

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Regular Quarterly Meeting
November 4, 2005

Minutes of Meeting

The November 4, 2005 regular meeting of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board was held in the Reynolds Center Grand Hall Salon C on the campus of Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Arkansas. Chairman Kaneaster Hodges called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. with a quorum of Board members present.

Coordinating Board present:

Kaneaster Hodges, Chair
David Leech, Vice Chair
Dr. Lynda Johnson, Secretary
Jodie Carter
Col. Jim Creech
David Damron
Dr. Dan Grant
Dick Trammel

Coordinating Board absent:

Bill Johnson
Phil Ford
Betsy Thompson
Dr. Anne Trussell

Department staff present:

Dr. Linda Beene, Director
Dr. Steve Floyd, Deputy Director
Dr. Karen Wheeler, Associate Director of Academic Affairs
Dr. Stanley Williams, Senior Associate Director for Finance
Ron Harrell, Associate Director for Planning and Accountability
Janet Lawrence, Coordinator for Financial Aid
Doug Miller, Pathways Director
Cynthia Moten, Coordinator of Academic Affairs
Jeanne Jones, Coordinator of Institutional Certification
Monieca West, Coordinator of Federal Programs
Gloria Venable, Coordinator of Federal Programs
Claudia Griffin, Financial Manager
John Davidson, Financial Manager
Robin Henson, Communications Officer
Christina Miller, Coordinator of General Administration
Nichole Abernathy, Administrative Assistant

Presidents, chancellors, other institutional representatives, members of the press, and guests were also present.

Chairman Hodges gave homage to the late University of Arkansas at Fort Smith

Chancellor Joel Stubblefield for the positive influence he made on his community and higher education in the state of Arkansas. Converting a two-year college into a four-year university was one of his many achievements. Chairman Hodges ended by saying that Chancellor Stubblefield was a wonderful person that did an extraordinary job and will be greatly missed.

Chairman Hodges introduced Dr. Sandi Sanders, Interim Chancellor for the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith. Dr. Sanders added that Chancellor Stubblefield was a dynamic and visionary leader, a champion of higher education, and a very good friend.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Chancellor Joel Stubblefield.

Chairman Hodges recognized Dr. David Rankin, President of Southern Arkansas University (SAU) at Magnolia for a welcome.

Dr. Rankin welcomed everyone to SAU's Donald W. Reynolds Campus and Community Center and encouraged them to view the exquisite artwork adorning the building. Dr. Rankin then expressed great appreciation to the Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Department of Higher Education for their continued efforts to create additional funding for higher education institutions in the state.

Dr. Rankin introduced Dr. Bud Dickson, Southern Arkansas University Board of Trustees; Dr. Steve Franks, the new Chancellor of Southern Arkansas University Tech; and Mr. Gary Oden, the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at Southern Arkansas University Tech.

Chairman Hodges then introduced Lucretia Norris, the Governor's Policy Advisor for Higher Education; Mr. Kearney Dietz, Director of the Arkansas Independent Colleges Association; Jennifer Methvin, new Vice Chancellor of Academics and Stacy Keith, Institutional Advancement Department, both at the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope.

Chairman Hodges congratulated AHECB member Jodie Carter for his reappointment to the Coordinating Board by Governor Huckabee.

Chairman Hodges announced that there would be a public hearing later in the meeting to amend the rules and regulations of the Teacher Opportunity Program (TOP).

Agenda Item No. 1
Approval of Minutes

Dr. Dan Grant moved to approve the minutes of the July 29, 2005 regular meeting. Jodie Carter seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 2
Report of the Director

Chairman Hodges recognized Dr. Linda Beene for her Director's Report and she began by thanking everyone for their support and partnership. Dr. Beene then referenced a report of the accomplishments of the Department of Higher Education from fall 2002 through summer 2005. The document details programs that have been created, activities of the agency, changes in Financial Aid, Academic Affairs accomplishments, Institutional Finance information, highlights of legislation and much more. Dr. Beene encouraged everyone to use the document as a reference and noted that a new document is being developed for the upcoming year.

Dr. Beene discussed the "*Go Back. Move Forward*," resource guide for adults. She explained that the guide was created to help adults receive the resources they need to go back to school so they can move forward with improving their job skills and their education. The resource guide is being made available at colleges, adult education centers, workforce centers, various state offices and other venues throughout the state. Dr. Beene also noted that this is a multi-agency effort resulting from the Pathways to Advancement project of the National Governors Association.

Dr. Beene thanked all 44 public and independent colleges and universities for meeting the October 19 deadline for reporting their Institutional Characteristics and Completions Surveys for 2004-05. She also thanked Ron Harrell, Associate Director for Planning and Accountability and Sharon Tucker, Financial Manager and Data Collection Analyst, for their hard work.

Dr. Beene introduced new agency staff members; Doug Miller, Director of the new Career Pathways Initiative; Janet Lawrence, Coordinator for Financial Aid Programs; and Gloria Venable, Coordinator of Federal Programs.

Dr. Beene announced that three institutions are recipients of Community-Based Job Training grants from the Department of Labor. NorthWest Arkansas Community College received nearly \$1.9 million, Pulaski Technical College received \$1.2 million, and the University of Arkansas at Monticello received \$1.6 million in grant money.

Next, Dr. Beene presented the new Academic Challenge public information campaign. The primary message will be "**Earn Cash 4 College**" by taking the core curriculum, knowing the requirements, taking the ACT and applying by June 1st of the student's senior year. Dr. Beene stated that bringing more people to a position of readiness for the Academic Challenge Scholarship is the main focus of the campaign, which will consist of two TV spots featuring Central High School cheerleaders, radio spots, a new web site, and collateral pieces to include a poster, flyer and brochures.

Dr. Dan Grant commented on the web based Mentor System presentation by Mr. Joe Watts at the October 2005 Trustee Conference at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock. He questioned whether institutions expressed interest in having a similar program in Arkansas. Dr. Beene responded that approximately 30 individuals from

different institutions expressed interest and requested additional information on the Mentor system. Dr. Beene asked presidents and chancellors to consider the additional resources their institutions would save if they had the web portal. Dr. Beene stated that she and Representative Jodie Mahony would continue working toward bringing the web based Mentoring system to Arkansas.

Report of Committees

David Damron presented the report of the Finance Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 3-9. David Leech seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Representative Bruce Maloch was recognized during the Finance Committee meeting. He stated that higher education gets the most "bang for the buck" because it results in an educated workforce.

Dr. Dan Grant presented the report of the Academic Committee and moved to adopt Agenda Items 10-16. Dr. Lynda Johnson seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 3 Report of 2004-2005 Intercollegiate Athletic Revenues and Expenditures

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 report is included in the agenda book.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board accepts the Report of 2004-05 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 2004-05 Intercollegiate Athletic Revenues and Expenditures to the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee according to the provisions of Act 245 of 1989.

David Leech moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 3 to the Full Board for consideration. Dick Trammel seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 4
Higher Education Bond Program
Plan of Implementation

The Higher Education Bond program will offer the availability of approximately \$150 million to be expended for capital projects. The actual amount available cannot be determined until the pricing of the bonds takes place because of the uncertainty of several factors, including interest rates on the bonds. The amount available will be impacted by the cost of the bonds required to defease the existing issue that could cost more than the \$100 million allocated for that purpose.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves and endorses the Plan of Implementation and that the Director is instructed to transmit to the Governor that plan for capital projects for public institutions of higher education to be funded from the proceeds derived from the sale of Higher Education Bonds pending approval of the electorate on December 13, 2005 as called for by Act 1282 of 2005. These projects are described herein and are incorporated in the Plan of Implementation. This resolution is adopted in recognition of the benefits to be derived by institutions of higher education including monetary and less tangible benefits which develop from the immediate availability of resources to construct or renovate facilities, perform critical maintenance facilities, and to upgrade technology, thereby enabling institutions to serve additional students, strengthen academic programs, improve both instructional and information technology, maintain accreditation, and to increase research and grant activities.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director is instructed to seek from the Governor one or more proclamations authorizing the issuance by the Arkansas Development Finance Authority of one or more series of Higher Education Bonds to fund the capital projects described in the Plan of Implementation, subject to the limitations set forth herein, in the Implementation Plan, and in the Act, without further action by the Higher Education Coordinating Board.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That these projects shall be educational and general in nature, and will not include projects relating to auxiliary services or programs such as residence halls, or intercollegiate athletics.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Higher Education Coordinating Board has not and shall not authorize the issuance of bonds requiring more than \$24 million in debt service per annum as provided for in the Act.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director shall and is directed to act as the duly authorized designee of the Chairman of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board in requisitioning the proceeds of the bond sales held by the Trustee and certifying that the funds disbursed thereby

are for the payment of Project costs of a higher education project duly approved by the Higher Education Coordinating Board, as reflected in the Implementation Plan.

Representative Bruce Maloch expressed the importance of getting the word out about the December 13th election, which could lead to more Arkansans furthering their education and result in a better workforce. He then stated that he would do everything he could to help improve higher education for the state of Arkansas.

David Leech asked if an institution could apply funds allocated to one campus to another campus. Dr. Williams responded not without Board approval.

Chairman Hodges asked for comments from the presidents and chancellors.

Dr. Jack Lassiter, Chancellor at UA Monticello, commented on the importance of the eCorridor to his campus and Arkansas. He stated that his faculty and staff are really excited about the potential to handle data in a way they've not seen before. Dr. Lassiter concluded by thanking Dr. Beene, legislators, and the AHECB members for their notable work trying to bring the eCorridor system to Arkansas. Dr. Susan Allen, Vice Chancellor for Research and Academic Affairs at ASU, commented that better and higher connectivity would make our outreach in education more effective. With the capability that is provided by the increased bandwidth, campuses will be able to do more realistic distance education.

Dr. Robert Brown, President at ATU, commented on the importance of the eCorridor. Science, technology and engineering have experienced the most considerable growth at ATU. However, the state has a deficit in the production of individuals with degrees in those critical areas. Therefore, he said, it is critical for our campuses to begin a new dimension with the eCorridor system.

Dr. Linda Beene asked presidents to heavily consider the eCorridor's maintenance costs.

Dick Trammel moved to recommend Agenda Item 4 to the Full Board for consideration. Jim Creech seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 5 Distribution of Mineral Lease Fund Balance

According to the provisions of A.C.A. §19-5-1018, state institutions of higher education, through the establishment of the Higher Education Building Maintenance Fund, share in the distribution of monies received by the state from the United States government through the sale or lease of minerals, oil, and gas on federal property located in the state. The statute requires that the funds be disbursed by the Director of the Department of Higher Education in accordance with the recommendation of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board after review by Legislative Council.

Recommendation: The current balance of the Higher Education Building Maintenance Fund is \$1,430,393.93. Staff recommends that \$1,223,660 be disbursed on a proration of the capital recommendations for critical maintenance 2003-05 as approved by the Coordinating Board on August 8, 2004, and that \$76,340 be disbursed to address an oversight in the general revenue funding recommendation for Rich Mountain Community College for the 2005-07 biennium. (The recommendation for Rich Mountain failed to bring them to a minimum \$3 million general revenue base consistent with the two-year college distribution agreement approved by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board on August 8, 2004.)

RESOLVED, That after review by the Legislative Council, the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to distribute \$1,300,000 from the Higher Education Building Maintenance Fund to the institutions and entities for the purpose of critical maintenance of educational and general facilities in accordance with the attached distribution.

Chairman Hodges moved to recommend Agenda Item 5 to the Full Board for consideration. David Leech seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 6
Economic Feasibility of Bond Issue
Arkansas State University – Beebe

Arkansas State University - Beebe requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds not to exceed \$15.9 million with a term of 30 years at an estimated annual interest rate of 4.52 percent. Proceeds of the bonds will be combined with state General Improvement Funds and institutional plant funds to construct Phase I of ASU-Heber Springs, a Center of ASU-Beebe. The proposed development of Phase I includes an approximately 29,400 square-foot building for administration, academic support, and student services areas and an approximately 43,450 square-foot building for classrooms, faculty offices, and academic work space. The initial site work for the long-term development of the campus will be provided in this first phase. The Arkansas State University Board of Trustees approved this action on October 18, 2005.

The debt service for the bond issue will be paid from tuition and fees, which will be reimbursed directly from a half-cent sales tax issue approved by the voters of Cleburne County. According to Coordinating Board policy, sales tax proceeds must be a minimum of 120 percent of the estimated annual debt service.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for Arkansas State University - Beebe to issue bonds not to exceed \$15.9 million for a term of 30 years at an annual interest rate of approximately 4.52 percent.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to notify the President of the Arkansas State University System, the Chair of the Board of Trustees, and the Chancellor of Arkansas State University-Beebe of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

Dr. Eugene McKay, Chancellor at ASU-Beebe, illustrated his prospective campus additions to the Board.

Dick Trammel moved to recommend Agenda Item 6 to the Full Board for consideration. Jim Creech seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 7
Economic Feasibility of Bond Issue
Arkansas Tech University

Arkansas Tech University (ATU), requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds totaling \$5,000,000 with a maximum term of 5 years at an estimated annual interest rate not to exceed 4%. Proceeds from the bond issue will be used for educational & general (E&G) purposes. The Arkansas Tech University Board of Trustees approved this action at its meeting held on June 2, 2005.

The E&G issue will be approximately \$5,000,000 with annual debt service of \$1,108,423. Proceeds from the issue will be used for the purchase and implementation of the SCT Banner administrative computer system. Coordinating Board policy regarding debt service provides that a maximum of 25 percent of 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 Arkansas Tech University to issue bonds not to exceed \$5,000,000 for a period of 5 years at an estimated annual interest rate not to exceed 4% for E&G purposes.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to notify the President of Arkansas Tech University of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

Dr. Robert Brown briefly explained the need for the SCT Banner Administrative computer system.

David Leech moved to recommend Agenda Item 7 to the Full Board for consideration. Dick Trammel seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 8
Economic Feasibility of Bond Issue
University of Arkansas at Monticello

The University of Arkansas at Monticello requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$9 million with a maximum term of 30 years at an estimated annual interest rate not to exceed 5%.

Proceeds from the bond issue will be used for approximately \$9 million in various renovation and construction projects for educational & general (E&G) and auxiliary purposes. Approximately \$600,000 will be used to retire an ADFA loan acquired in 2000. The University of Arkansas Board of Trustees will consider this item at its meeting on November 18, 2005.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for the University of Arkansas at Monticello to issue bonds not to exceed \$9 million for a period of 30 years at an estimated annual interest rate not to exceed 5% for both E&G and auxiliary purposes, contingent upon the approval of this action by the University of Arkansas System Board of Trustees at its meeting on November 18, 2005.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to notify the President of the University of Arkansas System and the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Monticello of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

Dr. Jack Lassiter, President of the University of Arkansas at Monticello, explained the renovation plans for his campus.

David Leech moved to recommend Agenda Item 8 to the Full Board for consideration. Dick Trammel seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 9
Economic Feasibility of
College Savings Bond Revolving Loan for
Southern Arkansas University

Southern Arkansas University requests approval of a loan of \$800,000 with a term of 10 years at an annual interest rate of 4.24 percent to construct a band/recital hall. The Southern Arkansas University Board of Trustees approved the university's loan application on September 28, 2005.

The debt service on the loan will be supported by tuition and fee revenue. Coordinating Board policy regarding debt service for educational and general (E&G) projects provides

that a maximum of 25 percent of tuition and fee revenue may be pledged to debt service.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the loan from the College Savings Bond Revolving Loan Fund to Southern Arkansas University for \$800,000 with a term of 10 years at an annual interest rate of 4.24 percent to construct a band/recital hall.

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 Southern Arkansas University.

Dr. Rankin commented on the need for the construction of a new band hall to keep up with the school's growing enrollment.

Dick Trammel moved to recommend Agenda Item 9 to the Full Board for consideration. David Leech seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 10
Master of Science in Emergency
Management and Homeland Security
Arkansas Tech University

The administration and Board of Trustees of Arkansas Tech University (ATU) request approval to offer the Master of Science in emergency management and homeland security, effective January 2006. The program is consistent with the role and scope of the institution to offer master's degree programs in selected fields of study. ATU is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The ATU Board approved the proposal on July 21, 2005.

The proposed program builds on the existing bachelor's degree in emergency administration and management that has 152 majors currently enrolled. There have been 177 bachelor's degrees awarded since the program began in 1997. The proposed master's program also is expected to attract students who hold bachelor's degrees in social and environmental science, geography, management, psychology, sociology, fire science, criminal justice, and public administration.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Science in emergency management and homeland security (CIP 43.9999) at Arkansas Tech University effective January 2006.

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 Arkansas Tech University of the approval.

Dr. Lynda Johnson recommended that ATU possibly hire faculty members with experience in emergency management for the Master of Science in emergency management and homeland security program.

Agenda Item No. 11
Master of Science in Psychology
Arkansas Tech University

The administration and Board of Trustees of Arkansas Tech University (ATU) request approval to offer the Master of Science in psychology. The program is consistent with the role and scope of the institution to offer master's degree programs in selected fields. The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools accredits ATU. The ATU Board approved the proposal on July 21, 2005.

The proposed 36-credit hour program is designed to provide students with a broad base of knowledge and skills in psychology emphasizing research and testing methods as well as teaching, practice, and preparation for further graduate work. A thesis will be required. Students must complete an additional nine credit hours of courses specified by the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Psychology to be eligible to take the examination to become a Licensed Psychological Examiner. All courses required for licensure are offered at ATU.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Science in psychology (CIP 42.0101) at Arkansas Tech University effective Spring 2006.

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 Arkansas Tech University of the approval.

Dr. Dan Grant thanked ATU for including the requirement of a thesis for this program.

Agenda Item No. 12
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
University of Arkansas at Fort Smith

The administration and Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System (UA) request approval to offer the Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith (UAFS), effective August 2006. The program is consistent with the role and scope of the institution to offer bachelor's degrees designed to meet the demonstrated need and demand of the region. UAFS is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The UA Board approved the proposal on September 9, 2005.

The proposed program is a traditional four-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree that is designed to lead to licensure as a registered nurse (RN) while providing a liberal arts and sciences foundation to prepare the graduate for preferred employment as registered nurses. Graduates also would be prepared for management roles in health maintenance organizations, community health centers, public schools, nursing homes, and hospitals. The 128-semester credit hour program requires the completion of 59 credit hours of general education and 69 credit hours of nursing courses.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (CIP 51.1601) at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith effective August 2006, contingent on the Arkansas State Board of Nursing granting initial approval of the program by February 1, 2006.

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 at Fort Smith, of the approval.

Agenda Item No. 13
Technical Certificate in Cosmetology Instruction
Pulaski Technical College

The administration and Board of Trustees of Pulaski Technical College (PTC) request approval to offer the Technical Certificate in cosmetology instruction. PTC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The PTC Board approved the proposal on June 13, 2005.

The Technical Certificate (TC) in cosmetology instruction is designed to provide the competencies and 600 clock hours required by the Arkansas State Board of Cosmetology for instructor licensure. Six hours of general education in communications and mathematics and 24 hours of cosmetology courses are required to complete the 30-semester credit hour program. Nineteen of the credit hours are earned in theory courses and 11 credit hours are earned through the teaching practicum. PTC offers a Technical Certificate in cosmetology, and all of the courses in cosmetology instruction are being offered currently. The cosmetology program has four full-time faculty, one part-time faculty, and a full-time director. The program is housed at the Saline County Career Center in Benton and has been approved by the Arkansas State Board of Cosmetology.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Technical Certificate in cosmetology instruction (CIP 12.0413) at Pulaski Technical College effective Spring 2006.

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 Pulaski Technical College
of the approval.

Agenda Item No. 14
Technical Certificate in Computer Aided Design
North Arkansas College

The administration and Board of Trustees of North Arkansas College (NAC) request approval to offer the Technical Certificate in computer-aided design. NAC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The NAC Board approved the proposed program on April 14, 2005.

The proposed 31-semester credit hour Technical Certificate in computer-aided design (CAD) will build upon the existing Certificate of Proficiency in CAD. Additional courses in computer applications and advanced CAD will be added to the curriculum. The proposed program will be structured for incorporation into the existing associate degree in general technology.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Technical Certificate in computer-aided design (CIP 15.1302) at North Arkansas College, effective immediately.

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 this approval.

Agenda Item No. 15
Master of Fine Arts in Digital Filmmaking
University of Central Arkansas

The administration and Board of Trustees of the University of Central Arkansas (UCA) request approval to offer the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in digital filmmaking, effective in the Spring 2006. The institution is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and the proposed program falls within the role and scope established for the institution. The UCA Board of Trustees approved the proposal on August 5, 2005.

The proposed 60-semester credit hour program builds upon the existing undergraduate option in digital filmmaking. The proposed curriculum includes coursework in history, theory, effects, audio, cinematography, screenwriting, producing, and directing; all of which commonly are offered in a production-oriented program. Students must pass a written comprehensive examination on history, theory and production practices before completing the thesis short-film production project. In addition to tuition and fees, students should budget \$1500-\$2500 for the thesis project. Once the thesis is completed, the student must complete an oral examination that is principally a defense of the thesis. The program will focus on community-based video production and film

protocol for Hollywood-style movie production. The MFA generally is recognized as the terminal degree in the film and television production field.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Fine Arts in digital filmmaking (CIP 50.0602) at the University of Central Arkansas effective in the Spring 2006.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to notify the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Central Arkansas of this approval.

Dr. Lynda Johnson asked that advisors clarify to students the fact that this is a limited program.

Agenda Item No. 16
Institutional Certification Advisory
Committee Report and Resolutions

Ms. Jeanne Jones presented the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee report and resolutions.

The Institutional Certification Advisory Committee (ICAC) met on September 27, 2005. The following resolutions are presented for Coordinating Board consideration.

Recognition of Institutional Certification Advisory Committee Members

Ms. Connie Nelson

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board expresses appreciation to Ms. Connie Nelson for her service as a member of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to communicate this appreciation to Ms. Nelson.

Dr. Larry Williams

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board expresses appreciation to Dr. Larry Williams for his service as a member of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to communicate this appreciation to Dr. Williams.

Recommendations for Appointment of New Committee Members

Dr. Freddie Jolley

RESOLVED, That, pursuant to ACA §6-61-302, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board appoints Dr. Freddie Jolley, as a member of the Institutional Certification Advisory. This term expires February November 4, 2007.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board expresses appreciation to Dr. Jolley for her willingness to serve as a member of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to communicate this appreciation to Dr. Jolley.

Dr. Jeffery Olson

RESOLVED, That, pursuant to ACA §6-61-302, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board appoints Dr. Jeffery Olson, as a member of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee to represent Arkansas public two-year institutions. This term expires November 4, 2014.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board expresses appreciation to Dr. Olson for his willingness to serve as a member of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to communicate this appreciation to Dr. Olson.

Recommendations for Program Certification

EXCELSIOR COLLEGE, ALBANY, NEW YORK

RESOLVED, That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants initial program certification to Excelsior College to offer the following online degree programs: Associate of Applied Science in Administrative/Management Studies; Associate of Science; Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts; Bachelor of Science in Accounting; Bachelor of Science in General Business; Bachelor of Science in Human Resources Management; Bachelor of Science in Information Systems Management; Bachelor of Science in Marketing; Master of Business Administration. The certification is for a period of two years and expires November 4, 2007.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to notify the administration of Excelsior College that the certification of these degree programs require 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 program in Arkansas.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director to notify the administration of Excelsior College 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:

FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY, COLUMBUS, OHIO

RESOLVED, That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants program recertification to Franklin University to offer the following online degree programs: Bachelor of Science in Applied Management; Bachelor of Science in Accounting; Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; Bachelor of Science in Computer Science; Bachelor of Science in Digital Communication; Bachelor of Science in Health Care Management; Bachelor of Science in Information Technology; Bachelor of Science in Management; Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems, and Bachelor of Science in Public Safety Management. The recertification is for a period of three years and expires November 4, 2008.

FURTHER RESOLVED, The Coordinating Board grants initial certification to Franklin University to offer the following online degree programs: Bachelor of Science in Human Resources Management and Bachelor of Science in Marketing. The certification is for a period of three years and expires November 4, 2008.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to notify the administration of Franklin University that the recertification and certification of these degree programs require 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 program in Arkansas.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director to notify the administration of Franklin University 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:

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

RESOLVED, That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants initial program certification to Nebraska Wesleyan University to offer the RN to BSN degree program via distance delivery to employees of Jefferson Regional Medical Center in Pine Bluff, AR. The certification is for a period of two years and expires November 4, 2007.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to notify the administration of Nebraska Wesleyan University that the certification of this degree program 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 program in Arkansas.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director to notify the administration of Nebraska Wesleyan University 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:

VINCENNES UNIVERSITY, INDIANA

RESOLVED: That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants program recertification to Vincennes University to offer the Associate of Science degree at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock, Arkansas. The recertification is for a period of two years and expires November 4, 2007.

FURTHER RESOLVED, The Coordinating Board grants initial program certification to Vincennes University to offer the online Associate of Applied Science in Business at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock, Arkansas. The certification is for a period of two years and expires November 4, 2007.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to notify the administration of Vincennes University that the recertification and certification of these degree programs require 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 program in Arkansas.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director to notify the administration of Vincennes University 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 Arkansas Code §6-61-301.

Dr. Dan Grant voiced concerns over the program proposal by Excelsior College in Albany, New York. He asked for clarification regarding the Bachelor of Science degree in Liberal Arts. Dr. Meredyth Lehy, Dean of the School of Liberal Arts, explained that the Bachelor of Science degree in Liberal Arts was designed specifically for adult learners that have $\frac{3}{4}$ (approximately 90 credits) of a degree completed from multiple institutions and have almost completed a major. She explained that, students can't start in this program and are referred back to local institutions.

Jodie Carter moved to recommend Agenda Items 10-16 to the Full Board for consideration. Dr. Lynda Johnson seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Public Hearing

Chairman Hodges declared the meeting a public hearing for the review of rules and regulation changes to the Teacher Opportunity program. He called on Janet Lawrence to present the information.

Agenda Item No. 17 Teacher Opportunity Program Proposed Rules and Regulations

This agenda item presents proposed rules and regulations of the Teacher Opportunity Program that are necessary to comply with Act 2196 of 2005. The Teacher Opportunity Program will replace the Teacher/Administrator Grant.

The Teacher Opportunity Program was created in 2005 to allow employed teachers in Arkansas the opportunity to pursue additional college instruction related to their

employment. Students may receive funds up to but not in excess of \$3,000 during one academic year for cost of tuition, mandatory fees, and books. The rules and regulations changes are in the agenda book.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the rules and regulations presented in this agenda item for the Teacher Opportunity Program, to be administered by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That, by the adoption of these rules and regulations presented in this agenda item, the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education or her designee is authorized to promulgate these rules and regulations and to implement them for the 2006 spring semester of the academic year.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education or her designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections when necessary in the program rules for the Teacher Opportunity Program.

No public comments were received on this item.

Jodie Carter questioned the process of reimbursing students for this program and wondered if there is any future plans to change the process. Janet Lawrence assured Mr. Carter that ADHE would research alternative ways to administer the program's funds. However, the decision is ultimately up to the general assembly.

Jodie Carter moved to approve the amendments to the Rules and Regulations for the Teacher Opportunity Program. Dr. Lynda Johnson seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 18
Higher Education Coordinating Board
2006 Meeting Schedule

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board meets quarterly to act upon Board initiatives and to respond to campus proposals. The proposed 2006 schedule for these regular quarterly meetings follows:

February 3, 2006	University of Arkansas at Monticello Monticello, Arkansas
April 28, 2006	Arkansas State University at Newport Newport, Arkansas
August 4, 2006	Arkansas Northeastern College Blytheville, Arkansas

October 27, 2006

Arkansas Tech University
Russellville, Arkansas

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board agrees to the following dates for regular quarterly meetings during 2006: February 3, April 28, August 4, and October 27.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board expresses its appreciation and accepts the invitations to meet in February at the University of Arkansas at Monticello, in April at Arkansas State University at Newport, in August at Arkansas Northeastern College and in October at Arkansas Tech University.

Dick Trammel suggested that the October 2007 Board meeting be held in conjunction with the AATYC Annual conference in Hot Springs. Chairman Hodges stated that the board would take that into consideration.

Jodie Carter moved to approve the 2006 Coordinating Board meeting schedule. Dr. Lynda Johnson seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 19
Report on Program Deletions
Academic Year 2004-05

Mr. Ron Harrell presented the report on program deletions to the Board. This report provides summary and detailed information about program deletions during the 2004-05 academic year. 40 programs were deleted in 2004-05 compared to 27 program deletions in 2000-01, 36 in 2001-02, 36 in 2002-03 and 29 in 2003-04. All of the program deletions were at the undergraduate level.

Agenda Item No. 20
Report on Arkansas Educational
Renewal Zones

Act 106 of 2003 (Second Extraordinary Session) authorized the creation of Education Renewal Zones (ERZs) to address the issue of performance and academic achievement in public schools that are on the Arkansas Department of Education's improvement or alert list. Over the past year, ERZs have been created by agreements between higher education institutions, school districts, and education service cooperatives to improve public school performance and academic achievement.

Arkansas' higher education institutions involved in ERZ initiatives have facilitated the development of ERZ strategic plans, provided assistance to participating schools and education service cooperatives, and responded to requests for technical assistance and research. Dr. Karen Wheeler presented the Board with information on this agenda item.

Dr. Ruby Burgess, Dean of the College of Education at SAU, gave a brief overview of how ERZ was started at the SAU campus.

Dr. Roger Guevara, Southwest-B ERZ Director at SAU, explained the strategic planning process, ERZ's current work, and the future of ERZ.

Dr. Lynda Johnson stated that this was an excellent program and questioned the kind of assistance ERZ provides to existing schools. Dr. Guevara responded that ERZ offers assistance in every facet of operations. Ms. Estelle Mathis, ERZ Statewide Director, presented the Board with specific examples of ERZ assistance offered to school districts.

Agenda Item No. 21 and 22 Letters of Notification and Letters of Intent

Ms. Cynthia Moten presented the Letters of Notification and the Letters of Intent to the Board. Between July 13, 2005 and October 19, 2005 the Arkansas Department of Higher Education received notice from institutions on programs not requiring Board approval including 21 new certificate programs, 1 new associate degree program, 1 new program option, 1 new program minor, 4 name changes, 2 new locations for an existing program, 2 reconfigurations of existing degrees, 1 new program code, 2 new organizational units, 1 inactive program, 13 deleted degree programs, 2 deleted organizational units, and 3 exemptions from institutional certification.

Notification of items requiring Board approval included 8 certificate programs, 4 associate degree programs, 1 bachelor's degree program, 2 master's degree programs, 2 doctoral degree programs, and 1 organizational unit.

During this period, the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee received notice of requests for recertification of 38 degree programs, initial certification for 19 degrees, and decertification for 1 degree program. The complete list of these notices appear in the Letters of Notification on pages 21-1 through 21-5 and in the Letters of Intent on pages 22-1 through 22-4 of the agenda book.

Announcements

Chairman Hodges reminded institutional staff members in addition to the presidents and chancellors of the importance of meeting the posted agenda deadlines. The ADHE staff requires the proper amount of time to coordinate the research, as well as locate readers and consultants for many of the agenda items.

David Leech encouraged everyone to get the word out about the December 13th Bond election.

Chairman Hodges announced that the Investiture of Alan Rasco as President of South Arkansas Community College would be held at 2:00 p.m. that afternoon in El Dorado.

Dr. Jack Lassiter and the University of Arkansas at Monticello will host the next AHECB meeting on February 3, 2006.

Chairman Hodges opened the floor for public comments, which were none.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

Dr. Lynda Johnson, Secretary