

MEETING SUMMARY
HIGHER EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Monday, October 29, 2012
10:00 A.M.
Room 138, State Capitol
Little Rock, Arkansas

Representative Tommy Wren, the Chair of the Higher Education Subcommittee of the House Interim Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: Representative Tommy Wren, Chair; Representative Randy Stewart, Vice Chair; and Representative Johnnie Roebuck, ex officio.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE: Senator Jonathan Dismang; Senator Jimmy Jeffress; Representative Les Carmine; Representative Ann Clemmer; Representative Robert Dale; Representative Bobby Pierce; Representative Garry Smith; and Representative Jeff Wardlaw.

Without objection, the minutes of December 7, 2011, were approved as written.

Review of Arkansas Department Of Education Rules Governing Concurrent College and High School Credit for Students Who Have Completed the Eighth Grade by the Administrative Rules and Regulations Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council

Presenters & Synopses:

Mr. Shane Broadway, Interim Director, Arkansas Department of Higher Education (AHDE), was recognized. Mr. Broadway provided the Subcommittee with the historical background of the pilot program for concurrent college and high school credit for students who have completed the eighth grade implemented by this rule. He noted that the pilot has been a partnership between the ADHE and the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), with Southern Arkansas University Tech (SAU Tech) and Bearden School District serving as pilot sites. The proposed rule change will allow the program to be expanded to all institutions that would like to partner with high schools throughout the state. The purpose of the rule is to encourage the state-wide creation of these partnerships so that a student can be identified, remediated, and pass remedial developmental courses before entering college. Completion of a developmental education course would count as a half of a credit.

Mr. Jeremy Lasiter, General Counsel, Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), was recognized. Mr. Lasiter noted that because the Rules and Regulations Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council usually does not meet during a legislative session, the timing for putting the proposed rule into effect for this semester is a concern for the ADE. He requested that the rule be allowed to continue for the benefits it would produce, with a revised rule to be presented at a later date. An amendment to the rule to make it more effective could also be considered.

Contributors to the Discussion (in order of testimony):

Dr. Robert Gunnels, Vice Chancellor for Academics, Southern Arkansas University Tech
Mr. Denny Rozenberg, Superintendent, Bearden School District
Dr. Tracy Tucker, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Division of Learning Services, Arkansas Department of Education
Dr. Cynthia Moten, Associate Director of Academic Affairs, Arkansas Department of Higher Education
Dr. Corbet J. Lamkin, Chancellor, Southern Arkansas University Tech

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- funding for the program with its change from pilot to permanent,
- student eligibility for the program,
- available data regarding success of program,
- projections for tracking students as they enroll in an institution of higher education,
- stand-alone or blended courses,
- projections for program scheduling,
- effect of transition courses from the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) on the Bearden School District project,
- walk-through of a student's day in the program,
- scheduling of courses taken,
- requiring a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the recognition of a remedial course,
- tracking students' ACT test scores,
- parents' evaluation of the program,
- acceptance of credits when transferring between institutions of higher education,
- analysis of modules in which a student has not shown mastery, speeding up credit recovery, and making it cost-effective,
- development of modules,
- continuing the program with local funds if other funding sources are discontinued,
- completion of the ACT Compass test,
- clarification that the rule is for students who have completed the eighth grade,
- the number of students denied admission into the pilot program,
- admitting students with an ACT score of below 17 into institutions of higher education, and
- Southern Arkansas University Tech's budget for remediation.

Relevant Actions:

The Honorable Randy Stewart, State Representative, District 23, and Vice Chair of the Higher Education Subcommittee of the House Interim Committee on Education, was recognized, and made a motion that the proposed rule, Arkansas Department Of Education Rules Governing Concurrent College and High School Credit for Students Who Have Completed the Eighth Grade, has been reviewed and would be sent back to the House and Senate Interim Committees of Education. The motion was seconded by Representative Johnnie Roebuck. Pursuant to the motion of Representative Stewart, and without objection, the motion was carried.

Exhibits:

Exhibit C – 12/07/11 Minutes

Exhibit D – Summary of Proposed Changes to the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Concurrent College and High School Credit for Students Who Have Completed the Eighth Grade

Handout:

The Dyslexia Project, Upcoming Events

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Approved: 06/10/13