

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Regular Quarterly Meeting
July 29, 2016

Minutes of Meeting

The July 29, 2016, regular meeting of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) was held at the Arkansas Department of Higher Education in Little Rock. Chairman Crafton called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with a quorum present.

Coordinating Board present:

Bob Crafton, Chair
Sherrel Johnson, Vice Chair
Chris Gilliam, Secretary
Dr. Charles Allen
Dr. Jim Carr
Dr. Olin Cook
Florine Milligan
Ben Pickard
Greg Revels
Sam Sicard
Dr. Michael Stanton

Coordinating Board absent:

Jim von Grep

Department staff present:

Dr. Brett Powell, Director
Harold Criswell, Senior Associate Director of Administration and Finance
Ann Clemmer, Senior Associate Director for Academic Affairs
Tara Smith, Senior Associate Director for Institutional Finance
Dr. Marla Strecker, Senior Associate Director for Institutional Research
Lillian Williams, Program Specialist for Academic Affairs
Jeanne Jones, Program Specialist for Academic Affairs
Alana Boles, Program Specialist for Academic Affairs
Chandra Robinson, Program Coordinator for Institutional Finance
Jake Eddington, Program Specialist for Institutional Finance
Lisa Smith, Outreach and Communications Coordinator
Nichole Abernathy, Executive Assistant

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

Chairman Bob Crafton began by thanking everyone for coming and welcoming them to the Coordinating Board Meeting. He then introduced Leslie Fiskin, policy advisor for the Governor's Office and Dr. Zulma Toro, the interim chancellor for the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Next, Chairman Crafton led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and God Bless America.

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Dr. Deborah Garrett introduced several summer interns for Arkansas State University – Beebe: Jeanette Diaz, from Los Angeles, attending graduate school at Missouri State University; Regan Baker, from Manhattan, KS, attending graduate school at Missouri State University; Dru Hepburn, from the Bahamas, attending graduate school at Western Illinois University; Kimberly Swearingen, from Leslie, AR, attending graduate school at Missouri State University; and, Brian Van Gundy, from Astoria, OR, attending graduate school at Lewis and Clark College (OR).

Agenda Item No. 1
Approval of Minutes

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

Agenda Item No. 2
Agency Updates

Institutional Leadership Changes

Dr. Brett Powell began by announcing that June 30 was the last day for Dr. Jackie Elliott as president at North Arkansas College (NAC) and Dr. Joel Anderson as chancellor at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR). Dr. Randy Esters began on July 1 as the new president for NAC and Dr. Andrew Rogerson will begin on September 1 as the new chancellor for UALR.

ADHE Personnel Changes

Powell announced that Ken Wall began on July 5 as a senior software support specialist for ADHE. Powell announced that he had accepted the vice president for finance and administration position at Henderson State University and would be starting on August 1. He announced that Ann Clemmer would serve as the interim director until a director was named.

Powell said that eighteen months ago he told the board and higher education community that he was just a simple man from southern Arkansas. That still hasn't changed, said Powell – I'm still a simple man from southern Arkansas. Some people at the time questioned my finance background. But hopefully you were able to see that I brought an analytical approach to the position and the work that we've done, said Powell. Everything we do in higher education is about the success of students and achieving their educational goals. I hope you have been able to see that in the work that we've been able to accomplish in the last eighteen months.

College and Career Readiness Pilot

ADHE has selected South Arkansas Community College (SouthArk) and Henderson State University (HSU) to facilitate a two-year college and career readiness program. The program begins with 7th grade students and moves them systematically toward college enrollment and completion, leading eventually to a fulfilling career. Additionally, the program has designated career coaches to serve as coordinators of these grade-appropriate activities. The career coaches will also function as advisors to guide, support, and encourage students in the various activities and strategies employed in the program.

Regional Workforce Grants

Powell highlighted two of the Regional Workforce Grant proposals, Black River Technical College (BRTC) and Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas (CCCUA). Powell said he chose those two because they were both collaborative proposals. He said the proposals were still indicative of all of the proposals ADHE received because they addressed the critical needs of the employees, provided clear pathways that allow students to get into the workforce or continue their education.

Annual Faculty Performance Review

Powell explained that Arkansas public institutions are required to conduct faculty performance reviews under A.C.C. §6-63-104. ADHE staff is required to monitor faculty evaluation processes adopted at Arkansas public institutions and report annually to the AHECB and Legislative Council. All institutions conducted faculty performance reviews during 2015-16 using a variety of methods including assessment by students, classroom visits by administrators, peer review, and self-evaluation activities, said Powell.

Hopefully one day we can stop talking about Arkansas as being forty-eighth or forty-ninth in the nation and we can start talking about the jobs that are being created because we have an educated population that are prepared for the jobs of the future, said Powell.

In closing Powell said, with any position you want to leave it better than you found it. I appreciate the opportunities that I have been given to serve you all over the last eighteen months.

Agenda Item No. 3
Report on 2015 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 less than a single percentage growth (from 50.1% to 51.0%) in the 2015 College-Going Rate of public high school graduates. However, it should be noted that the number of public high school graduates dropped by 430 students; therefore, the increase of 0.9% represents an additional engagement of 60 public high school graduates in 2015.

Chris Gilliam said that college-going rates appear to be increasing across the board, why.

Dr. Strecker said she would research that question and share her results with the Coordinating Board. Since the national rate trended up, we could just be going along with what's happening nationally, stated Strecker.

Dr. Jim Carr asked if the data could include the private and home schools as well. Dr. Strecker said she could get the private school numbers; however, the home school numbers could be more of a challenge.

Agenda Item No. 4 Closing the Gap 2020 Implementation Plan

On October 30, 2015, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) adopted the Closing the Gap 2020: A Master Plan for Arkansas Higher Education as prepared in accordance with A.C.A. § 6-61-205. In support of the Governor's priorities, the department staff collaborated with representatives from institutions across the state to draft a master plan that addressed enrollment and attainment rates of targeted populations, completion and graduation rates of students, college affordability and the alignment of state resources with these goals. These collaborative consortia have continued working to identify a range of strategies that can be adopted by the Department and by institutions to achieve the goals enumerated in the master plan. This is a review of that work.

Dr. Olin Cook asked if the new plan would be executed all at once or gradually. Dr. Powell said the plan is not necessarily a new way of doing things. There are strategies to replace the way some things have been done on campuses and strategies that will be done in addition to the old things, said Powell.

Florine Milligan asked if there was a collaborative group among institutional personnel and high school personnel that were working to decrease high school dropout rates.

Powell said there isn't a particular group; however, ADHE and ADE work together educating students and on different initiatives, on a regular basis.

Dr. Charles Allen moved to adopt the Implementation Plan as an array of strategies to achieve the goals and objects of the Closing the Gap 2020 master plan. Chris Gilliam seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 5 Outcomes Based Funding (OBF) Model Framework

This agenda item is a framework for the Outcomes Based Funding (OBF) Model. The framework proposal has been developed by the Master Plan – Institutional Funding workgroup with the intent to replace the current need-based and performance funding models.

Outcomes-based funding can be used to properly align institutional funding with statewide priorities for higher education by encouraging programs and services focused on student success and incentivizing progress toward statewide goals. At the same time, such models encourage accountability to students and policymakers by focusing on the success of students through the achievement of their educational goals. Any new funding model must be built around a set of shared principles embraced by institutions, employing appropriate outcomes metrics, and aligned with goals and objectives for post-secondary attainment in our state.

A set of guiding principles are important to orient the design of a new funding model for public higher education institutions. These guiding principles will allow the development of an outcomes-based funding model which is student-centered and responsive to post-secondary attainment goals, while creating a funding context which enables innovation, increased efficiency and enhanced affordability.

Dr. Charles Allen said that he started working in the legislature in 1972. He said during that time, he constantly heard that you couldn't pour more money into education and expect results. I see this framework as a method to influence the Governor and the legislature to increase funding, said Dr. Allen.

Ben Pickard began by thanking Dr. Powell, ADHE staff and everyone in higher education that participated in the funding model and the Implementation plan. They are both huge projects that will be helpful to the state and students, said Pickard. As we go through this process, it is our responsibility to strongly recommend to the Governor and legislature that funding be increased for higher education in Arkansas.

Greg Revels echoed what Pickard said and requested that it be presented as a motion.

Florine Milligan asked in regards to the other states that are implementing the same model, do the pros outweigh the cons. Dr. Powell said yes. Tennessee's model has been in place for three years and they are seeing increases in attainment rates.

Ben Pickard said that as ADHE proceeds and begins to work on the financial aid component, he strongly recommends that financial aid officers, registrars and admissions officers from both public and private institutions, be included in the process.

Bill Stovall, executive director of Arkansas Community Colleges, gave a heartfelt talk about his journey to attaining his degree. He ended by saying it's about time we have an outcomes-based funding model that illustrates the effort of humanity to the population of our state and its students, because they deserve it.

Dr. Charles Allen moved to approve Agenda Item No. 5. Dr. Olin Cook seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 6 Operating Recommendations for 2017 – 19 Biennium

A.C.A. §6-61-224 establishes the process and key components for formula development for funding public institutions of higher education.

At its April 22, 2016 meeting, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the funding models for the two-year colleges, universities, and the technical centers (former technical institutes merged with universities). These models had been developed in conjunction with presidents and chancellors after meetings and revisions. The funding models were used to develop the comparative needs of Arkansas institutions of higher education in terms of the average funding levels of schools in the SREB region.

The staff reviewed the justification requests submitted by the non-formula group and prepared preliminary funding recommendations based upon those requests. After making preliminary recommendations, the staff conducted budget meetings with all non-formula entities which had concerns with the recommendations. After the conclusion of all budget meetings, final recommendations were made in light of the appeals heard during the budget meetings.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the recommendations for state funding of the educational and general operations of Arkansas public institutions of higher education in the 2017-19 biennium as included in Tables 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D and 1E.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to prepare appropriate

documents for transmission to the Governor and the General Assembly of the 2017-19 operating recommendations of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That should any errors of a technical nature be found in these recommendations, the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to make appropriate corrections consistent with the policy established by the Board's action on these recommendations.

Greg Revels said that the new formula is based on seventy-five percent of what the old formula would've offered. Have we looked to see what the new formula will do to these recommendations. Ms. Smith said that Dr. Powell would explain how funding recommendations would be made during his presentation. As we transition to that model, stability and transition is one of the guiding principles that we will look at.

Chris Gilliam moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 6 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Charles Allen seconded and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 7
Personal Services Recommendations
for Non-Classified Personnel

A.C.A. §6-61-209 requires the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to present a consolidated budget request from the state-supported colleges and universities to the General Assembly and the Governor prior to each regular session of the General Assembly. As part of this process, the quantity of positions, titles, and line-item maximum salaries for all non-classified administrative, academic, and auxiliary positions at each Arkansas public institution of higher education have been reviewed, and changes are recommended.

These recommendations, to be effective July 1, 2017, recognize the varying structures and sizes of institutions, while maintaining reasonable consistency among similar positions at institutions. The primary objective of the ADHE staff was to maintain relative uniformity in titles and line-item maximums for similar positions in comparable institutions, while recognizing the varying missions and structures of institutions, priorities of the new biennium, and FTE enrollment growth.

While additional positions and titles were recommended when institutions demonstrated a compelling need, ADHE staff attempted to keep the net growth at a minimum due to concerns over budget shortfalls and the expansion of state services. Salary recommendations for new positions were based on salaries for similar positions previously established at comparable Arkansas institutions.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the recommended number of positions, titles, and maximum salaries for non-classified positions in academic, administrative, and auxiliary positions for the 2017-19 biennium as recommended by staff.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to make technical corrections consistent with Coordinating Board action.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board requests the Director to transmit the Personal Services recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly for consideration for the 2017-19 biennium.

There were no questions.

Sherrel Johnson moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 7 to the full Board. Dr. Charles Allen seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 8
Recommendations for State Funding
of Capital Projects: 2017 – 19 Biennium

Capital priorities for General Improvement Fund projects in 2017-19 remain the same as those established in past biennia by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB).

In light of these priorities, institutions have responded with capital needs for the 2017-19 biennium. ADHE staff have evaluated the requests and have recommended capital projects that meet the strategic needs of higher education through 2019.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the staff recommendations for state funding of capital projects totaling \$250.05 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. Olin Cook asked if ADHE knew how much of the recommendations for capital projects would really be funded. Ms. Smith said she anticipated it being funded right where it currently is if not a little lower.

Chris Gilliam moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 8 to the full Board. Dr. Jim Carr seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 9
Certification of Intercollegiate
Athletic Budgets for 2016 – 17

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.

The institutional submissions establish the 2016-17 operating budgets for intercollegiate athletic programs and certify to the Coordinating Board any student athletic fees that will be charged to cover operating deficits. The University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (UAF), Arkansas State University Mid-South (ASUMS), Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas (CCCUA) and North Arkansas College (NAC) do not charge an athletic fee and expect to continue to meet their athletic operating costs without assessing a student athletic fee for the 2016-17 fiscal year.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board accepts the Certification of Intercollegiate Athletic Revenues and Expenditures Budgeted for 2016-17 as prepared in accordance with Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board uniform accounting standards and definitions for athletic reporting.

Greg Revels said that the board recognizes that intercollegiate athletics are a part of the college experience. We also recognize that it is a tremendous part of the college student's expenditures. However, we would like to see that minimized as much as possible, said Revels.

Ben Pickard referenced the summary chart on page 9-2. He noted the Academic Challenge Scholarship award amount for freshman students is \$1,000. Over half of that scholarship will go to fund athletics, said Pickard.

Dr. Charles Allen moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 9 to the full Board. Dr. Jim Carr seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 10
Certificate of Proficiency in Emergency Medical Technician
Basic Technical Certificate in Paramedic
Associate in Applied Science in Paramedic
Arkansas State University – Jonesboro

The proposed Certificate of Proficiency in Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) - Basic will prepare students for entry-level practice as an EMT. The curriculum is 12 credit hours of didactic and skills laboratory and practicum courses that are divided between the hospital and pre-hospital settings. At the conclusion of the program and with a Field Internship Student Data Acquisition Project (FISDAP) score of 75% or greater, a student will be authorized to sit for the Emergency Medical Technician – Basic National Registry Examination.

The proposed Technical Certificate (TC) and Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Paramedic prepares students for entry-level practice as a paramedic. The paramedic programs build upon the EMT program curriculum by providing students with additional courses in human anatomy and physiology, medical emergencies, patient assessment and airway management, shock & resuscitation as well as over 600 hours of clinical experience. At the conclusion of the program and with a FISDAP score of 75% or greater, a student will be authorized to sit for the Paramedic – Basic National Registry Examination. Students who complete the AAS in Paramedic may choose to further their education in other healthcare fields, e.g., nursing, Disaster Preparedness/Emergency Management, etc.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Certificate of Proficiency in Emergency Medical Technician – Basic (CIP 51.0904; 12 credit hours); Technical Certificate and Associate of Applied Science in Paramedic (CIP 51.0904; TC 50.5 credit hours; AAS 65.5 credit hours) offered by Arkansas State University-Jonesboro, effective Fall 2016.

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– Jonesboro of the approval.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 11
Graduate Certificate in Play Therapy
Arkansas State University – Jonesboro

The Graduate Certificate in Play Therapy is a 12 credit hour program designed to provide mental health professionals the opportunity to obtain advanced training in play therapy. Play Therapy is a form of counseling or psychotherapy that uses play to communicate with and help people, especially children, to prevent or

resolve psychosocial challenges. The ideal candidate for the proposed program will have a master's degree or higher in counseling or a related discipline or is a current student in the Master of Rehabilitation Counseling, Master of Science in Education in School Counseling, or the Specialist in Education in Psychology and Counseling. The curriculum is designed to meet the educational requirements needed by mental health professionals who desire to apply for the national credential of Registered Play Therapist (RPT) offered by the Associate for Play Therapy. Students must be admitted to the Arkansas State University Graduate School.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Graduate Certificate in Play Therapy (CIP 42.2807; 12 credit hours) offered by Arkansas State University-Jonesboro, effective Fall 2016.

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–Jonesboro of the approval.

Dr. Jim Carr asked if the program was offered anywhere else in the state. ADHE staff said that the program is also offered by John Brown University.

Dr. Gina Hogue explained that the Graduate Certificate in Play Therapy is a growing field of study and is nationally recognized across the state. In addition to therapy, will you have any role in influencing curriculum for children as far as school, said Sherrel Johnson.

Dr. Hogue said they hope so.

Agenda Item No. 12
Institutional Certification Advisory Committee

Appointment of Institutional Certification Advisory Committee Members
Dr. Trey Berry, Southern Arkansas University
Richard Dunsworth, University of the Ozarks

RESOLVED, That, pursuant to §6-61-302, The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board appoints Dr. Trey Berry and Richard Dunsworth as members of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board expresses appreciation to Dr. Berry and Mr. Dunsworth for their willingness to serve as members of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee.

Initial Program Certification-Distance Technology

RESOLVED, That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants initial certification to the institutions listed on pages 1-6 to offer the specified degree programs to Arkansas residents for a period of three years through December 31, 2019.

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 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 Arkansas Code §6-61-301.

American University, Washington, D.C.

DeVry University, Naperville, Illinois

Ecclesia College, Springdale, Arkansas

Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

New York Institute of Technology, Old Westbury, New York

Remington College, Little Rock, Arkansas

Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York

Trident University International, Cypress, California

Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

New Programs – Arkansas Institutions

Baptist Health College Little Rock, Little Rock, Arkansas

Webster University, St. Louis, Missouri

New Institutions – Distance Technology

Carrington College, Sacramento, California

**State Authorization for a New Arkansas Independent Institution of Higher Education
Institutional Planning and Development to Establish an Arkansas Independent College to Offer Associate Degrees**

Proposed Likewise College, Searcy, Arkansas

RESOLVED, That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) grants certification for institutional planning and development for the establishment of a new Arkansas independent college to be chartered as Likewise College in Searcy, Arkansas, to offer initially the Associate of Arts degree. This certification for institutional planning and development is for a period of three years through December 31, 2019, which requires Likewise College, to begin the accreditation process for the institution prior to the submission of an application for certification to the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) to obtain AHECB authorization/recognition of the proposed Likewise College as an Arkansas independent institution of higher education offering the Associate of Arts and other undergraduate degrees.

AHECB authorization/recognition is contingent on the proposed Likewise College, Searcy, Arkansas, obtaining and maintaining institutional accreditation from a regional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to notify the Board of Directors and administration of the proposed Likewise College, Searcy, Arkansas, that the certification for institutional planning and development to establish an Arkansas independent institution of higher education to offer undergraduate degree programs requires the proposed 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 proposed institution; (3) changes in the proposed method of operation of the institution and the proposed programs; or (4) status of the institution's application and approval for program accreditation by the appropriate program accrediting agency.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director to notify the administration of the proposed Likewise College, Searcy, Arkansas, that any advertisement or published materials using the name of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board or the Arkansas Department of Higher Education must contain the following statement:

Likewise College is certified by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board for the purposes of institutional planning and development only, and state authorization for institutional operations is pending under the rules and regulations implementing Arkansas Code §6-61-301. Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board certification does not constitute an endorsement of any institution or program. Such certification merely indicates that certain criteria as defined in Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board policy have been met as required under Arkansas law.

Proposed Likewise College, Searcy, Arkansas

Greg Revels requested additional information on Likewise College.

Executive Director of Likewise College, Dr. Jeff Kreh said that Likewise is designed to provide prison inmates with educational opportunities. Currently in the state, we have approximately 25,000 who are under management in the Arkansas Department of Corrections (ADC). Of that number, about 9,500 are receiving their GEDs or equivalency. Of that group, less than eight percent has any college experience and less than one percent has any kind of college degree. Through the ADC Chapel Services, we are positioning to provide an associates level education to give them a basic starting point, said Dr. Kreh.

Ben Pickard asked if they are working in conjunction with Arkansas institutions. Dr. Kreh said they are a private industry and they are working in conjunction with the Arkansas Department of Corrections.

Dr. Jim Carr moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Items No. 10 - 18 to the full Board. Florine Milligan seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Items No. 13 & 14
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 13-1 through 13-102 and in the Letters of Intent on pages 14-1 through 14-11 of the agenda book.

Dr. Olin Cook applauded ADHE staff for being able to keep up with all of the information found in the Letters of Notification and Intent. Ms. Lillian Williams said she enjoyed working with the numerous institutions.

Director Search

Chairman Crafton outlined the Director Search Process.

1. May 23, 2016 - Dr. Powell announced that he was resigning from the Dept. of Higher Education.
2. May 23, 2016 – Chairman Bob Crafton called a Special AHECB meeting to accept the resignation letter and start the search process. Harold Criswell was appointed by the board to handle all media.
3. May 26, 2016 – Chairman Crafton appointed the search committee: Chairman Crafton, Chris Gilliam, Jim Carr, and Olin Cook. The Presidents Council appointed two representatives to serve on the search committee; Presidents Council co-chairs, Charles Welch and Margaret Ellibee.
4. June 4, 2016 – The Director Search AD appeared in the Democrat Gazette and the Chronicle of Higher Education.
5. July 1, 2016 – deadline to receive applications. Received 16 applications
6. July 18, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. Search committee met at ADHE to determine which applicants to interview. They decided to interview Dr. Maria Markham, Dr. MacGregor Stephenson and Dr. John Townsend.
7. July 26, 2016 – 11:00 a.m. the Search Committee met at ADHE and went into Executive Session for the purpose of interviewing Maria Markham at 11:00 a.m. At 1:00 p.m. they interviewed MacGregor Stephenson and at 2:00 p.m. they interviewed John Townsend. At 3:10, the committee announced they would recommend Dr. Maria Markham as the new director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) at the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) meeting on Friday, July 29.

Chairman Bob Crafton moved to appoint Dr. Maria Markham as the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. Florine Milligan seconded and the Board approved. Having served as a reference for Dr. Markham, Greg Revels abstained from voting.

Dr. Markham thanked the Coordinating Board, the Search Committee and all of her colleagues across the state for supporting her desire to serve the state at this level. She thanked Dr. Powell for his insight and for laying the foundations for the funding model and implementation plan.

Markham said her plan is to visit every Arkansas campus to discuss any concerns or needs they may have. The three priorities that she discussed were the ways to implement the strategies introduced by the closing the gap work groups, refining the details of the funding formula and engaging everyone to leverage their collective knowledge to improve efficiencies across the state. We are all on the same team, said Markham. Let's work smarter, be more stream lined and be quicker to market. Dr. Markham closed by thanking everyone for their support.

Report of the Committees

Greg Revels presented the report of the Finance Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 6 – 9. Chris Gilliam seconded the motion and the Board approved.

Dr. Olin Cook presented the report of the Academic Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 10 – 12. Dr. Michael Stanton seconded the motion and the Board approved.

Other Business

Ben Pickard moved that the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) request from the Governor and legislature that the state provide additional base funding in order to stabilize the costs of higher education for students and their families. Dr. Jim Carr seconded the motion and the Board approved.

Chairman Crafton asked everyone to please stay immediately after the meeting for a reception honoring Dr. Brett Powell.

Next, on behalf of the board, Chairman Crafton presented an engraved clock to Dr. Powell and expressed gratitude to him for his service to higher education.

Remarks by Presidents and Chancellors

The next Coordinating Board meeting will be at the Arkansas Department of Higher Education in Little Rock on October 28, 2016.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

APPROVED:

Nichole Abernathy

Chris Gilliam, Secretary