

University of Central Arkansas
Council of Deans
Wednesday, February 11, 2026
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Wingo 214

MINUTES

1. Welcome: The Council of Deans met on Wednesday, February 11, 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. Chad Lairamore (for Dr. Nancy Reese), and Dr. Tom Williams.
2. Action Items
 - a. January 28, 2026 COD Minutes: A motion by Dr. Stephen Addison and second by Dr. Patricia Smith was made to approve the minutes from January 28, 2026 as presented. The motion carried with two abstentions.
 - b. February 5, 2026 Undergraduate Council Items: A motion by Dr. Kurt Boniecki and second by Dr. Stephen Addison was made to approve the Undergraduate Council items from February 5, 2026 with one notation related to a dual listed course sequence from the Department of Music. The motion carried as presented. Kurt will update the curriculum forms from Music before moving the proposal forward.
 - c. School of Music Name Change: A motion by Dr. Kurt Boniecki and second by Dr. Tom Williams was made to change the name of the Department of Music to the School of Music as submitted by the Department of Music. The motion carried. This change will take effect Fall 2026.
 - d. CIP Code Change for Nutrition: A motion by Dr. Kurt Boniecki and second by Dr. Debbie Dailey was made to change the CIP code for the Master of Science in Nutrition to align with the CIP codes of dietetics. The motion carried.
3. Provost Updates
 - a. Access Presentation: Provost Hargis shared items that he will present to the Board of Trustees on February 20, 2026. Members discussed the items and shared information that should be included.
 - b. H1-B Delays: Provost Hargis shared information regarding the current challenges in obtaining H1-B approval and implications moving forward.
 - c. SOAR updates: Provost Hargis and members discussed SOAR registration for Fall 2026 and the implications related to course seats and campus housing.
4. Discussion

- a. [PAF Launch and Campus Training](#): Members were advised to encourage attendance of the summer teaching and student hiring PAF trainings. The training will be held via Zoom. Student hiring will be held on February 19, 2026, at x-period. Summer teaching hiring will be held on February 24, 2026, at x-period.
- b. Core Changes: Dr. Patricia Smith shared an update from the Core Council. State-required changes will take place Fall 2027. The Core Council will present a proposal that states how the university will accommodate the changes.

5. Unit Updates

- a. College of Science & Engineering: Arkansas STEM posters at the Capitol, hosted by COSE, will be presented in the rotunda of the State Capitol on March 4, 2026.
- b. Graduate Studies: A SURF Grant open house is taking place today, February 11, 2026 in Torreyson West.
- c. College of Health & Behavioral Sciences: The college is currently reviewing the limits on graduate program funding and how it will impact the college.
- d. College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences: Members are invited to attend “A 250 Gathering” on Thursday, February 12, 2026 at x-period in Baum Gallery.
- e. Honors College: The college is reviewing 360 applications. Interviews will take place in early March.
- f. College of Education: The college is currently reviewing 76 PhD applications.
- g. Kurt Boniecki: Over 200 faculty have registered for LMS training. Members are asked to encourage department participation. CETAL will be visiting departments to speak with faculty regarding the transition.

6. Important Dates and Information Items

- [2025-2026 Academic Timetable](#)
- [Academic Year 2025–2026 Schedule for Student Course Experience Surveys](#)
- COD Meetings
 - February 25, 2026
 - March 11, 2026-SGA Dean for a Day Event
 - March 25, 2026
 - April 8, 2026
 - April 26, 2026
- February 19, 2026: [Student Worker PAF Training](#) 1:40pm-2:40pm
- February 20, 2026: Board of Trustees Meeting
- February 24, 2026: [Summer Teaching PAF Training](#) 1:40pm-2:30pm
- March 1, 2026: Mandatory Vector Training Due
- March 11, 2026: Dean for a Day
- March 12, 2026: UCA Day of Giving/March 13, 2026: Announcement
- April 1, 2026: Annual Evaluations Due
- 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 10:50 am.