

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Special Meeting
July 25, 2019

Minutes of Meeting

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board held a special meeting on Thursday, July 25, 2019, at the University of Central Arkansas. Chair Dr. Jim Carr called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Coordinating Board present:

Dr. Charles Allen, Chair
Dr. Jim Carr, Vice Chair
Keven Anderson
Al Brodell
Greg Revels
Dr. Michael Stanton

Coordinating Board absent:

Chris Gilliam, Secretary
Dr. Olin Cook
Chris Gilliam
Lori Griffin
Sherrel Johnson

Department staff present:

Dr. Maria Markham, Director
Nick Fuller, Deputy Director
Dr. Jessie Walker, Senior Associate Director for Academic Affairs/Research & Analytics
Ann Clemmer, Senior Associate Director for Governmental Relations
Sonya Hazelwood, Associate Director for Research & Analytics
Alisha Lewis, Associate Director for Communications
Nichole Abernathy, Executive Assistant

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

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

Agenda Item No. 1
Report on Annual Review of Faculty Performance

Dr. Jessie Walker presented a summary report on the Annual Review of Faculty Performance. Arkansas Code Annotated §6-63-104 and Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) policy 5.5 require that each college and university conduct an annual performance review of faculty members. Pursuant to this statute, Arkansas Department 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. Significant amendments to these plans are to be submitted for Board approval.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 2
Annual Report on Concurrent Enrollment

Dr. Jessie Walker presented on the state of concurrent and dual enrollment among Arkansas postsecondary institutions in AYs 17-19. Under Arkansas Code §6-18-223, a public school student who is enrolled in a 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.

Despite decreases in total postsecondary enrollment over the past three years, total high school concurrent enrollment in colleges and universities slightly increased. Both two and four-year institutions had enrollment increases of 1.73% and 3.75% respectively. In addition, the percentage of high school concurrent enrollment in college and universities in relation to total postsecondary enrollment has increased from 10.4% to 11.1%.

Chair Carr noted that the total number of courses offered decreased at four-year institutions by 16% but increased at two-year institutions by 27%. Carr asked if the two-year institutions are taking over the four-year institutions service areas.

Walker speculated that the two-year institutions might be more aggressive regarding concurrent in terms of their engagement.

Keven Anderson asked if ADHE tracks the graduation rates of concurrent students.

Walker said that ADHE does not track the rates; however, they will in the future due to the transformation with ADE.

Anderson asked how Arkansas's concurrent enrollment rates compare to other states.

We are doing similar if not better than Texas, Oklahoma and Missouri and are ahead of Louisiana and Mississippi, said Walker.

Anderson asked what the net costs per credit hours are for the institutions.

Walker explained that he and academic affairs staff intentionally left out the credit per costs because they are only concerned about the quality academics of concurrent from their side.

Anderson asked what is the quality verses taking the class at two-year verses four-year institution.

Walker said ADHE does annual audits of the course content and instructor credentials. The quality should be on course with a normal college class.

Chair Carr asked if there are areas in the state that are not covered by concurrent classes.

Walker noted that beginning on page 2-11, there is a list of the concurrent credit partnerships.

Dr. Michael Stanton asked if concurrent students counted towards an institutions regular enrollment.

Walker said no.

Dr. Markham explained that there are a couple of public policy issues that are also affecting the shift from 4-year to 2-year institutions for the concurrent enrollment. One is the funding model. We give productivity points to 2-year institutions for success in current gateway courses, so they are incentivized to get students successfully through those gateway courses. The 4-year institutions do not receive productivity points for that activity. That has disincentivized some of the activity from the 4-year level and pushed some of the concurrent enrollment activity back to the 2-year colleges. This shift in activity is what we wanted to create with productivity funding, said Markham.

Anderson asked if 2-year institutions could cover the entire state or are there gaps in coverage.

Walker said there are no gaps, in terms of partnerships.

Markham said, in the rare instance that there might be a high school without a 2-year institution with a qualified faculty member in their service area, Virtual Arkansas will fill in the gap.

Strategic Planning Update

ADHE staff along with select members of the AHECB, presidents and chancellors and legislators gathered at UCA to begin strategic planning conversations, said Markham. With the Closing the Gap 2020 plan expiring at the end of the fiscal year, ADHE staff provided an update on the progress that has been made, goals that have been meet, where we have fallen short, and the plans for the next five years.

The kickoff event was the beginning of many meetings that will focus on the most appropriate attainment goals for our state. The plan is scheduled to be complete by July 2020.

Dr. Markham noted that anything that is chosen as a strategic goal, will also be reflected in the funding model. Therefore, it is important to incentivize things that are important for Arkansas.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

Chris Gilliam, Secretary