

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Special Meeting
July 27, 2017

Minutes of Meeting

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board held a special meeting on Thursday, July 27, 2017, at Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas in Ashdown. Vice Chair Dr. Jim Carr called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Coordinating Board present:

Dr. Jim Carr, Vice Chair
Dr. Charles Allen
Keven Anderson
Dr. Olin Cook
Greg Revels

Coordinating Board absent:

Sherrel Johnson, Chair
Dr. Michael Stanton, Secretary
Al Brodell
Chris Gilliam
Lori Griffin
Sam Sicard

Department staff present:

Dr. Maria Markham, Director
Tara Smith, Deputy Director
Dr. Marla Strecker, Senior Associate Director for Academic Affairs/Research & Analytics
Ann Clemmer, Senior Associate Director for Governmental Relations
Alisha Lewis, Associate Director for Communications
Nichole Abernathy, Executive Assistant

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

Vice Chairman Carr welcomed presidents and chancellors to the special board meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

He then introduced new AHECB member Keven Anderson and his wife Lisa.

Agenda Item No. 1
Report on 2016 Fall College-Going Rate

The college-going rate measures the proportion of students enrolling in postsecondary education in the fall semester after finishing high school, in most cases, immediately after high school. Since most students enrolling in postsecondary education do so immediately after completing high school, the college-going rate is an indicator of the total proportion that will or did enroll in

postsecondary education. The percentage, therefore, reflects the accessibility of higher education as well as students' assessments of the value of attending college when compared to working, entering the military, traveling, or following other pursuits.

Dr. Marla Strecker reported that Arkansas experienced a 1.3% decrease (from 51.0% to 49.7%) in the 2016 College-Going Rate (CGR) of public high school graduates. It should be noted that almost half of these are due to the number of public high school graduates dropping by 0.7% (equivalent to 218 students).

Over five years, the share of CGR students at 4-Year Universities has decreased from 33.0 percent (2012) to 30.2 percent (a decrease of 2.8 percentage points). The share of CGR students at 2-Year Colleges has decreased from 18.2 percent (2012) to 15.7 percent (a decrease of 2.5 percentage points). The share of CGR students at Private/Independent Institutions has increased from 1.7 percent to 3.9 percent (an increase of 1.2 percentage points).

Of all CGR students (2016 public high school graduates), the majority enrolled in public 4-Year Universities. These represent decrease of 1.7% for 4-Year Universities, a decrease of 0.4% for 2-Year Colleges, and an increase of 2.3% for Private/Independent institutions from last year's CGR by Institution Type.

Greg Revels voiced concern regarding the drop in college-going rate percentage. He asked if there was any way the Coordinating Board could see the numbers to determine if there is an actual decrease or if the students have left Arkansas instead.

Dr. Marla Strecker said that the data is available; however, it is very expensive to purchase from the Clearing House.

Vice Chairman Carr pointed out that the national rate was twenty percentage points higher than Arkansas. He then asked if it included private school graduates.

Dr. Strecker said that students that go to private schools have a higher college-going rate. However, we receive our data from ADE and they do not collect private school data. Dr. Strecker noted that the national data does include the private school data and that is why their numbers are higher.

Greg Revels asked if the data in the report is consistent over the past five years. Dr. Strecker said it is.

Agenda Item No. 2 Concurrent Enrollment Policy

Carr explained that because the concurrent enrollment policy is an action item and requires a quorum to approve, it was moved to the July 28 agenda.

Dr. Steve Cole welcomed the Coordinating Board to the Ashdown campus and invited everyone to dinner.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

Dr. Michael Stanton, Secretary