

Tentative Agenda Items for April 27, 2007 AHECB Meeting

Arkansas State University—Jonesboro

Online Master of Science in Education in Special Education - P-4 Instructional Specialist
Online Master of Science in Education in Special Education - 4-12 Instructional Specialist

Program Summary

The Department of Educational Leadership, Curriculum, and Special Education in the College of Education at Arkansas State University (ASU) presently offers two master degree programs in special education: Master of Science in Education Degree in P-4 Instructional Specialist and Master of Science Degree in 4-12 Instructional Specialist. This proposal is submitted as a request to offer these existing programs via online delivery. These MSE programs in Special Education will contain the identical content and standards that are present in the existing MSE programs, but over 50 percent of the coursework will be provided online. These MSE degrees offer educators an advanced performance-based program of study based on the recommendations of professional organizations and accrediting associations such as the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) standards. Students completing the P-4 program are prepared to work in a variety of professional roles with young children with disabilities, and in interacting with their families. Students completing the 4-12 program gain expertise in teaching grades 4-12 students exhibiting developmental, learning and behavior disabilities as well as expertise in consulting with general education teachers who have students with disabilities in the classroom.

Arkansas Tech University

Master of Engineering

Program Summary

This 36 semester hour master's program is intended for students who have completed a baccalaureate degree in engineering or a closely related area such as engineering physics. The program affords the student the opportunity for advanced study leading to enhanced career opportunities while at the same time providing industries in the Arkansas Tech service area with a more highly qualified workforce. The program will consist of advanced courses in engineering combined with support courses in mathematics, business management, physics, and communications. Those who complete the program should be able to advance their career into project management or team leader positions.

Existing degree programs that will support the proposed program include: Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Physics, Marketing and Management, and Speech and Communications.

Pulaski Technical College

Associate of Science in Aviation

Program Summary

This program consists of two separate options, Professional Pilot option and Management option. The Professional Pilot option would prepare students to attain their Associate of

Science in Aviation – Professional Pilot option by providing students with academic and practical instruction, as they pursue the FAA certified pilot ratings in Private Pilot and Commercial Pilot to include Instrument and Certified Flight Instructor ratings. This program is designed to lay the foundation for a student pursuing advanced training in multi-engine aircraft.

The Management option is designed to provide a student with the skills and knowledge needed for aircraft management programs. This degree prepares a student for positions involving aircraft maintenance, flight management programs, airport management, and many areas associated with FAA part 121, part 135 and part 145 Repair Station Requirements.

This program would prepare students for positions as private pilot, certified flight instructor, instrument rating, managers and/or supervisors in facilities that service the aviation industry. In addition it would provide a means toward upward mobility for aviation personnel.

Entering students would be required to meet all College admission requirements in addition to any specific requirements of the Federal Aviation Administration. It is anticipated that students would have completed the general education requirements for the Associate of Science Degree prior to beginning aviation specific coursework, although this is not a requirement.

The program would provide the first two years of coursework toward a Bachelor of Science in Aviation at Henderson State University. A total of 67 semester hours would be required for the completion of the program including 44 hours of general education, and 23 credit hours of aviation coursework.

The program consists entirely of coursework currently being offered at Pulaski Technical College or contracted through Central Flying Service. New courses will be developed using FAA approved curriculum from Central Flying Service. All courses will be taught with existing faculty or adjunct. No additional faculty, resources, equipment, or facilities will be required.

Pulaski Technical College

Associate of Applied Science in Military Technologies

Program Summary

The Associate of Applied Science in Military Technologies is designed to provide soldiers with training and education that will lead to advancement. It is available to active National Guard, reserves, and honorably discharged soldiers only.

Arkansas has over 8,000 Army National Guard members. They are members of 135 separate guard units in 56 Arkansas counties. The Army National Guard places a major emphasis on encouraging its members to pursue higher education. This is evident in two areas. First, a significant portion of the financial benefits for being a member of the Army National Guard are in the Army National Guard Education funds.

Second, the Army National Guard awards promotions, for all but the lowest ranks, based upon promotion points, which include higher education. The Guard rewards soldiers who pursue higher education by awarding one (1) promotion point for each college hour. A soldier can receive up to 60 points without a degree and 75 points with a bachelor's degree.

University of Central Arkansas

Master of Geographic Information Systems

Program Summary

In the last several years, many state agencies have created new positions for GIS analysts, technicians, and managers. Some Arkansas agencies that employ persons with GIS training include the Soil and Water Conservation Commission, Game and Fish Commission, and the Highway and Transportation Department. In addition, city and county governments, city planning departments, and regional planning agencies have created new positions for GIS specialists. At a time when the federal government workforce is being scaled back, there continues to be a high demand for GIS analysts in agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Increasingly, there is a demand for GIS professionals in private industry throughout the state. Petroleum companies maintain GIS/mapping departments to keep track of oil and gas production, storage, and transportation. Utilities are forming new GIS departments responsible for automating electrical, gas, or cable telephone network mapping and report-generating activities. There is also a significant demand for persons trained in GIS outside of the state and nation, especially in large cities and in multinational corporations. The GIS/mapping industry is a burgeoning market and one of the fastest growing segments of the computer industry. As a result, GIS-related professionals have never been in greater demand. Opportunities for degree holders can be found in several areas within the GIS industry including, applications development, database creation, sales and marketing, software development and training, data conversion, and public, retail, or commercial project management.

The Master of GIS (MGIS) Degree is structured so that students in the program can obtain the skills necessary to meet the demands required by public and private agencies and businesses. The Degree is sophisticated in scope and method of delivery (online) to ensure that students completing the program are prepared to compete in and contribute to the growing demand for geospatial analysts.

University of Central Arkansas

Department of Speech and Public Relations

Summary

The proposed department will be home to programs in speech and public relations, currently part of the Department of Writing and Speech. The existing department presently numbers 40 full-time faculty members and 15–20 part-time temporary appointments. Strong consensus has developed in the department that faculty and students will be better served by dividing the existing department into two. Reasons for the establishment of the new department include UCA's growing enrollment and a consequent growth in general education course offerings, a consequence that particularly impacts speech and writing; the need for more specialization in and differently developing departmental programs; and an overly cumbersome administrative responsibility for the department as it exists. (A change in name for the existing department (to Department of Writing) will be the subject of a letter of notification submitted separately.)

ADHE

Institutional Certification Advisory Committee

The Institutional Certification Advisory Committee (ICAC) will meet on April 10, 2007, to consider the following agenda items:

ICAC Members

- Recognition of Former ICAC Member
- Appointment of New ICAC Member

Program Reviews

Graceland University, Independence, Missouri

Recertification

Bachelor of Arts in Health Care Management

RN-BSN

RN-MSN

Master of Science in Nursing

Post MSN Certificate

Master of Education

Initial Certification

Master of Education in Mild/Moderate Special Education

Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, Arizona

Initial Certification - Online

Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with option in Technology

Master of Education in Educational Administration with options in Organizational

Leadership and School Leadership

Master of Education in Elementary Education

Master of Education in Secondary Education

Missouri Southern State University, Joplin, Missouri

Initial Certification – Online

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Regis University, Denver, Colorado

Initial Certification – Online

Master of Education

University of Phoenix, Little Rock

Initial Certification

School Nurse Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

Report on Reauthorization of Perkins Act

The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Act was reauthorized in 2006 for implementation beginning July 1, 2007. ADHE staff has worked with the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services in developing the State Transition Plan which will be approved by the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities on April 5. An overview of requirements affecting postsecondary institutions will be provided.

Economic Feasibility of Bond Issue for the University of Central Arkansas

The University of Central Arkansas (UCA) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans for two bond issues. Series A will be up to \$16,000,000 for classroom renovation and addition. Series B will be up to \$2,000,000 for renovation and construction of additional athletic facilities. Each issue will have a term of 30 years and an average interest rate of approximately 4.2 percent. The UCA Board of Trustees approved these bond issues at their meeting on February 9, 2007.

Economic Feasibility of Bond Issue for the University of Arkansas - Fayetteville

The University of Arkansas - Fayetteville requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans for a bond issue for two housing projects: Maple Hill Phase II and Duncan Avenue Apartments. Maple Hill Phase II will be a 350-bed addition to Maple Hill Phase I. Duncan Ave. Apartments will be a 140-bed facility, different from any existing on-campus housing. Details concerning the total amount of issue and interest rate are being determined.

Economic Feasibility of Loan for Ouachita Technical College

Ouachita Technical College (OTC) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to secure a loan totaling \$825,000 with a term of up to 15 years at an estimated annual interest rate of 5.03 percent. Proceeds from the loan will be used for E&G purposes. The OTC Board of Trustees approved this action at its meeting held on November 28, 2006.

Higher Education Bond Program Plan of Implementation for Bonds Issued During the Fiscal Biennia Ending June 30, 2007 and 2009

The Plan of Implementation for the Higher Education Bond (HEB) program issued under Act 1282 of 2005 will be presented to the Coordinating Board for consideration. The Higher Education Bond program will make available \$150 million to be expended for technology and facility improvement projects that have been approved by the Higher Education Coordinating Board. To ensure compliance with state accounting and purchasing procedures and to meet the records requirements that will ensure the tax-free status of bond interest for investors, institutions must follow detailed procedures for all expenditures of HEB proceeds.

Distribution of Mineral Lease Funds

According to the provisions of A.C.A. §6-61-801 through §6-61-808 there is established the Arkansas Research Development Program for providing Arkansas Research Development Program Grants to publicly-supported universities in Arkansas by the Department of Higher Education. Act 2124 of 2005 provides that after the sum of \$13,200,000 has been deposited into the Higher Education Building Maintenance Fund, the next \$10,000,000 or as much as is collected, is to be transferred to the Higher Education Research Development Fund to be used as provided by law.

In May 2006 the sum of \$13,200,000 was reached for the Higher Education Building Maintenance Fund, and \$1,055,554 has accumulated in the Higher Education Research Development Fund. Since the e-Corridor represents a very essential tool for research and development in the publicly supported universities of Arkansas, it is the recommendation of the Department of Higher Education that the Higher Education Research Development Fund be designated for maintenance and operation expenses of the e-Corridor projects for the universities.

Adoption of Rules & Regulations

Higher Education Opportunities Grant

This action will adopt the rules and regulations for the new needs-based grant program that will be known as the Higher Education Opportunities Grant. This program will allow lower income students to qualify for up to \$1,000 annually in scholarship assistance to attend one of the state's approved higher education institutions. The Higher Education Opportunities Grant Program is available to any recent Arkansas high school graduate or high school graduate equivalent that is accepted to a college or university in Arkansas, who pledges to remain drug-free and meets the financial requirements. This action will ensure that rules and regulations comply with House Bill 2299, to be enacted by the 86th General Assembly.

Amendments to Rules and Regulations

Academic Challenge Scholarship

This action will revise the rules and regulations to adjust the minimum base income requirement for the Academic Challenge Program from \$60,000 average adjusted gross income (AGI) per year to \$65,000 average AGI per year. The revisions will delete the requirement that states a student entering the junior year must have taken the standard rising junior test and will update the rules and regulations to reflect the application distribution process and use of an on-line application. This action will ensure that rules and regulations comply with Act 274 and Senate Bill 839, to be enacted by the 86th General Assembly.

Governor's Scholars Program

This action will revise the rules and regulations to allow for up to 375 initial scholarship awards to eligible high achieving students. These awards will include 75 Arkansas Governor's Scholarships and 300 Arkansas Governor's Distinguished Scholarships. The revisions will delete the requirement that states a student entering the junior year must have taken the standard rising junior test and will update the rules and regulations to reflect the application distribution process and use of an on-line application. The revisions to the continued eligibility, renewal and cancellation policies reflect that the Department makes these determinations on hours earned for the academic year as opposed to by term, which is consistent with statute. Revisions also include the deletion of all references to high school graduates before December 31, 2001 as those students have by now completed their eligibility. This action will ensure that rules and regulations comply with Act 274 of 2007 and Senate Bill 837, to be enacted by the 86th General Assembly.

Military Dependents' Scholarship Program

This action will revise the rules and regulations to add the requirement that all applicants of the Military Dependents' Program must also apply and show acceptance or denial of the federal program, Dependents' Educational Assistance Program and will limit the scholarship award to only cover any unpaid portion of tuition, fees, room and board not covered by the federal program. The revision deletes the restriction of when a dependent child must be born for eligibility purposes and also provides a clear definition for who is considered a dependent. The revision will also limit the scholarship funds to only those seeking an undergraduate degree. This action will ensure that rules and regulations comply with Senate Bill 838, to be enacted by the 86th General Assembly.

Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents Scholarship

This action will revise the rules and regulations to include dependents of eligible Arkansas law enforcement officers who suffer fatal injuries or wounds or who become totally and permanently disabled as a result of injuries that occurred while going to or returning from a location where a hazardous situation existed to be entitled to a scholarship award. This action will ensure that rules and regulations comply with Act 172 of 2007.

Annual Report of Student Retention and Graduation

The annual Graduation and Retention Rate Study will be presented to the Coordinating Board as an information item. This study tracks for six years the cohorts of "first-time entering freshmen enrolled as full-time, degree-seeking students". Demographic and institutional data pertaining to the fall cohorts from 1992 through 2006 will be presented.

Annual Report on Retention and Graduation of Intercollegiate Athletes

The annual report on retention and graduation of intercollegiate athletes will be presented to the Coordinating Board.

Annual Report on Productivity of Recently Approved Programs

Degree productivity of certificate and associate degree programs approved by the Coordinating Board in 2002-03 (after three years) and baccalaureate and graduate degree programs approved by the Coordinating Board in 2000-2001 (after five years) will be presented to the Coordinating Board as an information item. AHECB productivity standards for baccalaureate programs are three graduates per year, two graduates per year for master's level programs, and one graduate per year for doctoral programs. The guidelines for certificate and associate programs are three graduates per year.

Appointment of Nomination Committee

Chairman Hodges will appoint members of a nomination committee, which will recommend the officers for the upcoming year at the August board meeting.

Concurrent Enrollment Policy

This agenda item will present the proposed revisions to the AHECB policy on concurrent enrollment.