

**ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Special Meeting
February 16, 2023**

Minutes of Meeting

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board held a special meeting on Thursday, February 16, 2023, via Zoom. Chair Greg Revels called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., with a quorum present.

Coordinating Board present:

Greg Revels, Chair
Graycen Bigger, Vice Chair
Dr. Jim Carr, Secretary
Keven Anderson
Al Brodell
Dr. Jerry Cash
Kelley Erstine
Dr. Kyle Miller

Coordinating Board absent:

Chad Hooten
Andy McNeill

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

Chairman Revels welcomed presidents and chancellors to the special board meeting and thanked everyone for attending. He then asked Nichole Abernathy to call the roll to confirm a quorum.

**Agenda Item No. 1
Technical Certificate in Paramedic Science
Arkansas State University Mid-South**

The Technical Certificate in Paramedic Science at ASU Mid-South will build upon its existing certificate programs in Basic and Advanced Emergency Medical Technician to provide students with a career pathway in the field of Emergency Medical Services. The proposed program requires 43 credit hours of coursework that can be completed over the course of a year, providing students with the opportunity to quickly earn highly sought skills and credentials that can lead to gainful employment in the EMS sector.

The proposed curriculum requires completion of seven (7) new courses, with a new cohort enrolling each fall semester and completing each summer. ASU Mid-South is well positioned to support Paramedic Science programming, as its lead faculty for EMT has experience in developing and directing paramedic programming at other institutions in the Mid-South region.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Technical Certificate in Paramedic Science (CIP 51.0904) at Arkansas State University Mid-South, effective July 2023.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to inform the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Arkansas State University Mid-South of the approval.

Jeff Gray, Vice Chancellor for Learning and Instruction, provided additional background information. Mr. Gray also thanked AHECB members for agreeing to meet to reconsider the Technical Certificate in Paramedic Science program.

Dr. Jerry Cash asked if students requiring remediation could enter this program. Mr. Gray said they provide a lot of academic learning support to students that might not be academically prepared.

Dr. Cash noted that the proposed Paramedic Science program will require an initial investment of approximately \$177,750 in the first year and asked how ASUMS would cover the cost. Mr. Gray said that this will not be new funding and noted that a large part of the cost is the current EMT instructor's salary. The Advancing Delta Talent Grant will cover some of the costs as well, said Mr. Gray. By reallocating existing funds, ASUMS does not anticipate needing any new additional funding.

Graycen Bigger asked if ASUMS expected any issues regarding clinicals and paramedic licensures for students that might be across state lines in neighboring communities. Mr. Gray said that because of existing partnerships and relationships already in place with the advanced EMT programs, they are well positioned to provide clinical instruction for students in those programs.

Ms. Bigger asked if ASUMS has secured their instructors for the program. Mr. Gray said they currently have two adjunct instructors on staff and he anticipates that one of them will apply for the full-time position.

Ms. Bigger asked if there is anything built into this work grant that will offer support for non-traditional or underserved students, like transportation assistance or childcare. Mr. Gray said, not in this particular grant. He noted that the Career Pathways Initiative would provide students with additional assistance, such as gas vouchers and childcare assistance.

Dr. Cash asked if ASUMS would receive help from surrounding hospitals and clinics to offset some of the program costs. Glen Faught, Emergency Medical Technician Instructor, stated that the hospitals are donating their locations to be used as clinical sites and volunteering their assistance in a non-financial way.

Graycen Bigger moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 1. Dr. Jim Carr seconded the motion and the committee unanimously approved.

Report of the Committee

Dr. Jerry Cash presented the report of the Academic Committee and moved approval of Agenda Item 1. Al Brodell seconded, and the board approved.

With no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

Dr. Jim Carr, Secretary