

Minutes of Presidents Council Meeting
April 7, 2015

The Presidents Council met at 11:00 a.m. on April 7, 2015 in the First Floor Boardroom of the Department of Higher Education. Executive Council members present were Charles Welch (co-chair), Sandra Massey, Stephen Schoonmaker, Don Bobbitt and Margaret Ellibee. Laurence Alexander and Larry Davis participated via phone call. Glen Jones was unable to attend.

Staff members present were Brett Powell, Harold Criswell, Rick Jenkins, Tara Smith, Ann Clemmer, Alana Boles, Callan Callaway, Chandra Robinson, Jeanne Jones, Lillian Williams, Angela Lasiter and Nichole Abernathy.

Welch began by introducing new Executive Council members; Laurence Alexander replaced Paul Beran; Margaret Ellibee replaced Jackie Elliott; and Stephen Schoonmaker replaced Phillip Wilson.

Donald Bobbitt moved to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2015 meeting. Sandra Massey seconded and the council unanimously concurred.

Review of AHECB Agenda

Presidents Council members reviewed the agenda items for the May 1, 2015, Coordinating Board meeting. The finance agenda included the Performance Funding Outcomes and the Distribution of Mineral Lease Funds.

The academic agenda included the Master of Science in Psychological Science by Arkansas State University – Jonesboro, the Bachelor of Arts in Cultural and Geospatial Studies by Arkansas Tech University, the Technical Certificate in Auto Collision Structural Repair Technology by Black River Technical College, the Technical Certificate in Aerospace Fabrication and Repair by National Park Community College, the Master of Education in Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education (HALE) by Southern Arkansas University and the Bachelor of Social Work by the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith.

Senior Associate Director for Academic Affairs Ann Clemmer noted that the Graduate Certificate in Dyslexia Therapy by Arkansas State University – Jonesboro, the Graduate Certificate in Dyslexia Therapy by Henderson State University, the Technical Certificate in Cosmetology by Southern Arkansas University – Tech and the Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science in Anthropology by the University of Central Arkansas, were all moved from the synopsis and added to the Letters of Notification.

Also included were the Annual Report on Credentials Awarded, Annual Report on Student Retention and Graduation, Annual Report on Retention and Graduation of Intercollegiate Athletes and the Annual Report on Productivity of Approved Programs.

Stephen Schoonmaker moved to approve the review of the agenda for the May 1, 2015, AHECB meeting. Margaret Ellibee seconded and the council unanimously concurred.

Act 109 of the Second Extraordinary Session of 2003, requires the Presidents Council to elect a member of the Commission for the Coordination of Educational Efforts (CCEE) from a board of trustees of a four-year university or system of colleges and universities. Margaret Ellibee moved to appoint Mike Myers of the Henderson State University Board of Trustees, to the CCEE. Stephen Schoonmaker seconded and the council unanimously concurred.

Welch introduced Trey Berry and announced that on July 1, he would be the new president for Southern Arkansas University. He then welcomed him to his first Presidents Council meeting.

The Workforce Initiative Act of 2015 seeks to create a statewide, comprehensive structure enabling students in Arkansas universities, community colleges and secondary centers to participate in career and technical education programs that meet critical needs and employment skills gaps. The grant process will be divided into three phases. The first phase would seek requests for proposals to receive planning grants of up to \$100,000. The second phase would provide implementation grants in an amount necessary to provide the resources to implement approved projects from phase one – up to \$1 million over two years. The third phase would provide continuation grants, up to \$1 million over two years, for alliances that meet or exceed the first phase outcome metrics and are selected by the state workforce development partners for continued support. In short, this initiative creates three successive grant programs; a planning grant, an implementation grant and a continuation grant, said Powell. The Department of Higher Education will disburse all funds for the Workforce Initiative Act.

With three successive grant levels, is it implied that the planning level will be the only level reached this year, asked Schoonmaker.

Powell said that is correct. The planning grant is the only one of the three that received funding this year. This is designed to allow institutions time to put together an implementation packet.

Information Items

Director Powell gave a brief synopsis of the items that would be presented during his May 1 Director's Report. Budget reductions, lottery funding, State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) and the higher education master plan, were among the items listed. Powell said he wanted to make sure the Coordinating Board is aware of the budget reductions for the institutions as well as the agency. He noted that lottery funding was reduced which also reduced the amount of funds the agency receives to administer the scholarship. Arkansas code states that the AHECB will maintain a master plan for higher education. In order to create measurable educational attainment goals based on state needs and priorities, Dr. Powell said it is necessary for the AHECB to consider updating the master plan. Powell said he would like to see work on the plan begin as soon as possible with a goal of completing it by fall.

Welch praised Director Powell for his service to ADHE and higher education. He thanked him for not only being present during the legislative session, but for also being aggressive and an advocate for higher education and the institutions.

Announcements

Director Powell requested that the Council meet in either May or June to discuss the process set to reallocate funds lost through the performance funding model. The Council agreed to meet either May 5 or June 2. The Council will also meet on July 7, to review the agenda for the July 31 Coordinating Board meeting.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.