

**ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Special Meeting
September 9, 2024**

Minutes of Meeting

The September 9, 2024, special meeting of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) was via zoom. Chair Graycen Bigger called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., with a quorum present.

Coordinating Board present:

Graycen Bigger, Chair
Dr. Jerry Cash, Vice Chair
Dr. Kyle Miller, Secretary
Dr. Jim Carr
Chad Hooten
Heather Maxey
Lucas Pointer

Coordinating Board absent:

Dr. Katherine Dudley
Carolyn Rhinehart

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

Commissioner Warden thanked the Coordinating Board for calling a special meeting to approve ADHE’s financial aid rules. Chair Bigger said she is happy to help put scholarships in the hands of young Arkansans.

Agenda Item No. 1
Rules Governing the Sustainable Building Maintenance Programs
for State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education

In compliance with Act 751 of 2023, the rules for the Sustainable Building Maintenance Program for State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for final approval.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Sustainable Building Maintenance Program for State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or his designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections, when necessary, in the program rules for the Sustainable Building Maintenance Program for State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Sustainable Building Maintenance Program for State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education rules be approved.

There were no questions.

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

Agenda Item No. 2
Rules Governing the Military Dependents'
Scholarship Program

In compliance with Act 413 of 2023, the rules for the Military Dependents' Scholarship Program are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for final approval.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Military Dependents' Scholarship Program to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or his designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections, when necessary, in the program rules for the Military Dependents' Scholarship Program.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Military Dependents' Scholarship Program rules be approved.

There were no questions.

Dr. Jerry Cash moved to approve Agenda Item No. 2. Dr. Kyle Miller seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 3
Rules Governing the Financial Aid Appeals Process

In compliance with Act 244 of 2023, the rules for the Financial Aid Appeals Process are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for final approval.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Financial Aid Appeals Process to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or his designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections, when necessary, in the program rules for the Financial Aid Appeals Process.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Financial Aid Appeals Process rules be approved.

Dr. Jerry Cash asked who serves on the Appeals Committee and if there is a set number of members.

Alisha Lewis said there are representatives from the Student Loan Authority, the Division of Higher Education, the public sector, and institutional representatives. She noted there is not a set number.

Dr. Cash asked how the appeals process works. Mrs. Lewis said once a student completes the application for an appeal, the committee meets to review all the supplemental documentation. Then an informed decision is made regarding the student's eligibility.

Dr. Jerry Cash moved to approve Agenda Item No. 3. Dr. Kyle Miller seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 4
Rules Governing the State Teacher Education Program

In compliance with Act 237 (Section 56) of 2023, the rules for the State Teacher Education Program are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for final approval.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the State Teacher Education Program to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or his designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections, when necessary, in the program rules for the State Teacher Education Program.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the State Teacher Education Program rules be approved.

There were no questions.

Dr. Jerry Cash moved to approve Agenda Item No. 4. Dr. Kyle Miller seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 5
Rules Governing the Teacher Opportunity Program

In compliance with Act 413 of 2023, the rules for the Teacher Opportunity Program are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for final approval.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Teacher Opportunity Program to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or his designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections, when necessary, in the program rules for the Teacher Opportunity Program.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Teacher Opportunity Program rules be approved.

There were no questions.

Dr. Jerry Cash moved to approve Agenda Item No. 5. Dr. Kyle Miller seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 6
Rules Governing the Washington Center Scholarship

In compliance with Act 413 of 2023, the rules for the Washington Center Scholarship are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for final approval.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Washington Center Scholarship to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or his designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections, when necessary, in the program rules for the Washington Center Scholarship.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Washington Center Scholarship rules be approved.

There were no questions.

Dr. Jerry Cash moved to approve Agenda Item No. 6. Dr. Kyle Miller seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 7
Rules Governing the Law Enforcement Officers'
Dependents Scholarship Program

In compliance with Act 413 of 2023, the rules for the Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents Scholarship Program are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for final approval.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents Scholarship Program to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or his designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections, when necessary, in the program rules for the Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents Scholarship Program.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents Scholarship Program rules be approved.

There were no questions.

Dr. Jerry Cash moved to approve Agenda Item No. 7. Dr. Kyle Miller seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 8
Rules Governing the Osteopathic Rural Medical Practice
Student Loan and Scholarship Program

In compliance with Act 857 of 2019 and Act 725 of 2023, the rules for the Osteopathic Rural Medical Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for initial approval.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Osteopathic Rural Medical Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or his designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections, when necessary, in the program

rules for the Osteopathic Rural Medical Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Osteopathic Rural Medical Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board rules be approved for public comment release.

There were no questions.

Dr. Jerry Cash moved to approve Agenda Item No. 8. Lucas Pointer seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 9
Rules Governing the Arkansas Geographical
Critical Needs Scholarship Program

In compliance with Act 413 of 2023, the rules for the Arkansas Geographical Critical Needs Minority Teacher Scholarship Program are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for initial approval.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Arkansas Geographical Critical Needs Minority Teacher Scholarship Program to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or his designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections, when necessary, in the program rules for the Arkansas Geographical Critical Needs Minority Teacher Scholarship Program.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Geographical Critical Needs Minority Teacher Scholarship Program rules be approved for public comment release.

There were no questions.

Dr. Jerry Cash moved to approve Agenda Item No. 9. Lucas Pointer seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 10
Rules Governing the Emergency Response Equipment
at Institutions of Higher Education

In compliance with Act 737 and 811 of 2023, the rules for the Emergency Response Equipment and Training at Arkansas Institutions of Higher Education are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for initial approval.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Emergency Response Equipment and Training at Arkansas Institutions of Higher Education to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or his designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections, when necessary, in the program rules for the Emergency Response Equipment and Training at Arkansas Institutions of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Emergency Response Equipment and Training at Arkansas Institutions of Higher Education rules be approved for public comment release.

There were no questions.

Dr. Jerry Cash moved to approve Agenda Item No. 10. Lucas Pointer seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 11
Rules Governing the Student Undergraduate
Research Fellowship Program

In compliance with Act 413 and 870 of 2023, the rules for the Student Undergraduate Research Fellowship are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for initial approval.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Student Undergraduate Research Fellowship to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or his designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections, when necessary, in the program rules for the Student Undergraduate Research Fellowship.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Student Undergraduate Research Fellowship rules be approved for public comment release.

There were no questions.

Dr. Jerry Cash moved to approve Agenda Item No. 11. Lucas Pointer seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 12
Rules Governing the Uniform Course Credit
for Institutions of Higher Education

In compliance with Act 413 of 2023, the rules for the Uniform Course Credit for Institutions of Higher Education are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for initial approval.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Uniform Course Credit for Institutions of Higher Education to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or his designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections, when necessary, in the program rules for the Uniform Course Credit for Institutions of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Uniform Course Credit for Institutions of Higher Education rules be approved for public comment release.

There were no questions.

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

Agenda Item No. 13
Rules Governing the Arkansas Academic Challenge
Scholarship Program

In compliance with Acts 413, 438, 539 of 2023, the rules for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for initial approval.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

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

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship rules be approved for public comment release.

There were no questions.

Dr. Jerry Cash moved to approve Agenda Item No. 13. Lucas Pointer seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 14
Rules Governing the Arkansas Workforce Challenge
Scholarship Program

In compliance with Acts 413 and 539 of 2023, the rules for the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for final approval.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or his designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections, when necessary, in the program rules for the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship rules be approved.

Chair Bigger said that since private institutions are now allowed to receive Workforce Challenge funds, she wondered if ADHE staff are concerned about running out of funds.

Mrs. Lewis said currently it is not a concern because there are excess funds. She also noted that presently none of the private institutions meet all the criteria to receive funds for the Workforce Challenge scholarship.

Dr. Jim Carr moved to approve Agenda Item No. 14. Heather Maxey seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 15
Rules Governing the Arkansas Concurrent
Challenge Scholarship Program

In compliance with Acts 413, 386, and 539 of 2023, the rules for the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for final approval.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Arkansas

Concurrent Challenge Scholarship to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or his designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections, when necessary, in the program rules for the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship rules be approved for final approval.

Dr. Jim Carr moved to approve Agenda Item No. 15. Heather Maxey seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Remarks by Presidents/Chancellors and Guest

The next quarterly meeting will be held on October 25, 2024, at the University of Arkansas Community College in Batesville, at 9:00 a.m.

With no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

Dr. Kyle Miller, Secretary