

University of Central Arkansas
Council of Deans
Wednesday, January 14, 2026
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Wingo 214

MINUTES

1. Welcome: The Council of Deans met on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 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. Patricia Smith, Dr. Nancy Reese, and Dr. Tom Williams.
2. Action Items
 - a. December 3, 2025 COD Minutes: A motion by Stephen Addison and second by Patricia Smith was made to approve the minutes of December 3, 2025 as presented. The motion carried.
 - b. December 4, 2025 Undergraduate Council Items: A motion by Kurt Boniecki and second by Stephen Addison was made to approve the Undergraduate Council items of December 4, 2025 as presented. The motion carried.
3. Provost Updates
 - a. Vector Training: Mandatory Vector training is due on March 31, 2026. The training must be completed by all employees including faculty, staff, student assistants, and graduate assistants. Members will remind department chairs and other unit directors of this deadline.
 - b. Annual Evaluations: Annual evaluations are due on April 1, 2026. This deadline is for both faculty and staff. All faculty must receive written feedback and participate in annual process planning for the next year.
 - c. Strategic Planning Update: The current draft of the strategic plan will be shared in an upcoming Council of Deans meeting. The final document will be presented to the Board of Trustees during the May 2026 meeting.
4. Discussion
 - a. Faculty Evaluation Exemptions: Members discussed and agreed to stop the exemption for chair and dean evaluations during their first year in that position.
 - b. Spoken English Procedure: Members discussed the state law regarding the assessment of spoken English as part of faculty performance evaluations. Kurt Boniecki outlined procedures going forward. Members will share this information with chairs and directors.
5. Unit Updates

- a. College of Business: Two candidates have been selected for the Marketing & Management chair position. Interviews have been scheduled.
 - b. Honors College: The academic coordinators in Learning Communities are working to bring faculty into spaces. The theme for next year's challenge week will be rural communities. Nominees or speaker ideas are welcome and should be submitted to Shelby Fiegel.
 - c. College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences: An update regarding the College of Education dean search was provided.
 - d. College of Health and Behavioral Sciences: Dr. Reese recognized the students who volunteered to help with the Health and Behavioral Science's community healthcare program.
 - e. Graduate School: There is a meeting next month with TTech regarding the LMS system transition and will focus on plagiarism screening.
 - f. College of Education: An update regarding maintenance and reconstruction in Mashburn spaces was provided.
 - g. College of Science & Engineering: An update regarding maintenance issues in the math and computer science building was provided.
6. Important Dates and Information Items
- [2025-2026 Academic Timetable](#)
 - [Academic Year 2025–2026 Schedule for Student Course Experience Surveys](#)
 - COD Meetings
 - January 28, 2026
 - February 11, 2026-SGA Dean for a Day Update
 - February 25, 2026
 - March 11, 2026-SGA Dean for a Day Event
 - February 4, 2026: Academic Affairs Leadership Team Meeting
 - February 20, 2026: Board of Trustees Meeting
 - March 11, 2026: Dean for a Day
 - March 12, 2026: UCA Day of Giving/March 13, 2026: Announcement
 - April 14, 2026: Faculty/Staff Recognition Celebration
 - April 23, 2026: UCA Research Symposium
 - April 30-May 1, 2026: Commencement
 - May 18-20, 2026: Dean's Retreat
 - May 21, 2026: Board of Trustees Meeting

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:20 am