

Agenda Item No. 1
Higher Education Coordinating Board
April 15, 2011

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Special Meeting
February 3, 2011

Minutes of Meeting

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board held a special meeting on Thursday, February 3, 2011, at the Cooperative Extension Service Center in Little Rock. Chairman Burns called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. with a quorum present.

Coordinating Board present:

Dr. Bob Burns, Chairman
David Leech, Vice Chair
Dr. Charles Allen
Sarah Argue
Dr. Joe Bennett
Jodie Carter
Dr. Olin Cook
Bob Crafton
Steve Luelf
Florine Milligan

Coordinating Board absent:

Bob Crafton
Horace Hardwick

Department staff present:

Dr. Jim Purcell, Director
Senator Shane Broadway, Deputy Director
Dr. Karen Wheeler, Associate Director
Jackie Holloway, Senior Associate Director for Finance
Rick Jenkins, Associate Director for Planning and Accountability
Cynthia Moten, Associate Director for Academic Programs
Zanette Douglas, Coordinator of Institutional Certification
Brandi Hinkle, Communications Officer
Nichole Abernathy, Administrative Support

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

Chairman Burns thanked presidents and chancellors for attending the Special Board meeting despite the bad weather.

Dr. Laura Bednar, Assistant Commissioner for the Department of Education, presented information on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). Dr. Bednar explained that the CCSS initiative is a state-led effort designed to ensure

students graduating from high school are prepared to go to college or enter the workforce.

Dr. Jim Purcell asked how CCSS differed from Smart Core. Dr. Bednar said that the CCSS standards are more rigorous.

Sarah Argue commented that one of the weaknesses of Smart Core is that students and parents have the option to opt out. Will they have that choice, she asked. Dr. Bednar said that neither students nor parents would have the option to opt out.

Dr. Olin Cook asked if the Department of Education is working with the institutions to prep the future teachers. Dr. Bednar said yes.

Steve Luelf questioned how we would fit this into Arkansas's culture. Dr. Bednar said that our students are in a time of technology and they will adjust.

Florine Milligan asked what strategies would be used to make parents more knowledgeable. Dr. Bednar said that a task force and the state PTA would be used to distribute toolkits and information to parents.

College Board representatives Michelle Overstreet, Senior Educational Manager and Julie Esau, Senior Director of Higher Education Services, presented an update on Advanced Programs. Not only has AP increasingly served more underrepresented minority and low-income students over the course of the past decade, AP has been found to be an indicator of success in student retention.

Tommie Sue Anthony, President of the Arkansas Advanced Initiative for Math and Science, Inc., discussed AP courses in high school and preparing students for college.

In 2007 a Blue Ribbon Panel created by the National Academies of Science released a report entitled, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Future*. The report stated that the U.S. is currently lagging in mathematics and sciences which results in an erosion of American competitiveness in the global economy, and it made specific recommendations: Improve K-12 science and mathematics education, prepare more teachers to teach AP and/or Pre-AP science and mathematics courses, increase the number of students taking AP math and science courses, increase the number of students who make qualifying scores on AP math and science tests and award both students and teachers incentives for qualifying AP test scores.

Ms. Anthony stated that one way for Arkansas to do this is to implement and replicate the Advanced Placement Training and Incentive Program which has a proven track record of success.

Executive Session

Chairman Burns moved to declare the meeting in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the job performance of ADHE Director Dr. Jim Purcell. Chairman Burns stated that the Board is very pleased with Dr. Purcell's performance. No action was taken.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

Sarah Argue, Secretary