

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Special Meeting
April 27, 2023

Minutes of Meeting

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board held a special meeting on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at Henderson State University. Chair Graycen Bigger called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Coordinating Board present:

Graycen Bigger, Chair
Dr. Jim Carr, Secretary
Al Brodell
Dr. Jerry Cash

Coordinating Board absent:

Keven Anderson
Kelley Erstine
Dr. Kyle Miller
Chad Hooten
Andy McNeill

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

Chair Bigger welcomed presidents and chancellors to the special board meeting and thanked everyone for attending. She then stated that Greg Revels had recently resigned from the Coordinating Board and noted that his contributions and leadership would be missed by the board.

Agenda Item No. 1
Annual Report on Student Retention and Graduation

Sonia Hazelwood presented a summary report on the Annual Report on Student Retention and Graduation. When looking at both public sectors together, the state's fall-to-fall retention rate of 72.6% for the Fall 2021 cohort had an increase of 2.7% over the Fall 2017 cohort of 69.9%. The 2-Year college retention rate was the highest in 5 years at 61.3%. Seven 4-year universities reported an increase in the fall-to-fall retention rate when comparing the Fall 2020 cohort to the Fall 2021 cohort. ASUJ, UCA, ATU, UAFS, UALR, SAUM, and HSU experienced improved retention rates from 0.1% to 9.0%. Thirteen 2-year colleges reported increases in fall-to-fall retention rates when comparing the Fall 2021 cohort to the Fall 2020 cohort.

Dr. Jim Carr said it is interesting that females graduate high school, go to college and graduate college at a greater rate than males.

Al Brodell said he is interested in the retention plans for the institutions and asked if there are any best practices. Ms. Hazelwood said some institutions have retention committees and use their own best practices.

Agenda Item No. 2
Annual Report on Retention and Graduation
of Intercollegiate Athletes

Sonia Hazelwood presented a summary report on the Annual Report on Retention and Graduation of Intercollegiate Athletes. In Academic Year 2021-22, 4,132 students participated in athletics at ten universities and eight 2-year colleges. This is the most student-athletes ever reported for an academic year. This is an increase of 243 student-athletes over the 2020-21 academic year, including 611 student-athletes reported by eight 2-year colleges.

Al Brodell asked if the methodology used in this report would need to be changed to adjust to the Transfer Portal. Ms. Hazelwood said that there will be a need to have conversations about it in the future.

Agenda Item No. 3
Annual Report on First-Year Student Remediation
for Fall 2022

Mason Campbell presented a summary report on the Annual Report on First-Year Student Remediation for Fall 2022. In Fall 2022 (AY2023), 22,213 first-time entering, degree-seeking students enrolled in an Arkansas public institution of higher education. Of this population, 90% were classified as full-time students and 10% were classified as part-time students. With regards to sex, 56% were female, 44% were male, and less than 1% percent did not report. When examining the institution type, 68% of this population enrolled at a four-year institution compared to 32% enrolled at a two-year institution. Lastly, remediation status of all first-time entering students, 65% did not require remediation while 35% did require remedial coursework.

Dr. Tina Moore, ADHE Director of Workforce Development, provided context on the math data and highlighted existing and future plans to address the issue of math readiness and student success outcomes.

Secretary Oliva said there is a lot of confusion and frustration around foundational math skills in elementary school, that show up at the higher education level. As a result, ADE recently rewrote the math standards to make sure there is a balance between conceptual understanding and fluency, said Secretary Oliva.

Dr. Jim Carr asked how students that require remediation are identified. Mr. Campbell said there is a lot of confidence in high school grade point averages as a predictor of gateway college student success and the need for remediation.

Dr. Jerry Cash asked if the ACT is still required by all institutions for admissions. Mr. Campbell said that the institutions require it for admissions, however, it is not necessarily used for placement purposes.

Agenda Item No. 4
Annual Report on Productivity of
Recently Approved Programs

Mason Campbell presented a summary report on the Productivity of Recently Approved Programs. In April 2008, the AHECB directed ADHE staff in cooperation with the public colleges and universities to revise the existing program review process to ensure quality academic programs that support Arkansas's economic development goals, and to identify and remove non-viable programs from state general revenue funding.

Mr. Campbell noted that 66 percent of all recently approved programs are on track to meet standards.

There were no questions.

With no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

Dr. Jim Carr, Secretary