics program is designed to prepare students for professions within the field of licensed cosmetology using technical skills and work habits for success.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Associated of Applied Science in Message Therapy (CIP 51.3501; 65 credit hours), Certificate of Proficiency in Aesthetics (CIP 12.0409; 16 credit hours) offered by the University of Arkansas Community College – Rich Mountain, effective Spring 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 University of Arkansas System and the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas – Rich Mountain of the approval.

Dr. Krystal Thrailkill, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, provided additional information.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 18
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, 2023.

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.

Brandman University, Irvine, California
California Southern University, Costa Mesa, California
Reach University, Oakland, California

Arkansas Institutions

New York Institute of Technology, Old Westbury, New York

Andy McNeill moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Items No. 13 - 18 to the full Board for consideration. Andy McNeill seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Items No. 19 & 20
 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 19-1 through 19-32 and in the Letters of Intent on pages 20-1 through 20-6 of the agenda book.

There were no questions.

Report of the Committees

Keven Anderson presented the report of the Finance Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 11 – 12. Andy McNeill seconded and the board approved.

Lori Griffin presented the report of the Academic Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 13 – 18. Al Brodell seconded and the board approved.

Remarks by Presidents and Chancellors

Chair Carr announced that the January 29, 2021 AHECB meeting would be held via Zoom.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

Chris Gilliam, Secretary