

**Tentative Agenda Items  
January 27, 2023 AHECB Meeting**

**BOARD BUSINESS (Introductions, announcements, minutes)**

**EXECUTIVE SECTION**

**AGENCY UPDATES**

**ACADEMIC COMMITTEE REPORT\***

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT\***

**OTHER INFORMATION ITEMS**

\*The Academic Affairs and Finance Committees will continue to meet before the full Board meeting. However, agenda items that will be considered by the full Board will be placed in the Executive section.

**BOARD BUSINESS**

- Introductions
- Minutes, October 28, 2022, Regular Meeting and December 6, 2022 Special Meeting
- **Report of Nominating Committee**  
The Nominating Committee Chairman will make the report of the nominating committee for the slate of Board officers for 2023-24.
- **Reimbursement of Expenses for Members of the AHECB and ICAC**  
In accordance with Act 1211 of 1995 (A.C.A. §25-16-901 et seq.) it is necessary for the Coordinating Board to adopt a resolution authorizing expense reimbursement for board members and members of the ICAC.
- **State Board of Higher Education Foundation Election of Supervisory Committee**  
The Board will elect the supervisory committee for the State Board of Higher Education Foundation.
- Announcements

**EXECUTIVE SECTION**

- **Director's Report**  
  
This agenda item will include updates on new employees, legislation and current events.
- **Fall 2022 and 2021-22 Annual Enrollment Report**  
  
Customary enrollment statistics will be presented to the Coordinating Board as an information item. This will include enrollment statistics for total enrollment, enrollment by topics (gender, race/ethnicity, age category, and attendance status), annual unduplicated headcount, fall SSCH/FTE, and annual SSCH/FTE.
- **Report on 2021 Fall College-Going Rate**  
  
The annual report concerning the College-Going Rate for Arkansas will be presented. Included will be a table detailing the number of first-time in college by institution for the past five years through Fall 2021.
- **Annual Report on Institutional Certification**  
  
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 will be presented.
- **Report on Academic Program Review and Program Viability**  
  
The periodic report on academic program review and program viability will be presented. ADHE Executive Staff Recommendations will be presented for Coordinating Board consideration of continuation or discontinuation of non-viable programs.

- **Productivity Funding Distribution Policy**

The rules have been amended to remove outdated language regarding the 2018-2019 fiscal year and have been updated to state that within any consecutive five-year period, an institution of higher education's RSA (Revenue Stabilization Act) funding shall not decline by more than 5% due to productivity declines.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

- **Annual Higher Education Financial Condition Report**

The annual higher education financial condition report will be presented which depicts the financial condition of all Arkansas public institutions of higher education.

- **Maintenance Report**

The AHECB policy for maintenance of new facilities ensures that all newly constructed or purchased facilities will 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). The maintenance funds should be transferred to the plant fund annually and shall begin in the fiscal year following the completion and occupancy of the facility and will continue as long as the building is in use.

The Maintenance Report consists of all mandatory transfers made for facilities approved from October 2008 to present.

## **ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

### **Consent Agenda**

- **Arkansas State University Jonesboro  
Bachelor of Science in Public Health**

The Bachelor of Science in Public Health will be a 100% online, 120 credit-hour program with 50 required public health credit hours. The required coursework will focus on the five core public health disciplines: Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Health Policy and Management, Environmental Health Sciences, and Social and Behavioral Sciences.

The Bachelor of Science in Public Health program will prepare students for employment in government, industry, and non-profit settings as epidemiologists, community health workers, health administrators and managers, health data scientists and analysts, and health educators. Arkansas State University's mission is to serve the Mississippi Delta and Mid-South region. There is currently no undergraduate public health program serving this region of Arkansas. Compared to other states, Arkansas is ranked toward the bottom in public health, health care quality, and health care access. Adding an undergraduate public health program will help to better serve this region and the state of Arkansas, in addition to meeting both student and employment demand for public health practitioners.

One new faculty member will be hired in addition to the existing two faculty members already on staff. A program advisory committee will be formed upon approval to provide input on curriculum and internship and employment opportunities for students.

- **Arkansas State University Mid-South**  
**Technical Certificate in Paramedic Science**

The Technical Certificate in Paramedic Science at ASU Mid-South will build upon its existing certificate programs in Basic and Advanced Emergency Medical Technician to provide students with a career pathway in the field of Emergency Medical Services. The proposed program requires 43 credit hours of coursework that can be completed over the course of a year, providing students with the opportunity to quickly earn highly sought skills and credentials that can lead to gainful employment in the EMS sector.

The proposed curriculum requires completion of seven (7) new courses, with a new cohort enrolling each fall semester and completing each summer. ASU Mid-South is well positioned to support Paramedic Science programming, as its lead faculty for EMT has experience in developing and directing paramedic programming at other institutions in the Mid-South region.

Aside from the one additional faculty member, the College will utilize existing classroom space, equipment, and other resources already used in its EMT and AEMT certificate programs.

- **Arkansas State University Mountain Home**  
**Associate of Applied Science, Technical Certificate, and Certificate of Proficiency in Marine Manufacturing**

The Associate of Applied Science in Marine Manufacturing is for students interested in boat, trailer, or other fiberglass composite constructions. The program integrates basic tools, welding, electrical, gel coat application, and open and closed molded lamination into the manufacturing of boats and boat trailers. The skills taught in this program also apply to automotive and other industries.

The proposed program does not exist in the central part of the United States, yet the stabilization of the region depends upon this industry. The boat manufacturing industry in North Central Arkansas has long been a sustaining force in the state's economy. Based on industry data, there are an estimated 2,000 boat manufacturing jobs in a 47-county region, which extends 120 miles around Mountain Home where the ASUMH campus is located.

The AAS in Marine Manufacturing is 60 credit hours, the Technical Certificate is 31 credit hours, and the Certificate of Proficiency is 11 credit hours. One faculty member was hired prior to this proposal to assist with the development of the program. ASUMH has received approximately \$1.4 million to fund the first two years of this program through a Delta Regional Authority Grant and an Arkansas Office of Skills Development Grant. These grant funds provide financial means for faculty salary, development of curriculum, facilities, and equipment.

- **Southern Arkansas University**  
**Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering**

The purpose of the program is to provide education in Mechanical Engineering for the southern Arkansas region and create a pipeline of qualified, potential employees for the region's many companies in the defense, gas, oil, and steel industries. Students that successfully complete this program will be able to apply the fundamental knowledge of mechanical engineering design and problem-solving skills to advance in their careers beyond the entry level in the field of mechanical engineering.

The Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering program would be 124 credit hours. This program will benefit from an already thriving Engineering department and utilize many of the existing departmental resources. One faculty member will be hired, and a machine shop laboratory will be created specifically for this program. Here, students will be introduced to hands-on activities related to various machining and fabrication processes.

Similar programs around the state include those at University of Arkansas Fayetteville, Arkansas State University Jonesboro, Arkansas Tech University, and University of Arkansas Little Rock. This geographical distance from Southern Arkansas University to these institutions only emphasizes the economic need for this program.

- **University of Arkansas Fayetteville**  
**Master of Music in Black Sacred Music**

The proposed Master of Music in Black Sacred Music would be the first of its kind in Arkansas and the country. UA Fayetteville's location, existing world-class resources, commitment to diversity, equity, access, and inclusion, and ability to leverage these allows for uncharted access to the arts. This program would be funded by a grant of more than \$848,000 from the Alice Walton Foundation. Continued annual support from endowed funds will be provided given that outlined program goals are met.

The Master of Music in Black Sacred Music will be a 36 credit-hour summer program spanning 3 years. Faculty for the program will include existing full-time and part-time Music Department faculty members. In addition, an extraordinary group of special guest instructors, appointed as adjunct faculty, will be used. They include recording artists, scholars, Grammy winners, and other international experts in Gospel Music.

By year 3 of the degree cycle, 25 students are expected to enroll. UAF anticipates 4-5 students graduating in year 3 with 8-10 graduating each summer thereafter. Students completing this program will be well prepared for a vast number of roles including but not limited to church musicians, worship directors, choir directors, gospel music performers, songwriters, or recording artists, and producers of gospel or related music.

- **Institutional Certification Advisory Committee (ICAC)**

The following applications may be reviewed by ADHE for possible consideration at the AHECB meeting in January 2023.

**Initial Certifications (Distance Technology)**

Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California

Associate of Arts in Fashion Product Development  
Associate of Arts in Jewelry and Metal Arts  
Associate of Arts in Visual Development  
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Fashion Product Development  
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Jewelry and Metal Arts  
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Visual Development  
Master of Arts in Jewelry and Metal Arts  
Master of Arts in Visual Development  
Master of Fine Arts in Fashion Product Development  
Master of Fine Arts in Jewelry and Metal Arts  
Master of Fine Arts in Visual Development

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California

Graduate Certificate in Astronautical Engineering  
Master of Science in Aerospace & Mechanical Engineering (Computational Fluid & Solid Mechanics)  
Master of Science in Aerospace & Mechanical Engineering (Dynamics & Control)  
Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering  
Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering (Medical Imaging and Imaging Informatics)  
Master of Science in Chemical Engineering  
Master of Science in Civil Engineering (Construction Engineering)  
Master of Science in Civil Engineering (Structural Engineering)  
Master of Science in Electrical Engineering (VLSI Design)  
Master of Science in Petroleum Engineering

University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences, San Marcos, California

Master of Science in Nursing – Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner  
Post-Graduate Certificate in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner-Primary Care

Walden University, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Master of Science in Finance

Institutional Planning and Development  
Alice Walton School of Medicine, Bentonville, Arkansas  
Doctor of Medicine

- **Letters of Notification**

Programs included in the Letters of Notification have been approved by the ADHE Director and must be included on the AHECB agenda prior to program initiation. The programs are reasonable and moderate extensions of existing certificates and degrees.

- **Letters of Intent**

A Letter of Intent informs the AHECB of institutions that plan to offer new programs or organizational units that require a proposal and Coordinating Board approval. Chief academic and chief executive officers can comment on the proposed programs and organizational units before the proposals are considered by AHECB.