

University of Central Arkansas
Council of Deans
Wednesday, July 15, 2026
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Wingo 214

MINUTES

1. Welcome: The Council of Deans met on Wednesday, July 15, 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. Jason Trumble (for Dr. Debbie Dailey), Dr. Nancy Reese, Dr. Patricia Smith, and Dr. Tom Williams.
2. Action Items
 - a. June 17, 2026 COD Minutes: A motion by Dr. Stephen Addison and second by Dr. Patricia Smith was made to approve the minutes from June 17, 2026 as presented. The motion carried with two abstentions.
 - b. Standing Academic Affairs Strategic Alignment Items: A motion by Dr. Stephen Addison and second by Dr. Patricia Smith was made to adopt the guidelines. The motion carried with two friendly amendments.
3. Discussion
 - a. Unit accolades: Members discussed methods to amplify past, present, and future unit activities. Specific discussion was held regarding clear messaging of campus community opportunities, multi-unit initiatives, and unit accolades.
 - b. HLC Preparation Update: Dr. Kurt Boniecki shared a preparation status update. The HLC visit will take place in March 2027. The project management team is in place to prepare campus for the site visit. Two consultants will be on campus in November to review and provide input on the assurance argument.
4. Provost Updates
 - a. Position Requests Process: Provost Hargis reiterated the position request process for new and/or replacement faculty.
 - b. Board Meeting Prep: The Board of Trustees will meet on August 6, 2026.
 - c. UCA Magazine Feedback Opportunities: Members were asked to respond to University Marketing and Communications regarding their feedback request.
 - d. Fall Preparation: Provost Hargis directed members to begin evaluating course sizes and adjust accordingly for student scheduling requirements.
5. Report Out/Unit Updates
 - a. College of Science & Engineering
 - i. Dr. Kari Naylor has agreed to serve as Interim Chair for the Department of Physics, Astronomy & Engineering.
 - b. College of Education
 - i. The COE study abroad program had excellent participation.

- ii. Teacher Preparation Inspection US (TPIUS) is using the College of Education's audit report as a framework and tool for other universities. The college will be looking at assessment tools to pilot new technology for accreditation.
 - iii. The college is researching ways to incorporate a dyslexia center to support preparing teachers and supporting young learners in the community.
 - iv. Mashburn Center is realigning with the College of Education.
- c. College of Health & Behavioral Sciences
 - i. The college is working on an Arkansas rural health grant that will provide pathways for students from rural areas, specifically the ozark, delta, and ouachita regions, to complete degree programs then return as an asset to their home communities. A portion of the proposal is directed to build on UCA Commitment.
- d. College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences
 - i. The Department of Music has been invited to attend the 2027 College Band Directors National Association National Conference. The department will be raising funds to attend this prestigious event.
- e. Honors College
 - i. Living Learning Communities have reached a campus wide model that allows faculty interaction from all colleges. Co-curricular and programming aspects of LLC have hit new strides.
 - ii. Better mentor support has been implemented for faculty by providing resources to support faculty.
- f. College of Business
 - i. Students and corporate entities are showing a lot of interest in the new Sales Representative training program.

6. Important Dates and Information Items

- a. [2026-2027 Academic Timetable](#)
- b. [Fall 2026 New Faculty Opening Sessions](#)
- c. [Fall 2026 Opening Sessions](#)
- o COD Meetings
 - July 29, 2026: Guests Dr. Kevin Thomas and Ms. Kimberly Stubbs
 - August 12, 2026 (½ Day Deep Dive)
- o August 6, 2026: Board of Trustees Meeting
- o August 8, 2026: Summer Graduate Commencement-Reynolds Performance Hall
 - 9:00 am-CAHSS, COB, CHBS (CSD, OT, Psyc/Coun, ExSci, Sport Mgmt, Nursing)
 - 12:00 pm-COE, COSE, CHBS (PT, Health Science, NFS)
- o August 16-21, 2026: Welcome Week
- o August 19, 2026: Fall Convocation-9:00 am-Reynolds Performance Hall
- o August 20, 2026: First Day of Classes

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:00 am