

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Regular Quarterly Meeting
February 2, 2007

Minutes of Meeting

The February 2, 2007 regular meeting of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board was held in McGeorge Hall on the campus of Southeast Arkansas College in Pine Bluff. Chairman Kaneaster Hodges called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. with a quorum of Board members present.

Coordinating Board present:

Kaneaster Hodges, Chair
David Leech, Vice Chair
Jodie Carter
David Damron
Phil Ford
Dr. Dan Grant
Mark Smith

Coordinating Board absent:

Dr. Lynda Johnson, Secretary
Bill Johnson
Steve Luef
Dick Trammel
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
Cynthia Moten, Coordinator of Academic Affairs
Dr. Sandy Smith, Coordinator of Academic Affairs
Jeanne Jones, Coordinator of Institutional Certification
Alana Boles, Assistant Coordinator of Academic Programs
Robin Henson, Communications Officer
Christina Miller, Assistant Director for Planning and Accountability
Nichole Abernathy, Administrative Support

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

Chairman Hodges introduced Dr. Phil Shirley, President of Southeast Arkansas College (SEARK), for a welcome.

Dr. Shirley welcomed everyone to SEARK's campus and thanked Linda Lewis, VP for Academic Affairs, for organizing the meeting.

Chairman Hodges congratulated Dr. Tony Kinkel on his new position as President of Pikes Peak Community College in Colorado Springs, Colorado and thanked him for his years of service to the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville.

Agenda Item No. 1
Approval of Minutes

Dr. Grant corrected the October 9, 2006 Joint Board Meeting minutes, noting that he should not be listed as present. Chairman Hodges noted that the appointment of Dick Trammel as AD HOC Chairman had been left off the October 27, 2006 Regular Meeting minutes.

Chairman Hodges moved to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2006 Joint Board Meeting and the October 27, 2006 Regular Meeting, as corrected. David Leech 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. She began by thanking ADHE staff for their hard work in preparation for the Coordinating Board meeting and for courageously traveling to Pine Bluff during inclement weather. She also thanked Dr. Stan Williams and Dr. Steve Floyd for their work with Legislative members during the session.

The implementation of the Arkansas Course Transfer System (ACTS) is one of the most outstanding things to happen in higher education in a long time, stated Dr. Beene. Twenty-two faculty teams composed of college and university faculty met by disciplines in March 2006 to determine course transferability criteria for 88 courses. These faculty review teams determined appropriate course index numbers and names, and established course descriptions and learning outcomes for courses in their disciplines. ADHE staff then reviewed over 1800 syllabi to determine if institutional syllabi meet the standards established by faculty review teams. As required by law, the Arkansas Course Transfer System (ACTS) website became available to the general public on December 1, 2006. Dr. Beene noted that the challenge now is to make sure this tool is known and used. She asked institutions to document how ACTS could be better advertised and used on campuses.

Dr. Beene reported that ADHE administered the Student Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program in which 65 students received a total of \$150,000 towards undergraduate research. Dr. Grant asked how long the SURF program has been in effect. Dr. Beene responded that ADHE has had the program for two years. However, Henderson State University had been

operating the program in Arkansas for a number of years. Dr. Grant stated that this is a very important and valuable program.

Dr. Beene announced that the first connection to the eCorridor by the Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network (AREON) on December 18, 2006, was a major accomplishment for higher education. She noted that funds are designated for this purpose in the bond initiative for each university campus.

Dr. Beene reported that the Career Pathways Initiative (CPI) is more successful than anyone could've imagined. It validates the belief that Arkansas adults who have dropped out of school are seriously interested in continuing their education. To date, more than 4,000 students have enrolled in the CPI program with a 73 percent retention rate. Last week, the state Transitional Employment Board approved the use of \$2.1 million in funding to 14 additional campuses to expand the initiative. Each of the 14 campuses will receive \$150,000 to form local partnerships and work with local employers to identify jobs and requirements needed.

Financial Aid staff will conduct College Goal Sunday on February 18, 2007, announced Dr. Beene. The one-day event, sponsored by ADHE, the Arkansas and National Associations of Student Financial Aid Administrators (AASFAA & NASFAA), and the Lumina Foundation, was created to help prospective students and their families complete the application for financial aid (FAFSA) and to provide information on state and federal financial aid programs. A three-year grant from the Lumina Foundation was awarded to implement this program.

Next, Dr. Beene reported that six ADHE financial aid staff members currently manage 18 scholarship programs. She noted that legislators are presently working on changes to existing programs and the creation of new programs. Also, Governor Beebe has suggested the Educational Enhancement Grant program which will award \$1,000 per student for college to anyone who has graduated from high school or received their GED. Dr. Steve Floyd and Tara Smith have been conducting weekly focus group meetings with legislators to discuss possible changes in financial aid programs during the legislative session, stated Dr. Beene. She added that this allows ADHE to focus on the legislators' concerns and to get a consensus while preparing bills. The State Teacher Assistance Resource (STAR), Teacher Opportunity Program (TOP), Arkansas Health Education Grants and the Military Dependents scholarship are currently being discussed by legislators and may possibly receive changes.

Dr. Beene announced that following the Murphy Oil Corporation pledge to give all El Dorado students the opportunity to pursue higher education (The El Dorado Promise), many people questioned if this would affect financial aid programs at the state level. At this time, it is unknown how ADHE could measure the impact but it should not be significant.

Dr. Beene thanked Dr. Phil Shirley, Dr. Barry Ballard, Dr. Les Wyatt, Dr. Ed Coulter, Dr. Ken James, Corbet Lamkin, Tim Cloyd and Kearney Dietz for participating in the “Higher Education Leaders Summit on High Schools” in Washington DC, January 22, 2007. The purpose of the meeting was to further discuss American Diploma Project issues. One of the changes being discussed is the idea of using an end-of-course exam for Algebra II, rather than the score of 19 on the ACT exam.

Dr. Beene stated that institutions are working to secure economic development incentive funds. She noted that it is possible that other funds might become available.

Dr. Beene presented an update on the Higher Education Bond Initiative. She stated that presently, the Arkansas Development Finance Authority (ADFA) is receiving proposals from underwriters for the Higher Education bonds. On February 14, ADFA and ADHE staff members will interview five bond underwriter firms from the submitted proposals. Based on the input from ADFA and ADHE staff members, the ADFA Board will then select an underwriter. After the underwriter is selected, ADHE must by law submit the “Implementation Plan” to the Governor and to the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State before ADFA can proceed with the sale or disburse any funds. Dr. Beene commented that the hope is for the institutions to start receiving funds based on priority around May 1, 2007.

Dr. Beene announced that the Coordinating Board and ADHE planned to recognize Patsy Strode, who recently retired from ADHE after over six years. Patsy had almost 30 years of experience in state government, and was instrumental in the success of ADHE’s STAR program. In the last year alone, Patsy presented information on STAR to over 3,400 students at college and university campuses, nearly 900 students at career fairs and teaching conferences, nearly 300 teachers at Teachers of Tomorrow meetings, and nearly 80 superintendents and others. Patsy put over 13,000 miles on her car while making more than 4,500 contacts, noted Dr. Beene. Patsy’s efforts have led to approximately 1,300 education majors being approved for STAR and close to 200 teachers who were granted loan forgiveness in the three years since the programs inception. Dr. Beene announced that she wanted to thank Patsy in person for her significant contribution to Arkansas; however, Patsy had just received the best gift ever—a long awaited kidney!

Dr. Beene wished Coordinating Board member Phil Ford a Happy Birthday as she concluded her report.

Chairman Hodges reminded everyone that Trustees Day would be February 20, 2007 at the “Next Level Events.” He stated that he would like to see a large showing of higher education trustees at the event.

Report of the Committees

Dr. Dan Grant presented the report of the Academic Committee indicating that information items 18 and 19 were reviewed and moved to adopt Agenda Items 3-9. Jodie Carter seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

David Damron presented the report of the Finance Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 10-12. David Leech seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 3

Associate of Applied Science and Technical Certificate
in Advanced Manufacturing Technology Offered by
a Consortium of Two-Year Colleges in Arkansas

The administration of Arkansas Northeastern College, East Arkansas Community College, Mid-South Community College, and Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas request approval to offer technical certificate and associate degree programs in advanced manufacturing technology through the Arkansas Delta Training and Education Consortium (ADTEC). ADTEC member institutions include Arkansas Northeastern College (ANC), Arkansas State University—Newport (ASUN), East Arkansas Community College (EACC), Mid-South Community College (MSCC), and Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas (PCCUA). All of the Consortium institutions, with the exception of ASUN, have received a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to fund advanced manufacturing program development.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the offering of the Associate of Applied Science and Technical Certificate in Advanced Manufacturing Technology by the Arkansas Delta Training and Education Consortium member institutions, which includes the offering of the Associate of Applied Science and Technical Certificate in Advanced Manufacturing Technology (CIP 15.0613) at East Arkansas Community College and Mid-South Community College, the Associate of Applied Science in Advanced Manufacturing Technology (CIP 15.0613) at Arkansas Northeastern College, and the Technical Certificate in Advanced Manufacturing Technology (CIP 15.0613) at Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas, effective summer 2007.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to inform the President, Chancellor, and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Consortium institutions of this approval.

Agenda Item No. 4
Master of Science in Agriculture
Southern Arkansas University—Magnolia

The administration and Board of Trustees of Southern Arkansas University (SAU) request approval to offer the Master of Science in Agriculture at Southern Arkansas University--Magnolia (SAUM). The program is consistent with the role and scope of the institution to offer master's degree programs in selected fields. SAUM is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The SAU Board approved the proposal on September 26, 2006.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Science in Agriculture (CIP 01.0000) to be offered on-campus and by distance technology at Southern Arkansas University—Magnolia, effective fall 2007.

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 Southern Arkansas University of the approval.

David Leech asked how many institutions in Arkansas offer a Masters program in Agriculture. Cynthia Moten responded that two institutions, the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville (UAF) with (approximately 65 students) and Arkansas State University—Jonesboro (ASUJ) with (approximately 55 students), currently offer a masters program in Agriculture. David Damron asked if the programs are successful. Moten explained that UAF graduates on average 50 students per year and ASUJ graduates a little less than that.

Dr. Dan Grant questioned the need for another masters program in what he considers a relatively small field. Moten explained that the institutions surveyed area high schools, the Farm Bureau and the Park Extension Service to determine that there is enough interest in the program, allowing students to pursue the degree without relocating. Dr. Grant asked if ASUJ or UAF favored this proposal. Moten stated that no concern was expressed by either institution.

Mark Smith asked Coordinating Board members to consider the fact that SAUM is not connected by four lane highways and it is more difficult for SAUM students to travel to other institutions.

Dr. Grant asked if all three institutions (ASUJ, UAF and SAUM) would offer on-line programs. Moten responded that online programs are a growing trend and that UAF and SAUM would be offering the program online. Dr. Grant questioned if it was necessary for three institutions to offer the same program on-line. Dr. Penny Haase-Wittler, Assistant Professor of Agriculture at SAUM, commented

that when SAUM did their detailed needs assessment, a significant number of students commented that they would like to take this course on-line if given the opportunity. She also noted that not every course is available on-line. Moten added that this is not an on-line program, it merely has an on-line component. Dr. Haase-Wittler commented that SAUM's primary purpose is to address the needs of their students.

After lengthy discussions, Dr. Grant commented that he would like to see institutions working together more to save tax payer money. Dr. Haase-Wittler stated that SAUM would look into ways they could work with other institutions.

Agenda Item No. 5
Associate of Applied Science in Creative Arts Enterprise
Technical Certificate in Creative Arts Enterprise
Arkansas State University—Beebe

The administration and Board of Trustees of the Arkansas State University System (ASU) seek approval to offer the Associate of Applied Science and the Technical Certificate in Creative Arts Enterprise at Arkansas State University—Beebe, effective August 2007. ASU-Beebe is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The proposed program is within the role and scope of the institution. The ASU Board of Trustees approved the proposal on January 10, 2007.

The creative arts enterprise program is designed to enable artists to succeed in the business side of their profession. The program is a combination of business and art classes, culminating in a capstone project in the last semester.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Associate of Applied Science and Technical Certificate in Creative Arts Enterprise (CIP 52.0799) at Arkansas State University—Beebe effective August 2007.

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 Arkansas State University System, and the Chancellor of Arkansas State University—Beebe of this approval.

Agenda Item No. 6
Technical Certificate in Cosmetology
Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas

The administration and the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System request approval to offer the Technical Certificate in Cosmetology at Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas (CCCUA), effective May 2007. The institution is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The proposal was approved by the UA Board of Trustees on November 10, 2006, and received initial approval by the Arkansas State Board of Cosmetology on January 17, 2007.

The Technical Certificate in cosmetology will give students the theoretical and practical knowledge required for licensure through the State Board of Cosmetology. Courses in hairdressing, manicuring, hygiene and sanitation, physiotherapy, cosmeticity, shop management, salesmanship, and shop deportment are included in the 45-semester credit hour/1500-clock hour program. The program will be housed in the classroom facility located in Nashville, Arkansas.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Technical Certificate in Cosmetology (CIP 12.0401) at Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas effective May 2007, contingent on final approval by the Arkansas State Board of Cosmetology.

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 Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas of this approval.

David Leech asked how much the program would cost after the first year. Dr. Sandy Smith responded that \$210,000 is the cost for the second year and noted that the price would slightly come down in the third year.

Agenda Item No. 7
Associate of Applied Science in Medical Assisting Technology
East Arkansas Community College

The administration and Board of Trustees of East Arkansas Community College (EACC) seek approval to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Medical Assisting Technology, effective August 2007. The institution is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and

Schools. The EACC Board of Trustees approved the proposal on November 9, 2006.

The purpose of the medical assisting technology associate degree program is to educate individuals to perform administrative and clinical tasks in a healthcare office/facility setting. Administrative tasks may include but not be limited to answering telephones, greeting patients, updating and filing patient's medical records, filling out insurance forms, handling correspondence, coding, scheduling appointments, arranging for hospital admission and laboratory services, and bookkeeping.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Associate of Applied Science in Medical Assisting Technology (CIP 51.0801) at East Arkansas Community College effective August 2007.

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 East Arkansas Community College of this approval.

Agenda Item No. 8
Institutional Certification Advisory
Committee Resolutions

The Institutional Certification Advisory Committee (ICAC) met on January 9, 2007. The following resolutions are presented for Coordinating Board consideration.

Course/Program Decertification

**Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Doctor of Business Administration**

RESOLVED, That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board decertifies the Doctor of Business Administration offered by Nova Southeastern University. The decertification is effective February 2, 2007.

**Saint Gregory's University, Shawnee, Oklahoma
Undergraduate theology courses offered in Arkansas**

RESOLVED, That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board decertifies the undergraduate theology courses offered in Arkansas by Saint Gregory's University. The decertification is effective February 2, 2007.

The Institutional Certification Advisory Committee (ICAC) Report begins on page 8-2 of the Agenda book.

David Leech questioned why an institution would decertify a program. Jeanne Jones responded that Nova Southeastern University is leaving the state because of a decline in enrollment and a decision by the university's administration to not recertify the program. Saint Gregory's University will be remaining in the state; however, they will be moving from certification to exemption because the courses offered by Saint Gregory's in Arkansas are not customarily offered at colleges and universities.

Agenda Item No. 9 Revisions to the State Minimum Core Curricula

In April 1990, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopted guidelines for the development of State Minimum Core Curricula in response to A.C.A. §6-61-218. This legislation provides that courses within the Core shall apply toward the general education core curriculum requirements for baccalaureate degrees at state-supported institutions and shall be fully transferable between public institutions.

In accordance with Act 672 of 2005, the Coordinating Board approved the Arkansas Course Transfer System (ACTS) in October 2006. ACTS incorporates and eventually will replace the existing State Minimum Core Curricula.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the revised curricula for Southern Arkansas University—Magnolia, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, University of Arkansas - Fort Smith, University of Central Arkansas, Arkansas State University—Beebe, Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas, East Arkansas Community College, Ouachita Technical College, Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas, Rich Mountain Community College, Southern Arkansas University—Tech, and the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to distribute the State Minimum Core Curricula to all public colleges and universities.

Dr. Smith clarified that on page 9-6, a total of 12 hours is required in Social Sciences.

Jodie Carter moved to recommend Agenda Items No. 3-9 to the full Board for consideration. Chairman Hodges seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Phil Ford questioned why an institution would have a distance learning course if that same course was offered at a major institution. He questioned if this was duplication. Dr. Corbet Lamkin, VP for Academic Affairs at Southern Arkansas University Tech, remarked that in order for an institution to have a quality distance education program, enrollment has to be limited. Also, to maintain accreditation, an institution must maintain a quality distance education program. Dr. Lamkin assured Coordinating Board members that their institution's number one goal is to offer quality education, whether in class or via distance learning. Dr. Grant commended SAU for limiting enrollment in an attempt to provide a quality program. He commented that it may be necessary for the Coordinating Board to visit this subject again in the future.

Finance Committee Chairman David Damron announced that there weren't enough members present to have a quorum. Chairman Hodges moved that the Board go into a Committee of the Whole in order to have a quorum. David Leech seconded, and the Board unanimously concurred.

Agenda Item No. 10
Economic Feasibility of Bond Issue
Arkansas Tech University

Arkansas Tech University (ATU) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds totaling approximately \$3.9 million with a term of 30 years at an estimated annual interest rate of approximately 4.5 percent. Approximately 30 percent of the bond proceeds will be used for the completion of Baswell Hall, a residence hall for which \$10 million in bonds were issued in 2006. The remaining 70 percent of the bond proceeds will be used for the renovation of Buerkle Field, a football complex adjacent to Baswell Hall, and to supplement a gift for the construction of a new Women's Sports Complex. The ATU Board of Trustees approved this bond issue at its meeting on January 11, 2007.

The debt service for the bond issue will be supported by revenue from the residence hall and from an increase in the athletic fees, as detailed below. According to Coordinating Board policy, the net revenue from residence halls and other auxiliary purposes must be a minimum of 120 percent of the annual debt service. The increases in athletic fees were approved by the ATU Board of Trustees on May 18, 2006 (\$0.50/SSCH in-state, \$1.00/SSCH out-of-state) and November 16, 2006 (\$0.70/SSCH in-state, \$1.40/SSCH out-of-state).

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for Arkansas Tech University to issue bonds of approximately \$3.9 million with a term of 30 years at an estimated average annual interest rate of approximately 4.5 percent as requested by the institution for the auxiliary purposes listed in this agenda item.

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

David Damron questioned if ATU's estimates were higher than they originally anticipated. Dr. Stanley Williams answered that the difference is due to the rapid rise in construction costs.

David Leech moved to approve Agenda Item No. 10. Chairman Hodges seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 11
Proposed Changes to Higher Education
Bond Projects

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the list of Higher Education Bond Projects in a special meeting conducted on September 8, 2006. The following institutions are requesting revisions be made to that list.

University of Arkansas – Fayetteville

Ozark Hall Addition and Auditorium – **New Construction**. An amount up to \$16.0 million is provided for the construction of a 30,000 square-foot addition to Ozark Hall. The addition is expected to include a large lecture hall on the lower floor and classrooms and laboratories (wet and/or dry) on the upper two levels. The addition is expected to match the opposing north wing of the existing building. The second part of the project will eliminate the outdated Science Engineering Auditorium and replace it with a new 400-seat Auditorium Pavilion with additional laboratories.

The Higher Education Coordinating Board originally approved a general purpose classroom and laboratory building.

Ozarka College

Sharp County Classroom/Student Area - **New Construction**. An amount up to \$1.1 million is provided to construct an 8,000 square-foot building that will expand the Ozarka College LPN program on the Ash Flat campus. The new

construction will provide additional classroom space, nursing skills lab, office space and a student use/cyber café area.

The Higher Education Coordinating Board originally approved a Business Technology Center.

Pulaski Technical College

Business & Office Technology Building – New Construction. An amount up to \$4.5 million is provided to construct a classroom building. Increased enrollment has caused a shortage in classroom and office space. The new construction will result in 20,000 square feet of space for offices and classrooms.

The Higher Education Coordinating Board originally approved the Business & Office Technology Building to be funded at \$3 million and the renovation of the science building to be funded at \$1.5 million. The proposed revision deletes the Renovation of the science building and allocates those funds to the business and office technology building.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves and endorses the revisions to the proposed Higher Education Bond Projects as described in this agenda item and that these projects are incorporated in the Plan of Implementation.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director is instructed to transmit to the Governor the plan for capital projects for public institutions of higher education to be funded from the proceeds derived from the sale of Higher Education Bonds.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That all requirements and limitations approved for the Higher Education Bond Projects by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board on November 4, 2005 apply to these changes.

David Leech questioned if the Sharp County Classroom/Student Area would lead to a new campus for Ozarka College. Dr. Beene responded that Ozarka College has been operating an off campus center, within the rules, for quite some time.

Chairman Hodges moved to approve Agenda Item No. 11. Phil Ford seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

On behalf of the Coordinating Board, Chairman Hodges expressed appreciation to Dr. Ed Franklin, Dr. Alan Sugg, Lu Hardin and the many others who helped pass the bond issue. He stated the high vote gives momentum and, for the first time ever, dramatic public support for higher education.

Agenda Item No. 12
Recommendations for State Funding
of Capital Projects 2007-09 Biennium

The Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the recommendation for state funding of capital projects totaling \$318 million on August 4, 2006. On November 7, 2006, the Arkansas electorate approved the issue of Higher Education Bonds totaling \$150 million. Since several of the projects to be funded by these bonds were included in the August Coordinating Board recommendation, a revision of the Board recommendations is required.

Capital priorities for General Improvement Fund projects in 2007-09 remain the same as those established in past biennia by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Arkansas higher education now has a current replacement value for its educational and general (E&G) space of \$3.7 billion. When this information is coupled with the fact that statewide, approximately 53 percent of the useful life of campus facilities has been expended, it is not surprising that the capital request for higher education is significant. A total of \$1.3 billion was requested by all institutions for technology infrastructure, renovation, and new construction.

The capital recommendation is significant; however, these recommendations reflect the continuing need to maintain the state's investment in higher education facilities and keep pace with the technological advances that are necessary for cutting edge academic programs.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the staff recommendations for state funding of capital projects totaling approximately \$215 million as identified in the accompanying agenda materials.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director is authorized to transmit to the Governor and the General Assembly the Board's recommendation for state funding.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director is authorized to make such technical adjustments to these recommendations as may be required.

Dr. Stanley Williams noted that a few changes have been made to the capital project recommendations located in the agenda book. The University of Arkansas at Fort Smith changed their priority from a business building to a fine arts building and Mid-South Community College changed their priority from a University Center to a Workforce Technology Center.

Chairman Hodges asked Dr. Williams to explain what “critical maintenance” means. Dr. Williams explained the item is actually for critical maintenance, equipment replacement and libraries. “Critical maintenance” is part of the Facilities Audit Program’s facilities maintenance needs that the institution designates a critical. It usually means that the item Facilities Condition Index indicates that some or all of a facility’s systems are more than two-thirds “used up.” That means, a significant portion of the life expectancy of a system has past and replacement is imminent. The “Critical Maintenance” line is actually not just for critical maintenance, it includes critical maintenance, equipment replacement and libraries. Phil Ford asked who determines what is critical maintenance. The institutions determine which of their maintenance needs are critical, stated Dr. Williams.

Dr. Williams commented that since the 1997 bond issue, no institution has received state funds sufficient to build a complete building. Some have received as little as 10 percent of their requested amount. Dr. Williams added that within a few years, several institutions will have buildings over 100 years old, resulting in a lot of critical maintenance needs.

Phil Ford asked why Arkansas State University – Mountain Home (ASUMH) requested zero dollars for critical maintenance, but, received \$250,000. Dr. Williams commented that their critical maintenance request had inadvertently been left off the capital recommendations.

David Leech asked how many students are currently enrolled in the Clinton School. Dr. Beene replied that they have about 35 students, and anticipate growth consistent with other presidential schools. Dr. Grant stated that the Clinton school is a real credit to the state of Arkansas and has many intangible qualities.

Chairman Hodges moved to approve Agenda Item No. 12. David Leech seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 13
Approval of Reimbursement of Expenses
for Members of the Higher Education Coordinating Board
and Institutional Certification Advisory Committee

Although members of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board and its Institutional Certification Advisory Committee (ICAC) by law serve without compensation, they may receive expense reimbursement for performing official board duties after following certain procedures set out by Act 1211 of 1995 (A.C.A. §25-16-901 et seq.).

Because Act 1211 of 1995 (A.C.A. §25-16-901 et seq.) is the sole authority for expense reimbursement, it is necessary for the Coordinating Board to adopt a resolution authorizing expense reimbursement for board members and members of the ICAC.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board, by a majority vote of its total membership, authorizes expense reimbursement for each board member and member of the ICAC for performing official board duties.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the expense reimbursement shall not exceed the rate established for state employees by state travel regulations.

Jodie Carter moved to approve Agenda Item No. 13. Dr. Dan Grant seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 14
State Board of Higher Education Foundation
Election of Supervisory Committee

The State Board of Higher Education Foundation was established on May 2, 1992. The Board for the Foundation includes three annually elected members: a president, a vice president and a secretary/treasurer. The Foundation was established in order to accept private funds for specific projects for the benefit of higher education in Arkansas. The current officers are:

President – Dr. Anne Trussell
Vice President – Mr. David Damron
Secretary/Treasurer – Dr. Linda Beene

The terms for these members have lapsed, requiring a re-election or new appointments.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves and elects members to serve as the State Board of Higher Education Foundation Supervisory Committee as follows:

Mr. David Damron - President
Dr. Anne Trussell - Vice President
Dr. Linda Beene - Secretary/Treasurer

Phil Ford moved to approve Agenda Item No. 14. Dr. Dan Grant seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 15
Revision of Higher Education Coordinating Board
2007 Meeting Schedule

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board meets quarterly to act upon Board initiatives and to respond to campus proposals. The proposed revised 2007 schedule for these regular quarterly meetings follows:

February 2, 2007	Southeast Arkansas College Pine Bluff
April 27, 2007	NorthWest Arkansas Community College Bentonville
August 3, 2007	University of Arkansas Fayetteville
October 26, 2007	Lyon College Batesville

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board agrees to the following dates for regular quarterly meetings during 2007: February 2, April 27, August 3, and October 26.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board expresses its appreciation and accepts the invitations to meet in February at the Southeast Arkansas College, in April at NorthWest Arkansas Community College, in August at the University of Arkansas, and in October at the Lyon College.

Jodie Carter moved to approve Agenda Item No. 15. Phil Ford seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 16
Annual Report on First-Year Student Remediation

Since 1988, all entering first-year students seeking an associate degree or higher from an Arkansas public college or university must meet Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) assessment and placement standards in the disciplines of English, mathematics, and reading. A cut-off subscore of 19 on the ACT exam (or the equivalent on the ASSET, SAT, or COMPASS tests) is used for each of the three areas. Dr. Steve Floyd presented a general overview

of remediation in Arkansas public higher education and provided institutional detail by discipline for fall terms 2004 through 2006.

Mark Smith noted that the percentage of African American students assigned to remedial coursework in Arkansas had increased from 39% in 2005 to 40% in 2006. Dr. Grant stated that when you have a higher rate going to college, you generally have more who aren't prepared. Jodie Carter commented that having students prepared at the college level has been an ongoing struggle. Providing students with good teachers is the first step in solving this problem, Carter stated. Chairman Hodges stated that Texas has a good system of working with students, beginning in the ninth grade. If students are successful and complete the core curriculum, they are guaranteed scholarships to Texas public schools.

Agenda Item No. 17 Annual Enrollment Report

Dr. Steve Floyd presented summary and detailed information about annual enrollment. He noted the total, on-schedule enrollment for fall 2006 in all sectors of Arkansas higher education (public universities, public colleges, and independent colleges and universities) was 145,426 students; representing a 1-year increase of students (+2.8 percent).

On-campus, on-schedule enrollment for fall 2006 in all sectors of Arkansas higher education was 132,104 students; representing a 1-year increase of students (+0.8 percent).

Chairman Hodges questioned why the Hispanic population is growing, yet no Hispanics work for ADHE. Dr. Beene answered that a Hispanic with the credentials required to work for the Department of Higher Education would not take a job at ADHE because the salaries aren't competitive with the institutions.

Dr. Grant asked if there was any discussion or research on whether spending money on advertisements for individual institutions increased the total number of students in Arkansas going to school or does it just move students from institution to institution. Dr. Floyd stated that ADHE has collected surveys to show the amount of advertising dollars spent by individual institutions. However, whether advertising has impacted a student's decision to go to one institution versus another, hasn't been determined. David Leech commented that if an institution wants to compete, they have to advertise.

Jodie Carter commented on the constant decline in Henderson State University's remediation rate in mathematics and English. Dr. Bob Houston, Chief Academic Officer at Henderson State University, responded that HSU focuses on students at an early age by getting them involved in programs on campus. HSU has also built a strong honors program, noted Dr. Houston.

Jodie Carter requested a report on the status of teacher education in the state of Arkansas. Dr. Beene stated that a report would be provided to the Board members.

Phil Ford complimented ADHE staff on the wonderful job they do with so few staff members.

Chairman Hodges moved that Mark Smith draft a letter on behalf of the Coordinating Board to Murphy Oil Corporation commending them for their extraordinary gift and generosity to higher education. David Leech seconded, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 18 and 19
Letters of Notification and Letters of Intent

The Department of Higher Education received notice from institution on programs not requiring Board approval including 28 new certificate programs, 6 new degrees reconfigured from existing degrees, 1 new collaborative degree, 8 new program options, 1 degree name change, 1 existing degree offered at off-campus location, 3 existing degrees offered by distance technology, 3 new organizational units, 1 unit name change, 2 deleted program options, 4 deleted certificates, and 8 deleted degree programs.

Notification of items requiring Board approval included 2 certificate programs, 3 associate degrees, 6 master's degrees, 1 doctoral degree, and 1 organizational unit.

During this period, the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee received notice of requests for initial certification for 37 degrees and recertification for 12 degrees. The complete list of these notices appear in the Letters of Notification on pages 18-1 through 18-5 and in the Letters of Intent on pages 19-1 through 19-4 of the agenda book.

Chairman Hodges opened the floor for public comments.

Dr. Joel Anderson thanked Coordinating Board members for their efforts with the bond issue. He noted that the last building constructed on his campus was funded by the previous bond issue ten years ago. Dr. Anderson added that he is encouraged by the Governor's enthusiasm for higher education. He added that he would like to see capital improvement funds for K-12 and higher education in one package.

Dr. Shirley invited everyone to pick up a box lunch at the conclusion of the meeting.

Chairman Hodges announced that Dr. Becky Paneitz and NorthWest Arkansas Community College in Bentonville will host the next Coordinating Board meeting on April 27, 2007.

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

Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

Dr. Lynda Johnson, Secretary