

Minutes of Presidents Council Meeting
January 9, 2018

The Presidents Council met at 11:00 a.m. on January 9, 2018, at the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) in the first floor boardroom. Executive Council members present were Charles Welch (co-chair), Debra West, Laurence Alexander, Donald Bobbitt and Evelyn Jorgenson. Steve Rook (co-chair), Jim Shemwell and Glen Jones were unable to attend. New Council members Karla Hughes and Houston Davis also participated in the meeting.

Staff members present were Director Maria Markham, Nick Fuller, Lillian Williams and Nichole Abernathy.

Debra West moved to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2017 meeting. Laurence Alexander seconded and the council unanimously concurred.

Review of AHECB Agenda

Presidents Council members reviewed the agenda items for the January 26, 2018 Coordinating Board meeting. The finance agenda included the Economic Feasibilities for Arkansas State University-Jonesboro and Arkansas State University Mid-South, and the Annual Higher Education Financial Condition Report.

The academic agenda included a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and Criminology by Arkansas Tech University, Master of Science in Education in K-12 Literacy by Arkansas Tech University, Associate of Applied Science in Forest Harvesting Technician by Southern Arkansas University – Tech, Certificate of Proficiency in Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVAC/R) Technology and Technical Certificate in Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVAC/R) Technology by the University of Arkansas at Monticello, Nurse Anesthesia Option in the Doctor of Nursing Practice by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and the Certificate of Proficiency in Stick Welding (SMAW), Certificate of Proficiency in MIG Welding (GMAW), Certificate of Proficiency in TIG Welding (GTAW), Technical Certificate and Associate of Applied Science in Welding Technology by Ozarka College.

The 2017 Fall and 2017 Annual Enrollment Report, Annual Report on Institutional Certification, Governor's Scholars Program, Teacher Opportunity Program, Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship and Review of Audit Report, were also included.

There were no questions.

Houston Davis moved to approve the review of the agenda for the January 26, 2018 AHECB meeting. Evelyn Jorgenson seconded and the council unanimously concurred.

Information Items

Tuition Challenge

Dr. Markham explained that Governor Asa Hutchinson challenged four-year universities to freeze in-state tuition at its current levels for the 2018-19 academic year. She noted that this is purely a challenge – not a mandate. The Governor also requested that two-year colleges limit their increases to the Consumer Price Index or below.

Budget Hearings

Markham reminded presidents and chancellors that the Joint Budget Committee Pre-Fiscal Session Budget hearings would take place on Thursday, January 11 at 1:00 p.m. Institutions are not expected to give a presentation; however, they are expected to have a representative available to answer questions, said Markham.

Funding Model Metric

ADHE is making progress on two of the funding model metrics. The noncredit workforce metric and the post completion success metric groups have been meeting and making progress. The noncredit workforce metric's amended policy will be on the April Board meeting agenda.

Higher Education Class and Compensation

Initially, ADHE took the old Higher Education Class and Compensation Act and rolled it over to higher education without making any changes. However, there was always an expectation that ADHE would reevaluate things to fit higher education a little more specifically, said Markham. ADHE staff will start making improvements going into the regular session this fall.

Announcements

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) will meet at the Arkansas Department of Higher Education on January 26, 2018.

The Council members agreed to cancel the February 6 and March 6 meetings. The next Presidents Council meeting will be April 3, 2018.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.