

Minutes of Presidents Council Meeting
January 6, 2026

The Presidents Council met at 11:00 a.m. on January 6, 2026, via conference call. Executive Council members present by phone were Houston Davis (co-chair), Jennifer Methvin (co-chair), Tyrone Jackson, Brian Shonk, Wade Derden, Terisa Riley and Charles Robinson. Todd Shields was unable to attend.

Brian Shonk moved to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2025, meeting. Teris Riley seconded, and the council unanimously concurred.

Review of AHECB Agenda

Presidents Council members reviewed the agenda items for the January 23, 2026, Coordinating Board meeting. The finance section included the Annual Higher Education Financial Condition Report, Maintenance Report, Recommendation for Educational and General Operations for State-Supported Institutions, Personal Services Recommendations and Economic Feasibilities for Southern Arkansas University and Arkansas State University-Jonesboro.

The academic section included: Technical Certificate in Precision Agriculture, Certificate of Proficiency in Precision Agriculture by Arkansas State University-Beebe; Associate of Applied Science in Farm and Ranch Management, Technical Certificate in Precision Agriculture, Certificate of Proficiency in Agriculture Drone Technology by the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville; Arkansas Public Institutions Letters of Notification and Letters of Intent; Out-of-State and Arkansas Private Institutions, and the Out-of-State and Arkansas Private Institutions Letters of Notification and Letters of Intent.

The Report on the AHECB Nominating Committee for 2026-27 Board Officers and Reimbursement of Expenses for Members of the AHECB and ICAC, were also on the agenda.

Jennifer Methvin moved to approve the review of the agenda for the January 23, 2026, AHECB meeting. Tyrone Jackson seconded, and the council unanimously concurred.

Information Items

Commissioner Warden reported that due to the reduced number of AHECB members, the order of the agenda for the Coordinating Board meeting would be revised to reflect the discontinuation of committee meetings. We are still awaiting guidance from the administration regarding the higher education rules that were passed in July. As soon as they are approved, we will be prepared to implement them immediately, said Warden. The RFPs for faculty credentials are due January 16. We look forward to evaluating the responses and identifying a path forward.

He also stated that President Jay Silveria would provide a UA System overview during the quarterly board meeting.

Announcements

The Council members agreed to cancel the February 3 and March 3 meetings. The next Presidents Council meeting will be April 7, 2026.

The next AHECB will be on Friday, January 23, 2026, at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.