

April 17, 2012

Senator Mary Ann Salmon, Senate Co-Chair
Representative Tommy Lee Baker, House Co-Chair
Arkansas Legislative Council
315 State Capitol
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Senator Salmon and Representative Baker:

Your Subcommittee on Higher Education met at 1 p.m. April 12, 2012 in Room A MAC to hear testimony on the following:

Mr. Don McDaniel, Director of Enterprise Network Services at the Department of Information Services, testified about system upgrades that led to an interruption in distance learning services at a number of higher education institutions.

Dr. Becky Paneitz, President of Northwest Arkansas Community College appeared with NWACC's Board of Trustees Chairman, Mr. Alex Vasquez, to discuss recently publicized salary increases and tuition hikes at the College.

Mr. Danny James, Director of the Arkansas State Employees Association, answered questions and heard the Subcommittee's concerns about ASEA's decision to promote its partnership with the University of Phoenix despite that institution's high tuition costs. Mr. James was asked by the Chairs to more fully disclose to his members the comparative cost of tuition at in-state and online out-of-state colleges and universities. Arkansas Department of Higher Education Interim Director Shane Broadway, ADHE General Counsel Janet Lawrence, and ADHE Program Specialist Zanette Douglas also provided information on out-of-state universities offering branch campus and online courses in Arkansas.

Sincerely,

Sen. Sue Madison
Senate Co-Chair

Rep. Johnnie Roebuck
House Co-Chair