

Minutes of Presidents Council Meeting
January 9, 2024

The Presidents Council met at 11:00 a.m. on January 9, 2024, via conference call. Executive Council members present by phone call were Charles Welch (co-chair), Christine Holt (co-chair), Dennis Rittle, Charles Robinson, Summer DeProw, Peggy Doss and Houston Davis. Johnny Moore was unable to participate.

Houston Davis moved to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2023, meeting. Dennis Rittle seconded, and the council unanimously concurred.

Review of AHECB Agenda

Presidents Council members reviewed the agenda items for the January 26, 2024, Coordinating Board meeting. The finance agenda included the Annual Higher Education Financial Condition Report, Institutional Personnel Recommendations and the Maintenance Report.

The academic agenda included: Master of Music in Music Education by Arkansas Tech University; Master of Science in Counseling by Arkansas Tech University; Technical Certificate in Skilled Trades by Ozarka College; Certificate of Proficiency and Technical Certificate in Automotive/Diesel Mechanics by the University of Arkansas Community College at Rich Mountain; Technical Certificate in Paramedic by the University of Arkansas Community College at Rich Mountain; Institutional Certification Advisory Committee Report; and the Letters of Notification and Intent.

The Annual Fall Enrollment Report, Annual Report on Institutional Certification, Academic Program Review and Viability Report, and Minimum Core Curriculum of High School Courses Recommended for Preparation for Higher Education and LEARNS Career-ready Pathway, were also on the agenda.

There were no questions.

Peggy Doss moved to approve the review of the agenda for the January 27, AHECB meeting. Houston Davis seconded, and the council unanimously concurred.

Information Items

Commissioner Warden announced that ADHE would have an orientation for the new AHECB members on January 25 at National Park College.

Warden said the new Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form that was released in December 2023, had several technical issues. These issues are delaying the processing of applications and preventing colleges and universities from sending aid packages to students. Warden announced that ADHE would work with institutions to identify students that have completed the FAFSA so their aid can be processed.

Houston Davis said the FAFSA problem will be a huge public policy issue for years.

Announcements

Dennis Rittle thanked Charles Welch for his service to the Executive Council of the Presidents Council.

The Council members agreed to cancel the February 6 and March 5 meetings. The next Presidents Council meeting will be April 2, 2024.

The next AHECB will be on Friday, January 26, 2024, at National Park College in Hot Springs.

The Annual Trustees Conference will be held at the University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College in North Little Rock on Tuesday, March 26, 2024.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.