

**ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Regular Quarterly Meeting
October 27, 2017**

Minutes of Meeting

The October 27, 2017, regular meeting of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) was held at Arkansas State University – Mountain Home (ASUMH). Chair Sherrel Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with a quorum present.

Coordinating Board present:

Sherrel Johnson, Chair
Dr. Jim Carr, Vice Chair
Dr. Charles Allen
Keven Anderson
Al Brodell
Dr. Olin Cook
Lori Griffin
Greg Revels

Coordinating Board absent:

Dr. Michael Stanton, Secretary
Chris Gilliam
Sam Sicard

Department staff present:

Dr. Maria Markham, Director
Tara Smith, Deputy Director
Ann Clemmer, Senior Associate Director for Governmental Relations
Alisha Lewis, Associate Director of Communications
Lillian Williams, Program Specialist for Academic Affairs
Mason Campbell, Program Specialist for Academic Affairs
Nichole Abernathy, Executive Assistant

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

Chair Sherrel Johnson introduced new Coordinating Board members Al Brodell and Lori Griffin and welcomed them to their first official board meeting.

Johnson then introduced Dr. Robin Myers, President of ASUMH, for a welcome. Myers began by thanking everyone for coming to the Mountain Home campus of Arkansas State University. He then played an informative video and highlighted some of ASUMH's accomplishments.

Chair Johnson thanked Dr. Myers for his welcome.

Agenda Item No. 1
Approval of Minutes

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

Agenda Item No. 2
Appointment of Nominating Committee

Chair Sherrel Johnson appointed members of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board nominating committee. The nominating committee will recommend Board officers for 2018-19 at the January 26, 2018 meeting. The members included Sherrel Johnson (Chair), Al Brodell and Greg Revels.

Dr. Jim Carr moved to approve Agenda Item No. 2. Dr. Olin Cook seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 3
2018 Coordinating Board Meeting Schedule

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board meets quarterly to act upon Board initiatives and to respond to campus proposals.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board agrees to the following dates for regular quarterly meetings during 2018: January 26, April 20, July 27, and October 26.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board express its appreciation and accepts the invitations to meet in January and April at the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, in July at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville and in October at the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

Dr. Charles Allen moved to approve Agenda Item No. 3. Dr. Jim Carr seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 4
Director's Report

ADHE Staff Changes

Dr. Markham began by announcing a couple of new staff changes. Kevin Lewis began on August 14 as a new program specialist for the Career Pathways Initiative.

Willie Murdock began on August 28 as program director for the Career Pathways Initiative.

Dr. Marla Strecker's last day as senior associate director for Academic Affairs was August 31. Dr. Strecker transferred to Pulaski Technical College.

Paul Nation's last day as systems specialist for Research and Analytics was September 29. Paul retired.

Angela Lasiter's last day as program specialist for Special Projects was October 12. Angela transferred to Arkansas Tech University.

Institutional Leadership Changes

Markham announced that Stephanie Gardner, who served as senior vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), was named as interim chancellor at UAMS, effective July 31. Gardner succeeds Chancellor Dr. Dan Rahn.

Roger Moore, ASU-Beebe's vice chancellor for finance and administration and a 19-year veteran of the institution, was appointed as interim chancellor. Moore's appointment was following the resignation of Dr. Karla Fisher, who plans to pursue other opportunities in higher education.

In closing, Dr. Markham highlighted a few on-going agency projects.

Agenda Item No. 5
Arkansas Future Grant Program

In compliance with Act 1258 of 2015, the rules for the Arkansas Future Grant were presented for final adoption, pending approval of the ALC Administrative Rules and Regulations Committee.

In accordance with 316 of 2017, the Department of Higher Education promulgated rules to implement the Arkansas Future Grant. The Arkansas Future Grant, also known as ArFuture, will provide grants on a first come, first serve basis to students enrolling in a program of study that leads to an associate degree or a certification in a: science, technology, engineering, or mathematics field; or a regional high-demand field.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the rules and regulations presented in this agenda item for the Arkansas Future Grant Program, to be administered jointly by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education and approved Arkansas Institutions of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education or her designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections when necessary in the program rules for the Arkansas Future Grant Program.

There were no questions.

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

Agenda Item No. 6
Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship
Program Rules

In compliance with Act 1258 of 2015, the amendments to the Academic Challenge Scholarship Program rules and regulations were presented for final adoption, pending approval of the ALC Administrative Rules and Regulations Committee.

In accordance with Acts 315, 597, House Bill 2243 and Senate Bill 542 of 2017, the amendments to the Academic Challenge Scholarship Program include expanding the definition of a traditional student, allowing a recipient to use the scholarship towards a graduate-level or professional degree if the student has remaining eligibility, changes the eligibility requirement for a non-traditional applicant and clarifies continuing eligibility requirements for the scholarship.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the rules and regulations presented in this agenda item for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, to be administered jointly by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education and approved Arkansas Institutions of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education or her designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections when necessary in the program rules for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program.

There were no questions.

Dr. Olin Cook moved to approve the review of Agenda Item No. 6. Greg Revels seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 7
Productivity-Based Funding Model Policies

In compliance with Act 1258 of 2015, the three policies for the Productivity Funding Model were presented for final adoption, pending approval of the ALC Administrative Rules and Regulations Committee.

In accordance with Act 148 of 2017, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopted policies developed by the Department of Higher Education necessary to implement a productivity-based funding model for state-supported institutions of higher education. The agenda items included separate funding model policies for two-year institutions of higher education and four-year institutions of higher education and a

funding distribution policy. The policies will implement a productivity-based funding model for state-supported institutions of higher education.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the productivity funding policies described in this agenda item.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the productivity funding policies described in this agenda item will be used by the applicable state-supported institutions of higher education and the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to determine funding recommendations to be presented for consideration by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Chair Johnson commented, when discussing workforce training for funding purposes, it is non-credit only. Dr. Markham agreed.

Johnson asked, if ADHE finds unintended consequences in the formula, is there a method for correcting it and how soon would staff be able to make any corrections. Markham said the enacted legislation requires the board to review the model every five years; however, it gives the staff the authority to review it sooner if the Coordinating Board deems it necessary. Markham noted that any changes made to the policy would be subject to the review of Legislative Council.

Johnson asked if the staff has the authority to correct something that is specific to a particular institution. Markham said that depends. ADHE staff work closely with the institutions to correct data errors that are found.

Johnson asked if an institution has an appeal process. Markham said there is not an appeal process in place.

Dr. Olin Cook asked if ADHE staff are able to give an institution an idea of what they are doing right or wrong, before the five years are up. Markham said, yes. Staff are already working with the institutions to evaluate their data to see where their gaps are. As well as offering support to those institutions, said Markham.

Kevin Anderson said his concern is whether the new model is effective, fair and easy to understand. He asked Director Markham how complicated is the new model. Markham said the new model is simple to describe on a very high level. However, once you get down into the calculations, it is very complex. Depending on the level of detail you give and depending on your audience you are talking to, it can be very simple or very complex.

Anderson asked how student growth affects the formula and to what degree. Markham said student growth is only one way in which an institution can receive more productivity points. The more students you have, the more students you are likely to have graduate. However, there are a lot of other ways to increase an institutions productivity points, said Markham. Even with a level or declining student population, an institution can raise their productivity points by producing more of the types of degrees

that we need to see as a state. Graduating more adult, low income or minority students, can also increase an institutions productivity points.

Anderson voiced concern regarding the equality of the formula between two-year and four-year institutions and questioned whether they are competing for the same funds. Markham said that controls have been put in place to protect the institutions by limiting the amount of money they lose in any particular year. She also noted that the two-year and four-year institutions are contained in separate policies and have separate portions of the budget. Markham said the institutions are competing against their previous year's performance.

Greg Revels asked if an increase in enrollment changes the amount of funding an institution receives. Markham said, no. The funding is based on what the institutions do with the students once they are enrolled.

Tara Smith said that previously the model was based on enrollment and enrollment still can impact increases in productivity.

After further discussion, Chair Johnson expressed concern regarding the post-graduate metric and tracking. She asked ADHE staff to proceed very carefully as they figure out a way to measure post-graduation placement.

Greg Revels moved to approve Agenda Item No. 7. Dr. Olin Cook seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 8
Operating Recommendations
for 2018-19 Fiscal Year

A.C.A. §6-61-234 (Act 148 of 2017) directs the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) to adopt polices developed by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) necessary to implement a productivity-based funding model for state-supported institutions of higher education.

The individual institutional recommendations for all three types of institutions (Colleges, Universities and Non-Formula Entities) were determined in the following manner: The general revenue funds were recommended based upon productivity changes as determined by the productivity funding model policies and the ADHE staff determined the recommendations of the non-formula entities. The non-formula recommendations were based upon the justifications submitted by the non-formula entity. **The total recommendation for 2018-19 for Colleges and Universities is \$9,404,111 in new revenue. The total recommendation for 2018-19 for the Non-Formula Entities is \$38,303,024 in new revenue.**

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 2018-19 fiscal year as included in Tables A, B, C, D and E.

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 2018-19 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 asked how the non-credit workforce would effect this. Tara Smith said she is not sure yet how it will be affected.

Dr. Charles Allen moved to approve the review of Agenda Item No. 8. Lori Griffin seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 9 Prevention of Sexual Assault on Campus

Act 563, passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Asa Hutchinson during the 2017 Legislative Session, directs the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to develop a plan of action to address the prevention of sexual assault on our college and university campuses. The action plan will be presented to the Legislative Council no later than November 3, 2017.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the prevention of sexual assault on campus action plan as described in this agenda item in implementing the provisions of Act 563 of 2017.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall report on the status of the action plan annually to the chair of both House and Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor and the chair of both Senate and House Education Committees.

Chair Johnson asked if ADHE staff could determine who are committing sexual assaults on campus and keep up with the statistics. Ann Clemmer said that the institutions already provide this information.

Keven Anderson moved to approve the review of Agenda Item No. 9. Dr. Charles Allen seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 10
Personal Services Recommendations

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 or pay grades for all administrative, academic, and auxiliary positions at each Arkansas public institution of higher education are reviewed, and changes recommended.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the recommended number of positions, titles, and maximum salaries or pay grades for positions in academic, administrative, and auxiliary positions for the 2018-19 fiscal year 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 2018-19 fiscal year.

There were no questions.

Keven Anderson moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 10 to the full Board for consideration. Lori Griffin seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 11
Report of 2016-17 Intercollegiate Athletic
Revenues and Expenditures

Act 245 of 1989 (A.C.A. §6-62-106) directed the Coordinating Board to develop and establish uniform accounting standards and procedures for reporting revenues and expenditures. Based on these standard definitions and formats, the Coordinating Board is to collect the financial data and provide a uniform report of each institution's athletic revenues and expenditures for the previous fiscal year to the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee and the public by November of each year.

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

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board authorizes the Director to transmit the Report of 2016-17 Intercollegiate Athletic Revenues and Expenditures to the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee according to the provisions of A.C.A. §6-62-106.

Greg Revels clarified that the board is not approving the expenditures, merely approving the accounting for the expenditures. Tara Smith said that is correct.

Lori Griffin moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 11 to the full Board for consideration. Kevin Anderson seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 12
Economic Feasibility of Loan Issue
University of Arkansas Community College at Rich Mountain

The Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas acting for and on behalf of the University of Arkansas Community College at Rich Mountain (UA Rich Mountain) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to obtain a loan not to exceed \$825,000 with a term of five (5) years with the option to extend for three (3) more five (5) year terms. Annual interest rate for the first five (5) year term will be 2.0 percent and adjustable over the last three (3) periods if needed. UA Rich Mountain will also purchase a five (5) year Certificate of Deposit as collateral, paying 1.0 percent annually. The interest rate for the Certificate of Deposit will also be adjustable over the life of the loan. Effectively, the net loan rate will not exceed 1.0 percent for the life of the loan. Proceeds from the loan will be used for educational and general (E&G) purposes. The University of Arkansas Board of Trustees approved the economic feasibility of this project at its meeting on September 8, 2017.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas acting for and on behalf of the University of Arkansas Community College at Rich Mountain to obtain a loan of \$825,000 with a term of 5 years with the option to extend for three additional five year terms, at a maximum annual interest rate not to exceed a net of 1.00 percent of the earnings on the Certificate of Deposit for the purpose of the renovation of existing space.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to notify the President and the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas and the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas Community College at Rich Mountain of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

There were no questions.

Keven Anderson moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 12 to the full Board for consideration. Lori Griffin seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 13
Economic Feasibility of Loan Issue
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

The Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas acting on or on behalf of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to obtain a loan not to exceed \$30.0 million with a term of up to ten (10) years at an annual interest rate not to exceed 5.0 percent. Proceeds from the loan will be used for auxiliary purposes. The University of Arkansas Board of Trustees approved this financing at its meeting on September 8, 2017. This is loan one of two approved by the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees resolution. The second loan will be issued in approximately 12 months and will include another economic feasibility of debt issuance analysis.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas acting for and on behalf of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences to obtain a loan up to \$30.0 million with a term of 10 years at a maximum annual interest rate of 5.0 percent for the purpose of capital renewal and deferred maintenance.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to notify the President and the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas and the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

There were no questions.

Keven Anderson moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 13 to the full Board for consideration. Lori Griffin seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 14
Certificate of Proficiency in Agriculture Business
Certificate of Proficiency in Animal Science
Certificate of Proficiency in Plant Science
Certificate of Proficiency in Soil Science
Technical Certificate in Agriculture Technology
Associate of Science in Agriculture Technology
University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville

The proposed Certificate of Proficiency in Agricultural Business is comprised of nine credit hours. The proposed program introduces students to the structure and organization of agribusiness, agricultural history, and the principles of microeconomic theory. Students will learn to interpret graphs and use economic theory to explain agricultural market behavior.

The proposed Certificate of Proficiency in Animal Science is comprised of nine credit hours. The proposed program is a study of animals that provide food, fiber, and companionship to humankind, including the history and scope of animal agriculture, products produced from animals, reproduction, breeding and genetics, nutrients and digestion, lactation, behavior, and an overview of reproductive systems.

The proposed Certificate of Proficiency in Plant Science is comprised of nine credit hours. The proposed program introduces students to agronomic and horticultural cropping systems including crop growth and development, crop physiology, crop ecology, environmental considerations, and production and protection practices. Students will learn to interpret the role of plants in our environment and society, as well as explore ecosystems. Students will also learn the basic principles of plant production, management, and their impact on the environment.

The proposed Certificate of Proficiency in Soil Science is comprised of nine credit hours. The proposed program introduces students to the origin, classification, physical and chemical properties of soil, and environmental considerations. Students will learn about the nutrient cycles and nutrient management in reference to sustainable agriculture.

The Technical Certificate in Agriculture Technology is 24 credit hours that allows the student to explore the four diverse content areas in the Certificates of Proficiency in Agricultural Business, Animal Science, Plant Science, and Soil Science. The certificate program includes a “making connections in agriculture” course and nine hours of general education.

The Associate of Science in Agriculture Technology is 60 credit hours designed to provide students diverse skillsets necessary to work in various sectors of the agriculture industry. Graduates will be prepared to work in the agriculture industry to transfer successfully into a four-year program in agriculture or a related field. The 24 credit hours in the Technical Certificate in Agriculture Technology are completely transferable to the AAS in Agriculture Technology. UACCB has received requests from students, school district administrators, area agriculture businesses, agricultural organizations (such as Future Farmers of America and the Independence County Cattleman’s Association), and four-year universities for an agriculture program. UACCB and Arkansas State University have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the proposed AS in Agriculture Technology to transfer to ASU’s Bachelor of Science in Agriculture.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Certificate of Proficiency in Soil Science (CIP 01.1201; 9 credit hours); Certificate of Proficiency in Plant Science (CIP 01.1101; 9 credit hours); Certificate of Proficiency in Animal Science (CIP 01.0101; 9 credit hours); Certificate of Proficiency in Agricultural Business (CIP 01.0901; 9 credit hours); Technical Certificate in Agriculture Technology (CIP 01.0000; 24 credit hours); and the Associate of Science in Agriculture Technology (CIP 01.0000; 60 credit hours) offered by the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville, effective Spring 2018.

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 University of Arkansas System and the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville of the approval.

Dr. Jim Carr asked if there are other institutions that offer similar programs. Lillian Williams said yes.

Dr. Carr asked if ADHE staff was confident that there is enough student demand for the program. Ms. Williams said yes.

Agenda Item No. 15
Master of Science in Athletic Training
University of Central Arkansas

The proposed Master of Science (MS) in Athletic Training is a 59 semester credit hour program that includes 14 credit hours of clinical experiences. Students complete five semesters of continuous clinical education under the direction and supervision of clinical preceptors and program faculty. The two-year program will prepare graduates with the knowledge and skills needed to practice effectively as certified athletic trainers. Athletic training is one of the nation's emerging health care fields and is recognized by the American Medical Association (AMA). An athletic trainer is educated and experienced in the prevention, treatment, and management of the health care needs of physically active individuals. The athletic trainer, along with physicians and other health care professionals, functions as an integral member of the health care team. Upon successful completion of the program and degree, graduates will be eligible to sit for the Board of Certification (BOC) examination for the athletic trainer.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Science in Athletic Training (CIP 51.0913; 59 credit hours) offered by the University of Central Arkansas, effective Summer 2018.

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 University of Central Arkansas of the approval. Program continuation is contingent on UCA meeting and maintaining program accreditation requirements of the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE).

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 16
Institutional Certification Advisory Committee

Initial Program Certification-Distance Technology

RESOLVED, That pursuant to A.C.A. §6-61-301, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants initial certification to the institutions listed on pages 1 - 4 to

offer the specified degree programs to Arkansas residents for a period of three years through December 31, 2020.

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 A.C.A. §6-61-301.

- Bluff Cliff College, Alexandria, Louisiana
- Bryan University, Springfield, Missouri
- Chamberlain University, Downers Grove, Illinois
- Northcentral University, San Diego, California
- Remington College, Little Rock, Arkansas
- Simmons College, Boston, Massachusetts
- Vista College, Richardson, Texas

New Institution – Distance Technology

- University of the People, Pasadena, California

Institutional Planning and Development to Establish an Arkansas Independent College to Offer Undergraduate Degrees

- Proposed Champion Christian College, Hot Springs, Arkansas

RESOLVED, That pursuant to A.C.A. §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 Champion Christian College in Hot Springs, Arkansas, to offer undergraduate degrees. This certification for institutional planning and development is for a period of three years through December 31, 2020, which requires Champion Christian 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). Champion Christian College must first obtain AHECB

authorization/recognition as an Arkansas independent institution of higher education before offering undergraduate degrees.

AHECB authorization/recognition is contingent on the proposed Champion Christian College, Hot Springs, Arkansas, obtaining and maintaining institutional accreditation from an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of ADHE is authorized to notify the Board of Directors and administration of the proposed Champion Christian College, Hot Springs, 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 ADHE 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 Champion Christian College, Hot Springs, Arkansas, that any advertisement or published materials using the name of the AHECB or ADHE must contain the following statement:

Champion Christian 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 A.C.A. §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.

Mrs. Claudia Kemp, Dean of Academics and Associate Professor at Champion Christian College gave a brief overview of the institution.

Dr. Jim Carr asked how many out-of-state institutions are operating in Arkansas. Ann Clemmer said a lot.

Dr. Olin Cook moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Items No. 14 – 16 to the full Board for consideration. Al Brodell seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Items No. 17 & 18
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 17-1 through 17-133 and in the Letters of Intent on pages 18-1 through 18-8 of the agenda book.

AI Brodell asked how many letters of notification were received. Lillian Williams said, 123.

Dr. Trey Berry, President of Southern Arkansas University discussed the institution's role and scope change request. Berry said SAU has done extensive research in this area, noting that this will be the first education doctoral degree south of Little Rock.

Chair Johnson asked why rural studies. Dr. Berry said because of the unique demographic in South Arkansas. Also, the rural school districts face unique challenges that he believes this program will address.

Dr. Jim Carr asked what is the expected enrollment. Based on the feedback received, Dr. Berry said he believes it will be higher than anticipated.

Dr. Markham reminded everyone that this is just the first step in a long process. If everything goes as planned, SAU could receive approval in 2019.

AI Brodell asked what the role and scope change would mean for subsequent doctoral programs. Dr. Markham said, once the role and scope change is approved, SAU can then add additional doctoral degrees. Currently, they are not allowed to offer anything above a Master's degree program. Markham said future doctoral degrees would not have to go through as vigorous a vetting process as the role and scope change.

Chair Johnson requested a report of all the academic programs the AHECB has approved, including enrollment and the status of the programs, through Spring 2017.

Report of the Committees

Greg Revels presented the report of the Finance Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 10 - 13. The board approved.

Dr. Charles Allen presented the report of the Academic Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 14 - 16. The board approved.

Remarks by Presidents and Chancellors

Chair Johnson announced that the Arkansas Department of Higher Education would host the next Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board meeting at their offices on January 26, 2018.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

Dr. Michael Stanton, Secretary