

Minutes of Presidents Council Meeting  
July 5, 2016

The Presidents Council met at 11:00 a.m. on July 5, 2016, via conference call, hosted at the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) in the first floor boardroom. Executive Council members present on the call were Charles Welch (co-chair), Margaret Ellibee (co-chair), Don Bobbitt and James Shemwell. Stephen Hilterbran, Laurence Alexander, Evelyn Jorgenson and Glen Jones participated in the meeting at ADHE.

Staff members present were Brett Powell, Harold Criswell, Dr. Marla Strecker, Ann Clemmer, Tara Smith and Nichole Abernathy.

Don Bobbitt moved to approve the minutes of the April 5 and June 7, 2016 meetings. Margaret Ellibee seconded and the council unanimously concurred.

Review of AHECB Agenda

Presidents Council members reviewed the agenda items for the July 29, 2016 Coordinating Board meeting. The finance agenda included the Operating Recommendations for 2017-19 Biennium, Personal Services Recommendations for Non-Classified Personnel, Recommendation for State Funding of Capital Projects: 2017-19 Biennium, Certification of Intercollegiate Athletic Budgets for 2016-17 and the Outcomes Based Funding (OBF) Model.

The academic agenda included the Certificate of Proficiency in Emergency Medical Technician, Technical Certificate in Paramedic and Associate of Applied Science in Paramedic from Arkansas State University – Jonesboro, the Graduate Certificate in Play Therapy from Arkansas State University - Jonesboro, the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee, the Letters of Notification and the Letters of Intent.

Also included were the Review of the Closing the Gap Implementation Plan, the Report on 2015 College-Going Rate and the Report of Annual Review of Faculty Performance.

Don Bobbitt moved to approve the review of the agenda for the July 29, 2016 AHECB meeting. Margaret Ellibee seconded and the council unanimously concurred.

Information Items

Next, Director Powell gave a review of the outcomes-based funding formula. He stated that the work is ongoing; however, the group is getting close to what could become a recommendation for a model design. He noted that at the end of the month, the Coordinating Board will approve a framework and not specifics. The board will approve the principles and basic model design, thereby, changing the formula as required by law. What's in Arkansas Code is that by October 15 the Coordinating Board has to make a recommendation to legislative leaders and to the Governor of any changes to the model. We will recommend at that time a framework of what we will adopt, said Powell.

Charles Welch asked Powell to clarify the next steps. He asked if in July the AHECB would approve the framework.

Powell said they would layout a framework that the board would vote on at the July 29 meeting. Then ADHE would draft legislation built around that framework. ADHE would also have the time to build out the model over the next few months. Powell noted that the work group had been looking at the most recent data to see what the model looks like. Next, ADHE would look at multiple years to see the impact over time, said Powell. This is all to see if we are measuring the right things and if we are headed in the right direction, he said.

Dr. Barbara Jones said that she and other institutions share concerns regarding the “Time to Degree” affordability measure. She said that two-year institutions have remediation students and they work hard to get them ready; however, this completion time applies more to four-year institutions. The inclusion of industry based credentials was also a concern for Dr. Jones.

Powell said that one of the principles that the model is being built around is the fact that all students don’t look alike and that traditional is not all traditional. Students that are enrolling at Southark and students that are enrolling at PCCUA are essentially the same student. While it feels like a penalty if a student doesn’t complete on time, it actually is an incentive to encourage him to complete more quickly. I understand your concerns and I will make sure they are considered. This really is about incentivizing students and institutions, said Powell.

Dr. Glen Jones pointed out the role presidents and chancellors have played in this process and noted several are on the steering committee and several institutions are represented in the work groups. Jones reiterated that the board will simply be approving the framework.

Dr. Welch thanked Powell on behalf of the Presidents Council for his work on the model. He said that Powell has been very receptive and this model could change the conversation and show that the institutions are not afraid of being held accountable and they are not afraid to be funded based on how they perform.

Dr. Powell mentioned that the Workforce Regional Grant Award notifications went out on July 1. ADHE looks forward to watching the projects develop over the next couple of years, said Powell.

#### Announcements

The Higher Education Coordinating Board will meet at ADHE on July 29, 2016.

The Council members agreed to cancel the August 2 and September 6 meetings. The next Presidents Council meeting will be October 4, 2016.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.