

**ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD**  
**Regular Quarterly Meeting**  
**January 26, 2024**

**Minutes of Meeting**

The January 26, 2024, regular meeting of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) was held at National Park College in Hot Springs. Chair Graycen Bigger called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., with a quorum present.

Coordinating Board present:

Graycen Bigger, Chair  
Dr. Jim Carr  
Dr. Jerry Cash  
Dr. Katherine Dudley  
Kelley Erstine  
Heather Maxey  
Dr. Kyle Miller (via Zoom)  
Lucas Pointer  
Carolyn Rhinehart

Coordinating Board absent:

Chad Hooten

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

Chair Bigger began by welcoming new AHECB members Dr. Katherine Dudley and Heather Maxey to their first Coordinating Board meeting. She then welcomed Representative Richard McGrew and Gary Troutman, president and CEO of the Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce and Hot Springs Metro Partnership.

Chair Bigger introduced former AHECB member, Al Brodell and presented him with a plaque for his years of dedicated service to the Coordinating Board.

Next, Chair Bigger called on President John Hogan for a welcome. Dr. Hogan began by welcoming Coordinating Board members to National Park College (NPC) and then shared information about NPC. He noted that NPC earned a perfect score on their Higher Learning Commission (HLC) regional accreditation visit, in November of 2021.

Agenda Item No. 1  
Annual Higher Education Financial Condition Report

Nick Fuller presented the Annual Higher Education Financial Condition Report. The purpose of this report is to describe the financial condition as well as the difficulties and challenges experienced by Arkansas's Public Institutions of Higher Education. It is recommended that ADHE continue to work with institutions to monitor and refine the Productivity Funding Model policies to ensure adequate funding is available to meet

student needs, innovation is encouraged, and that the policies continue to respond to attainment goals and priorities of the state. AHECB, ADHE and institutions of higher education work with the legislature toward alignment of institutional funding policies, state financial aid policies, and tuition policies in a way that prioritizes higher education affordability.

Dr. Jim Carr asked what the starting salary for K-12 teachers is for this year. Fuller said he did not know. The SREB data is still lagging.

### Agenda Item No. 2 Maintenance Report

The AHECB policy for maintenance of new facilities passed October 29, 2010, states that a report on the amount transferred to plant funds would be presented annually at the October Board meeting. This policy was proposed to ensure that in the future, all newly constructed or purchased facilities would have a source of funding for maintenance of the new facility. Institutions seeking approval of a loan or a bond issue for the construction or purchase of a new facility must provide for the maintenance of that facility by transferring annually to plant funds an amount as recommended by the Association of Physical Plant Administrators of Universities and Colleges (APPA). This is currently \$2.50 per gross square foot for an educational and general facility or \$1.25 per gross square foot for an auxiliary facility. A lower rate per gross square foot for a specific building/facility can be approved with appropriate justification.

There were no questions.

### Agenda Item No. 3 Institutional Personnel 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 for all non-classified administrative, academic, and auxiliary positions at each Arkansas public institution of higher education have been reviewed, and changes are recommended.

Institutions of higher education, apart from UAMS, have 27,022 positions currently authorized. For the 2024-25 Fiscal Year, institutions requested an increase of 129 positions and the deletion of 112 positions, for a net new request of 17 positions. ADHE staff recommends this net increase of 17 positions, for a total recommendation of 27,039 positions (a 0.1 percent increase). UAMS currently has 11,974 authorized positions and their submission for changes reflects a net zero (0) change. ADHE staff recommends the current level of 11,974 positions.

**RESOLVED,** That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the recommended number of positions, titles, and maximum

salaries for non-classified positions in academic, administrative, and auxiliary positions for the 2024-25 fiscal year as recommended by staff.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education is authorized to make technical corrections consistent with Coordinating Board action.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Coordinating Board requests the Commissioner to transmit the Personal Services recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly for consideration for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

There were no questions.

Lucas Pointer moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 3 to the full Board for consideration. Heather Maxey seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 4  
Master of Music in Music Education  
Arkansas Tech University

The proposed self-paced, 100% online Master of Music in Music Education program is designed to allow currently employed music educators to further their education, while maintaining employment in their current K-12 teaching position. The proposed program reflects a practice-oriented curriculum emphasizing the extension of specialized performance and pedagogy competencies for music teachers.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the offering of the Master of Music in Music Education (CIP 13.1312) at Arkansas Tech University, effective Summer 2024.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to inform the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Arkansas Tech University of the approval.

Dr. Jeff Bright, head of the Department of Music and Professor of Music, presented additional background information.

Chair Bigger said that after digging into this proposal, she did not find any formal letters of support and asked who the survey respondents were. She also noted that 36% of survey respondents said they are not interested in a graduate program.

Dr. Bright said most of the respondents were ATU alumni that are interested in the program.

Chair Bigger asked if schools are asking for more teachers with a master's degree and are they having problems finding them. Dr. Bright said he believes the rural schools are having problems finding highly qualified teachers.

Dr. Jim Carr said he had reservations until he read that the entire program is only going to cost \$6500. Dr. Bright said that is correct.

Commissioner warden commended Dr. Bright and ATU for finding a low-cost way to support a graduate degree program by using existing faculty and resources.

Carolyn Rhinehart moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 4 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Jim Carr seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Dr. Patricia Poulter, UCA Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs, congratulated Dr. Bright on the program's approval and stated that the program approval process worked exactly like it should. UCA was able to raise concerns about this program and Dr. Bright was able to successfully address them.

Agenda Item No. 5  
Master of Science in Counseling  
Arkansas Tech University

The proposed, 60 credit-hour Master of Science in Counseling provides graduate-level instruction in counseling theory, individual and group facilitation skills, psychopharmacologic and psychiatric rehabilitation, research and assessment competencies, ethics, evidence-based decision making, diversity, equity, inclusion and social justice practices. Additionally, students are required to complete a 100 clock-hour preprofessional practicum with 40 direct client contact hours and a 600 clock-hour pre-professional internship with 240 direct client contact hours.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the offering of the Master of Science in Counseling (CIP 42.2899) at Arkansas Tech University, effective Summer 2024.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to inform the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Arkansas Tech University of the approval.

Dr. Tim Carter, Dean; Dr. Erica Wondolowski, Program Director, and Associate Professor of Rehabilitation Science; and Dr. Robert Stevens, Graduate Coordinator and Associate Professor of Rehabilitation Science, presented additional background information.

Dr. Jim Carr voiced concerns over the number of institutions in Arkansas that already provide a similar program, including the University of Arkansas. Carr asked if there is a need for a sixth program in Arkansas.

Dr. Carter said he believes there is a need. He said he is concerned about the shortage areas.

Dr. Carr asked if there was anyone from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville that would like to address the board.

Dr. Terry Martin, UAF Provost, said he did not believe ATU's response addressed their concerns. Dr. Carter said he does believe the need for these positions will increase within the next eight years.

Commissioner Warden said that it is extremely difficult to recruit individuals with these credentials. He said having lived in the river valley area most of his life, he knows there is a shortage there.

Chair Bigger said the full program did receive several letters of support.

Carolyn Rhinehart moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 5 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Katherine Dudley seconded, and the committee approved with Dr. Jim Carr opposed.

Agenda Item No. 6  
Technical Certificate in Skilled Trades  
Certificate of Proficiency in Basic Construction & HVAC  
Certificate of Proficiency in Basic Electrical & Plumbing  
Ozarka College

The administration and Board of Trustees of Ozarka College (OZC) request approval to offer the Technical Certificate in Skilled Trades, Certificate of Proficiency in Basic Construction & HVAC, and the Certificate of Proficiency in Basic Electrical & Plumbing, effective Fall 2024. Ozarka College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and the proposed program is within the role and scope established for the institution. The Ozarka College Board of Trustees approved the program on September 25, 2023.

The proposed, 30 credit-hour Technical Certificate in Skilled Trades incorporates basic skills in HVAC, Electrical, Plumbing, and General Construction. It is designed to help students become more qualified for entry-level positions in the above-mentioned areas, thus giving them a competitive advantage. The program will help expand the strategic initiatives of the Ozarka College by providing a robust variety of job-ready training opportunities that meet the needs of the College's educational and industry partners in its communities.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the offering of the Technical Certificate in Skilled Trades (CIP 46.0000), Certificate of Proficiency in Basic Construction & HVAC (CIP

46.0000), and the Certificate of Proficiency in Basic Electrical & Plumbing (CIP 46.0000) at Ozarka College, effective Fall 2024.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to inform the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Ozarka College of the approval.

Dr. Chris Lorch, Provost, provided additional information.

Chair Bigger noted that in her role as an Economic Development partner to Ozarka College's Ashflat campus, she provided a letter of recommendation for this program.

Dr. Jim Carr moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 6 to the full Board for consideration. Carolyn Rhinehart seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 7  
Certificate of Proficiency and Technical Certificate  
in Automotive/Diesel Mechanics  
University of Arkansas Community College Rich Mountain

The administration and Board of Trustees of University of Arkansas Community College Rich Mountain (UACCRM) request approval to offer the Technical Certificate in Automotive/Diesel Mechanics, Certificate of Proficiency in Brakes, Suspension, and Steering, Certificate of Proficiency in Electrical Systems and Engine Performance, and the Certificate of Proficiency in Engine Repair and Climate Control, effective Fall 2024. The University of Arkansas Community College Rich Mountain is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and the proposed program is within the role and scope established for the institution. The University of Arkansas System Board of Trustees approved the program on November 15, 2023.

The proposed program intends to provide the necessary education and skills training for a student to gain employment in the area of automotive/diesel mechanics. This program will offer students four credentials, two 8 credit-hour Certificates of Proficiency, a 12 credit-hour Certificate of Proficiency, and a 31 credit-hour Technical Certificate. The embedded structure of this curriculum is designed to encourage employment at the earliest opportunity possible. The proposed program will also be incorporated in the career center offerings for concurrent students.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the offering of the Technical Certificate in Automotive/Diesel Mechanics (CIP 47.0600), Certificate of Proficiency in Brakes, Suspension, and Steering (CIP 47.0600), Certificate of Proficiency in Electrical Systems and Engine Performance (CIP 47.0600), and the Certificate of Proficiency in Engine Repair and Climate Control (CIP 47.0600) at the University of Arkansas Community College Rich Mountain, effective Fall 2024.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to inform the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas Community College Rich Mountain and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System of the approval.

Dr. Krystal Thrailkill, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs, provided additional information.

Chair Bigger asked if the proposal included any salary information for potential graduates. Dr. Thrailkill said the salary would range from \$28,000 to \$59,000.

Dr. Jim Carr moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 7 to the full Board for consideration. Carolyn Rhinehart seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 8  
Technical Certificate in Paramedic  
University of Arkansas Community College Rich Mountain

The administration and Board of Trustees of University of Arkansas Community College Rich Mountain (UACCRM) request approval to offer the Technical Certificate in Paramedic, effective Fall 2024. The University of Arkansas Community College Rich Mountain is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and the proposed program is within the role and scope established for the institution. The University of Arkansas System Board of Trustees approved the program on November 15, 2023.

The proposed Technical Certificate in Paramedic will train professionals to provide advanced emergency medical care for patients in need of emergent treatment. The certificate program will prepare students with the complex knowledge and skills needed to provide all stages of patient care to link the patient at the scene of an incident with the nearest medical center.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the offering of the Technical Certificate in Paramedic (CIP 51.0904) at the University of Arkansas Community College Rich Mountain, effective Fall 2024.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to inform the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas Community College Rich Mountain and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System of the approval.

Dr. Kyle Carpenter, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, provided additional information.

Dr. Jerry Cash asked if UACCRM partners with any hospitals. Dr. Carpenter said they work with the Mena Regional Health Systems and Healthy Connections.

Chair Bigger commented that one of the largest employers in the county is an ambulance service. Dr. Carpenter said the ambulance service has widespread reach and services five counties.

Carolyn Rhinehart moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 8 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Katherine Dudley seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 9  
Institutional Certification Advisory Committee

**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 - 2 to offer the specified degree programs to Arkansas residents for a period of three years through December 31, 2027.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division 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 Division 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 Commissioner 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 Division 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.

**Initial Program Certifications – Distance Technology**

Los Angeles Film School, Hollywood, California  
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California

**New Institution – Distance Technology**

Aspen University, Phoenix, Arizona



Dr. Jerry Cash asked if these programs were distance programs. Ms. Alana Colburn said, yes.

Dr. Jim Carr questioned why the Alice Walton School of Medicine is listed under private institutions. Ms. Alana Colburn explained that institutions are classified as either two- and four-year public institutions or as private institutions.

Carolyn Rhinehart moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 9 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Jim Carr seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Items No. 10 & 11  
Letters of Notification and Letters of Intent

The Director of the Arkansas Division 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 10-1 through 10-43 and in the Letters of Intent on pages 11-1 through 11-4 of the agenda book.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 12  
Approval of Minutes

Dr. Jim Carr moved to approve Agenda Item No. 12. Dr. Jerry Cash seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 13  
Report of Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee (Chair Dr. Jim Carr and Dr. Jerry Cash) recommended the following slate of Board officers for 2024-2025.

Chair – Graycen Bigger  
Vice Chair – Dr. Jerry Cash  
Secretary/Treasurer – Dr. Kyle Miller  
Finance Committee Chair – Kelley Erstine  
Academic Committee Chair – Dr. Jim Carr

Carolyn Rhinehart moved to accept the 2024-2025 nominations. Lucas Pointer seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 14  
Reimbursement of Expenses for  
Members of the AHECB and ICAC

Although members of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board and its Institutional Certification Advisory Committee (ICAC) by law serve without compensation, they may receive expense reimbursement for performing official board duties after following certain procedures set out by Act 1211 of 1995 (A.C.A. §25-16-901 et seq.).

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board, by a majority vote of its total membership, authorizes expense reimbursement for each board member and member of the ICAC for performing official board duties.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the expense reimbursement shall not exceed the rate established for state employees by state travel regulations.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Division of Higher Education to send a copy of this resolution to the Department of Finance and Administration to notify that agency of compliance with Act 1211 of 1995.

Dr. Jerry Cash moved to approve Agenda Item No. 14. Kelley Erstine seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 15  
State Board of Higher Education Foundation  
Election of Supervisory Committee

The State Board of Higher Education Foundation was established on May 2, 1992. The Board for the Foundation includes three annually elected members: a president, a vice president and a secretary/treasurer. The Foundation was established to accept private funds for specific projects for the benefit of higher education in Arkansas. The terms of the current members have lapsed, requiring a re-election or new appointments.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves and elects members to serve as the State Board of Higher Education Foundation Supervisory Committee as follows:

Dr. Jim Carr – President  
Chad Hooten – Vice President  
Dr. Kyle Miller – Secretary/Treasurer

Dr. Katherine Dudley moved to approve Agenda Item No. 15. Dr. Jerry Cash seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 16  
Commissioner's Report

*ADHE Staffing Changes*

David John – Financial Aid Program Specialist, began on December 4, 2023  
Lozanne Calhoun – Financial Aid Program Specialist, began on December 18, 2023  
Katie Matthews – EngageAR Program Officer, began on January 2, 2024  
Zoe Tollette – EngageAR Program Officer, began on January 2, 2024  
Brinda Berry – Perkins Federal Program Coordinator, retired on December 29, 2023

*Institutional Changes*

Arkadelphia native and longtime higher education administrator Dr. Trey Berry was appointed Henderson State University's next chancellor, effective Jan. 1, 2024.

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities announced that Dr. Chuck Welch will become its new president and chief executive officer effective Jan. 15, 2024.

The Arkansas State University System Board of Trustees voted to name Dr. Robin Myers, chancellor emeritus at ASU-Mountain Home, to serve as interim system president effective Jan. 15. Myers, who retired in July after 11 years as chancellor of ASU-Mountain Home, will not be a candidate for the permanent position.

Dr. Jerry Thomas has been selected as the new Southern Arkansas University Tech chancellor, effective January 10, 2024. Thomas is currently the vice president for academic affairs at National Park College.

Steven Bloomberg has been hired as chancellor of the Kern Community College District in California and will leave SEARK after six years as the president.

Southeast Arkansas College Provost Stacy Pfluger will take over as interim president after Steven Bloomberg steps down from the full-time role Feb. 16.

*Concurrent Report Update*

Mason Campbell explained that in Spring of 2023, ADHE partnered with Complete College America to pull together a state-wide concurrent enrollment stakeholder group to evaluate policies and practices and to develop a menu of potential state policy recommendations that might broaden access to high quality concurrent enrollment. The full report is available on the ADHE website.

*FAFSA Update*

Alisha Lewis explained that the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form is an application for federal student aid. You need to complete the FAFSA form to apply for federal student aid such as federal grants, work-study funds, and loans. Completing and submitting the FAFSA form is free and easier than ever, and it gives

you access to federal student aid—the largest source of aid— to help you pay for college or career/trade school. Several states and colleges use your FAFSA information to determine your eligibility for state and school aid. Some private aid providers may use your FAFSA information to determine whether you qualify for their aid.

Lewis said the new FAFSA form that was released in December 2023, had several technical issues that are delaying the application process and preventing colleges and universities from sending aid packages to students. ADHE is currently working with institutions to conditionally award students that are having issues completing the FAFSA.

Agenda Item No. 17  
Annual Report on Institutional Certification

Alana Colburn presented an update on the number of Arkansas residents pursuing academic degrees offered by out-of-state and for-profit institutions certified to operate in Arkansas under Arkansas Code Annotated §6-61-301.

Boles reported that in 2022-23, 9 Arkansas campuses, 33 institutions with programs delivered only through distance technology, 5 institutions offering programs both on Arkansas campuses and through distance technology and 4 institutions offering programs only on an Arkansas campus, were certified under ICAC rules.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 18  
Report on Academic Program Viability

Mason Campbell presented a summary report on academic programs reviewed by the institutions for program viability purposes. ADHE staff annually identify existing certificate and degree programs that do not meet AHECB program viability standards. New certificates and associate degrees will be identified for program viability standards after three years, and bachelor's degrees and above will be identified after five years.

Dr. Jerry Cash asked if a non-viable program is resubmitted by an institution, do they have to re-submit a program proposal as well. Mason Campbell said they do. If an institution deletes a program for any reason, they will have to go through the new program process.

Chair Bigger said she is glad that staff are reviewing these programs on an annual basis.

Agenda Item No. 19  
Minimum Core Curriculum of High School Courses  
Recommended for Preparation for Higher Education

Mason Campbell reported that in 1989, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopted the Minimum Core of High School Courses Recommended for Higher

Education as mandated by A.C.A. § 6-61-217. The Board has since revised the list of high school courses, as allowed by A.C.A. § 6-61-217.

The intent of this agenda item is to align the minimum core of high school courses recommended for preparation for college with current college mathematics pathways. Changes in both higher education and high school mathematics course options merit this revision.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the revision of the Minimum Core Curriculum of High School Courses Recommended for Higher Education adopted on January 2024.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board directs the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to consult with the Secretary of Education and State Board of Education to distribute to students in the public schools of Arkansas as provided by A.C.A. 6-61-217.

Dr. Jim Carr questioned whether the board could strongly encourage all high school seniors to take the most rigorous course work they can instead of the minimum. He noted that statistics show the more rigorous courses students take in high school, the better their ACT and SAT scores are.

Commissioner Warden commented that the LEARNS pathway group is developing a career ready pathway where a high school diploma and a career diploma are both challenging. Warden recognized Ross White, the director of Career and Technical Education, for the work they are doing as well.

Carolyn Rhinehart moved to approve Agenda Item No. 18. Dr. Jim Carr seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

#### Agenda Item No. 20 Fall Annual Enrollment Report

Sonia Hazelwood presented summary and detailed information about annual student enrollment. She noted the total unduplicated headcount for the fall 2023 term in all sectors of Arkansas higher education, including public universities, public colleges, private/independent colleges and universities, and nursing schools was 150,786 students, representing an increase of 2.0% from the fall 2022 term. Fall headcount is slowly recovering from the considerable drop in headcount caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, but still has not reached the pre-pandemic headcount of 156,069 reported in fall 2019. Of the 150,786 students enrolled in fall 2023, 1,531 students enrolled at more than one Arkansas institution, which represents 1% of the total fall 2023 headcount.

Dr. Jerry Cash asked if 12 hours defined a full-time student. Sonia Hazelwood said to calculate a fall term FTE, 15 hours are used for undergraduates and 12 hours for graduate students.

Dr. Katherine Dudley asked if there were any theories or data that show why Arkansas has continued to trend downward. Commissioner Warden said Arkansas' numbers are consistent with national statistics.

### Report of the Committees

Kelley Erstine presented the report of the Finance Committee and moved approval of Agenda Item 3. Dr. Jerry Cash seconded, and the board unanimously approved.

Dr. Jerry Cash presented the report of the Academic Committee items 4 – 9 individually.

- Dr. Cash moved approval of Agenda Item 4. Carolyn Rhinehart seconded, and the board approved with Chair Graycen Bigger opposed.
- Dr. Cash moved approval of Agenda Item 5. Carolyn Rhinehart seconded, and the board approved with Dr. Jim Carr and Kelly Erstine opposed.
- Dr. Cash moved approval of Agenda Item 6. Lucas Pointer seconded, and the board unanimously approved.
- Dr. Cash moved approval of Agenda Item 7. Dr. Jim Carr seconded, and the board unanimously approved.
- Dr. Cash moved approval of Agenda Item 8. Dr. Jim Carr seconded, and the board unanimously approved.
- Dr. Cash moved approval of Agenda Item 9. Dr. Jim Carr seconded, and the board unanimously approved.

### Remarks by Presidents/Chancellors and Guest

The next quarterly meeting will be held on April 26, 2024, at North Arkansas College in Harrison, at 9:00 a.m.

With no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 12:49 a.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

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Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

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Dr. Jim Carr, Secretary