

University of Central Arkansas
Council of Deans
Wednesday, September 10, 2025
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Wingo 214

MINUTES

1. Welcome: The Council of Deans met on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in Wingo 214. Provost Michael Hargis presided, and the following members were present: Dr. Stephen Addison, Dr. Tim Bisping, Dr. Kurt Boniecki, Dr. Debbie Dailey, Dr. Michael Mills, Dr. Nancy Reese, Dr. Patricia Smith, and Dr. Tom Williams. Guests: Mr. Chad Hearne, Executive Director of the UCA Foundation and Mrs. Jennifer Boyett, Director of Campaign Contributions.
2. Foundation RoadShow: Mr. Hearne and Mrs. Boyett shared the UCA Foundation RoadShow presentation which details the purpose of the Foundation, how endowments work, fund director guidance, etc. It provides a comprehensive look at how the Foundation supports the University and serves as an effort to educate the campus community about its mission.
3. Action Items
 - a. August 27, 2025 COD Minutes: A motion by Dr. Stephen Addison and second by Dr. Patricia Smith was made to approve the minutes from August 27, 2025. The motion carried.
 - b. September 4, 2025 Undergraduate Council Items: A motion by Dr. Kurt Boniecki and second by Dr. Stephen Addison was made to approve the September 4, 2025 Undergraduate Council items as presented. The motion carried.
4. Provost Updates
 - a. GEMBA Walks: Provost Hargis stated that he, Mrs. Bridget Fortenberry, and, on occasion, other members of Cabinet will make visits to academic buildings on campus. The purpose of these unannounced visits is to observe spaces, visit with faculty, staff, and students and to identify challenges that are impacting work and culture.
 - b. LMS Review: The LMS review team will be making their recommendations very soon. It is important to remember that every software option will require a platform change; therefore, the workload will be the same regardless of the platform chosen.
 - c. Faculty Senate: Provost Hargis attended the first Faculty Senate of the academic year and shared constituent concerns that were presented during the meeting.

- d. Strategic Plan: Strategic Plan goals and objectives are due from the working groups on September 24, 2025. Following submission, the feedback labs will begin on campus and with external partners.
- 5. Discussion Items:
 - a. Dr. Addison shared concerns regarding an unannounced closure of the parking lot behind Lewis Science Center that took place on Friday, September 5, 2025.
- 6. Unit Updates
 - a. Graduate School and ORSP
 - i. Members were asked to please encourage URC faculty applications.
 - ii. The new compliance office will speak to the Academic Council on the difference between federal misconduct and noncompliance.
 - b. Institutional Effectiveness
 - i. The Common Course Numbering system from ADHE will begin in November. On September 19, 2025, unit chairs will attend a presentation on Common Course Numbering and afterward receive a list of all their department course descriptions for review and processing.
 - c. College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
 - i. Advertisements for the College of Education Dean search have been posted.
- 7. Important Dates and Information Items
 - o [2025-2026 Academic Timetable](#)
 - o [Academic Year 2025–2026 Schedule for Student Course Experience Surveys](#)
 - o COD Meetings
 - September 24th: Dr. Kevin Thomas and Ms. Vicky Summers
 - October 8th: Mr. Warren Readnour and Mr. Jeremy Gillam
 - o September 16, 2025: Last day to submit IRB applications through legacy process (Transition to [Cayuse HE](#))
 - o September 17, 2025: Academic Affairs Leadership Team Meeting, 9:00 am, Wingo 315- Guest: Mr. Trevor Seifert
 - o September 19, 2025: Summer 2026/Fall 2027 sabbatical leave applications to department chair
 - o September 19-29, 2025: Progress reporting open via Slate
 - o September 30, 2025: Faculty development grant proposals to CETAL
 - o October 1, 2025: Annual reports to dean
 - o October 1, 2025: Distinguished Faculty Emeritus/Emerita nominations to department chair
 - o March 12, 2026: UCA Day of Giving

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

