

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Regular Quarterly Meeting
July 30, 2021

Minutes of Meeting

The July 30, 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
Lori Griffin, Secretary
Graycen Bigger
Allan Bohn
Dr. Jim Carr
Dr. Jerry Cash
Greg Revels

Coordinating Board absent:

Chad Hooten
Andy McNeill
Dr. Kyle Miller
Dr. Michael Stanton

Department staff present:

Dr. Maria Markham, Director
Nick Fuller, Assistant Director for Finance
Dr. Jessie Walker, Assistant Director for Academic Affairs
Sonia Hazelwood, Assistant Director for Research and Analytics
Nichole Abernathy, Executive Assistant

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

Chair Brodell began by thanking everyone for participating in the virtual meeting and welcomed new AHECB member Allan Bohn of Texarkana, to his first quarterly meeting.

Agenda Item No. 1
Approval of Minutes

Dr. Jim Carr moved to approve Agenda Item No. 1. Dr. Jerry Cash seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 2
Director's Report

ADHE Staff Changes

JaCarlos Sheppard began on July 19th as an AmeriCorps Program Officer. He previously worked for City Year which is a national service program to unite young adults from diverse backgrounds for a demanding year of full-time community service.

Our Senior Policy Analyst Beth Stewart's last day is today, July 30th. Beth will now serve as the Student Records Functional Lead for Project One at the University of Arkansas System Office.

Institutional Changes

Zachary Perrine has been named interim chancellor at the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville (UACCB) following the May 31 retirement of longtime chancellor Deborah Frazier.

Dr. Randy Esters accepted a position as the chancellor of Louisiana Delta Community College in Monroe, LA. beginning in June. Don Sugg was named interim president during the presidential search.

Dr. Rick Massengale, Northark's Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs has been selected as the College's fifth president.

Dr. Donald R. Bobbitt recommended Christine Holt, D.B.A., J.D., as the next chancellor at the University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana (UAHT). Holt, who currently serves as chief of staff for the University of Missouri System, is expected to begin her new role by Sept. 1.

Higher Education COVID-19 Response

Institutions are working really hard to keep higher education open through the pandemic, said Markham. Although institutions have several agreements with various state agencies and vendors, ADHE is currently coordinating with them to schedule COVID-19 testing for this fall. Dr. Markham noted that there is approximately \$1.3 million remaining in Federal CARES funds that will be used for testing.

Agenda Item No. 3
Annual Report on Concurrent Enrollment

Arkansas law allows for the enrollment of high school students in college-level courses under certain conditions. Under Arkansas code §6-60-202, a qualified student at a public or private high school in Arkansas can enroll in postsecondary education for college-level credit exclusively on a part-time status. This is defined as dual enrollment. Under this code, a "qualified student" is someone who must be

recommended for enrollment by the principal of the high school where the student is enrolled and also must the minimum criteria for advanced placement.

Under Arkansas Code §6-18-223, a public school student who is enrolled in an Arkansas public school system and has successfully completed the eighth grade is eligible to enroll in a public two-year or four-year institution of higher education to complete a college course for high school and college credit. Concurrent enrollment allows students to obtain credit toward a high school diploma at the same time they earn college credit.

This report will focus on the state of concurrent and dual enrollment among Arkansas postsecondary institutions in AY 21. An infographic that depicts key concurrent and dual enrollment findings is included in Appendix E. For more information related to concurrent education, ADHE now provides a website that contains our concurrent policy, a listing of concurrent contacts by institution, and MOU template for institutions.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 4
Report on Annual Review of Faculty Performance

Arkansas Code Annotated §6-63-104 and Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) policy require that each college and university conduct an annual performance review of faculty members. Pursuant to this statute, Arkansas Division 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. Institutions are required to submit a report to ADHE that describes the process followed during the academic year.

There were no questions.

Agenda Items No. 5 - 13
Policy Amendments to Financial Aid
Rules and Regulations

The financial aid rules and regulations were removed from the July 30, 2021 agenda and will be presented during a special meeting on August 26, 2021.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 14
Certification of Intercollegiate Athletic Budgets

A.C.A. §6-62-805 (Act 366 of 1991) requires each state supported institution of higher education to annually certify by June 15 to the Arkansas Higher Education

Coordinating Board that its intercollegiate athletic program will generate sufficient revenues to meet expenditures or that any athletic deficit will be met by separate institutional board sanctioned student athletic fees.

A.C.A. §6-62-804 requires that any student athletic fees assessed must be clearly defined in all publications and institutional board minutes, and listed separate and distinct from tuition or other student fees on student tuition and fee statements. All institutions assessing a student athletic fee have certified to the Department compliance with this requirement and have submitted copies of their student fee billing statements illustrating the disclosure of the athletic fee to each student.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board accepts the Certification of Intercollegiate Athletic Revenues and Expenditures Budgeted for 2021-22 as prepared in accordance with Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board uniform accounting standards and definitions for athletic reporting.

Greg Revels said that several universities use additional funding to maintain their athletic programs along with their athletic generated revenue. Revels asked that institutions try to minimize that practice.

Chair Brodell asked if the percentage of funds that the institutions can use is capped. Nick Fuller said yes and explained that institutions can use up to 2 percent of the actual unrestricted E&G revenues.

Chair Brodell moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 14 to the full Board for consideration. Allan Bohn seconded and the committee approved.

Agenda Item. No. 14b
Economic Feasibility of Loan
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

The University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (UAF) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to secure a loan not to exceed \$13.0 million with a term of up to ten (10) years at an annual interest rate not to exceed 4.0 percent. Proceeds from the bond issue will be used for education and general (E&G) and auxiliary purposes. The University of Arkansas Board of Trustees approved this financing at its meeting on March 19, 2020.

Proceeds from the loan will be used to finance an Energy Performance Project across the University's campus under the guidelines of the Arkansas Energy Performance Contracting (AEPC) Program overseen by the Arkansas Energy Office. The project includes campus-wide energy improvements that include installing LED lighting, upgraded HVAC equipment, fault detection diagnostics, improvements to building envelopes, thermal blankets, synchronous drives, and other energy conservation measures (ECMs). As required by the AEPC Program, these improvements will

generate annual savings guaranteed by the Energy Service Company (ESCO), which will exceed the total project cost (construction, equipment and financing).

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville to secure a loan not to exceed \$13.0 million with a term of up to ten (10) years at an expected annual interest rate not to exceed 4.0 percent to finance an Energy Performance Project under the guidelines of the Arkansas Energy Performance Contracting (AEPC) Program overseen by the Arkansas Energy Office. As required by the AEPC Program, these improvements will generate annual savings guaranteed by the Energy Service Company.

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 University of Arkansas and the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

Dr. Jim Carr asked if institutions collect bids for loans like this. Nick Fuller said they do. Fuller also noted that UAF is still in the process of selecting a bank for this loan.

Chair Brodell asked if a representative from the institution could provide additional information regarding their energy conservation efforts. Dr. Terry Martin, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, provided additional information to the board.

Nick Fuller added that the estimated savings per year on this project is between \$1.3 and \$1.4 million and the debt service is close to \$1.2 million. Therefore, each year they will generate savings above the cost per year.

Keven Anderson moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 14b to the full Board for consideration. Chair Brodell seconded and the committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 15
Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics
Transitional – Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics
Arkansas State University Jonesboro

The field of nutrition and dietetics encompasses a range of areas including food safety, community health, disease prevention of chronic diseases, nutrition assessment, and nutrition education. The proposed Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics will include 36 hours of courses. Students will be admitted to the program after completion of an Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics accredited undergraduate coordinated program in dietetics, which includes coursework and a minimum of 1,000 supervised practice hours in the field. Students will be admitted to the program in the summer following completion of their undergraduate degree in May. All students must meet admission requirements for Arkansas State University Graduate College, and program specific requirements.

RESOVLED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics (CIP 51.3101; 36 credit hours; Summer 2023) and the Transitional-Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics (tMSND) (CIP 51.3101; 36 credit hours; Summer 2021)

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to inform the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Arkansas State University-Jonesboro of the approval.

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

Dr. Jim Carr asked if the similar programs offered by UAMS and UCA were online programs. Dr. Walker said they are both traditional programs and not online.

Dr. Jerry Cash asked if this licensure component would be accepted in other states. Dr. Wheeler said there isn't a licensure component with the transitional program, just a credential. However, there is a licensure component with the traditional program and it will be accepted.

Chair Brodell asked if there were any new costs associated with the additional space or equipment. Dr. Wheeler said, no.

Agenda Item No. 16
Technical Certificate – Cosmetology Instructor
Southern Arkansas University Tech

Southern Arkansas University Tech is seeking approval to establish a Cosmetology Instructor program. The purpose of educating licensed cosmetologist is to give individuals another pathway to the cosmetology industry. The program will be open to those that want to share his/her knowledge and passion of this profession with others as an instructor in the industry. This part of the profession also offers another advantage for profitable employment in the hairstyling industry. The program will be designed to include two options, (1) 20 weeks for 30 hours per week; and (2) 40 weeks for 15 hours per week.

RESOLVED. That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Technical Certificate Cosmetology Instructor (CIP 12.0413; 24 credit hours;) Southern Arkansas University-Tech, effective Spring 2022.

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 Southern Arkansas

University Tech and the Chancellor of Southern of University of Arkansas University-Tech of the approval.

Dr. Lora Howard, SAUT Cosmetology Instructor, provided background information on the program.

Dr. Cash asked how the program could be economically feasible with only one student. Dr. Howard said that the state requires that SAUT start with only one student. As that student reaches 200 hours, another student can be added. A new student can be added every 200 hours, which would total three students in the course of a year.

Dr. Valerie Wilson, Vice Chancellor for Academics and Planning, noted that the students in the Cosmetology Instructor program work hand in hand with the program instructor. This allows them to have additional Cosmetology Students in their class.

Agenda Item No. 17
Associate of Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography
South Arkansas University Tech

Southern Arkansas University Tech's Diagnostic Medical Sonography program will be a 66 credit hour program designed to provide students with general knowledge, skills and competencies needed to have a successful career in diagnostic medical sonography. This program is based on the requirements necessary to pass the American Registry of Diagnostic Sonography (ARDMS) certification examination and to function as a general sonographer. Upon completion of the coursework, graduates will receive an Associates of Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography and will be eligible to take the ARDMS examination in Sonography Principles and Instrumentation (SPI), Abdomen and Obstetrics and Gynecology.

RESOLVED. That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Associate of Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (CIP 51.0910; 66 credit hours) offered by Southern Arkansas University—Tech, effective Fall 2022.

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 Southern Arkansas University—Tech and the Chancellor of Southern Arkansas University – Tech of the approval.

Dr. Stephanie Tutor, Program Director, provided additional information on the program.

Dr. Jim Carr asked if the projected enrollment should be higher based on the amount of interest they received. Dr. Tutor said the projected enrollment number is based on the number of available clinical sites. They can try to accommodate more students as the program expands, said Dr. Tutor.

Graycen Bigger congratulated Dr. Tutor on their Department of Labor (DOL) and Delta Regional Authority (DRA) Grants. She asked if Dr. Tutor could briefly discuss their local workforce partners and job placement opportunities for students that complete this program. Dr. Tutor said SAUT has received positive feedback from their local clinical and hospital based employers.

Chair Brodell asked the starting salary range. Dr. Jessie Walker said the estimated average pay will be \$58 to \$65 thousand.

Agenda Item No. 18
Master of Science in Nursing in Public Health
Post-Master's Certificate in Public Health Nursing
University of Arkansas at Monticello

The University of Arkansas at Monticello proposing developing a Master of Science in Nursing and Post-Master's Certificate with a focus on Public Health. The Master of Science in Nursing in Public Health, will be a 100% online degree that will provide both flexibility and academic rigor for registered nurses. The 37-credit hour MSN degree will accommodate the academic, personal, and career goals of its students and allows flexibility for student lifestyles and geographical locations. This degree prepares registered nurses (RNs) to promote health and provide preventive and curative nursing services for groups or communities under the supervision of a public health agency. The degree is offered as a full-time and part-time track and will be available to RNs with a technical nursing diploma such as an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing (AASN) and a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. The Post-masters certificate will be offered to RNs who have already earned a MS/MSN degree.

RESOVLED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) (CIP 51.3811; 37 credit hours) and the Post Master's Certificate in Public Health (CIP 51.3811; 13 credit hours) offered by University of Arkansas at Monticello effective Summer 2022.

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

Crystal Halley, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, provided additional information on the program.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 19
 Master of Education in Vocational Rehabilitation Addiction Counseling
 Master of Business Administration
 University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff plans to create a program that allows students from various backgrounds to participate in a graduate rehabilitation with an emphasis in Addiction Studies. The academic requirements of the M.Ed. in Vocational Rehabilitation program will be comprised primarily of coursework, field experience and internship, and a comprehensive examination. Employment of rehabilitation counselors is projected to grow 10 percent from 2018 to 2028, faster than the average for all occupations. This demand for rehabilitation counselors is due to the increase in the elderly population and with the continued rehabilitation needs of other groups such as veterans and people with disabilities.

RESOLVED. That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Vocational Rehabilitation – Addiction Counseling (CIP 51.2310; 60 credit hours), Master of Business Administration (MBA) (CIP 52.0201; 36 credit hours) offered by the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff effective Fall 2022.

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 at Pine Bluff of the approval.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 20
 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 466 using the name of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board or the Arkansas Department of Higher Education must contain the following statement:

Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board certification does not constitute an endorsement of any institution or program. Such certification merely indicates that certain criteria have been met as required under the rules and regulations implementing institutional and program certification as defined in A.C.A. §6-61-301.

DeVry University, Naperville, Illinois
Northcentral University, La Jolla, California
Walden University, Minneapolis, Minnesota

There were no questions.

Graycen Bigger moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Items No. 15 - 20 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Jerry Cash seconded and the Committee approved.

There were no questions.

Agenda Items No. 21 & 22
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 21-1 through 21-46 and in the Letters of Intent on pages 22-1 through 22-7 of the agenda book.

There were no questions.

Report of the Committees

Greg Revels presented the report of the Finance Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 14 – 14b. Dr. Jim Carr seconded and the board approved.

Chair Al Brodell presented the report of the Academic Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 15 – 20. Andy McNeill 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 October 29, 2021, via Zoom.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

Lori Griffin, Secretary