

University of Central Arkansas
Council of Deans
Wednesday, August 26, 2026
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Wingo 214

MINUTES

1. Welcome: The Council of Deans met on Wednesday, August 26, 2026, at 10:00 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. Paige Rose (for Dr. Tom Williams). Guests: Ms. Amber Hall, Director of Institutional Research
2. Ms. Amber Hall, Director of Institutional Research: Review Draft Model of Department and Program Health Report: Ms. Hall presented updates on step two of the academic department and program data model, focusing on new standardized guidelines for data and sharing draft report models centered on enrollment, quality, and effective resource stewardship. Ms. Hall will update the draft models based on member feedback.
3. Action Item
 - July 29, 2026 COD Minutes: A motion by Dr. Stephen Addison and second by Dr. Patricia Smith was made to approve the minutes of July 29, 2026 as presented. The motion carried with two abstentions.
4. Discussion
 - CCN and Curriculum Review: Dr. Kurt Boniecki provided an update on the Common Course Numbering (CCN) implementation and its direct impact on this year's curriculum review process. The primary focus is currently on integrating the new course numbers into Banner and, as a result, new curriculum proposals are being placed on hold after approval until March 2027. Any urgent course additions and/or revisions for Spring 2027 must be submitted to Dr. Boniecki for approval. The immediate operational priority is completing the setup of current courses so they are fully aligned before advance registration begins.
5. Provost Updates
 - Reminder - Vector Training must be completed within 90 days of the contract hire date.
 - Next Steps - Following today's discussion, the Provost will meet with each Dean and the respective college Chairs/Directors leadership team to review the draft banded report model presented by Amber Hall. These meetings represent the next implementation phase of work that began with the Council of Deans in May and will provide an additional opportunity to gather questions and observations, clarify the interpretation and intended use of the reports, and further develop the operational plan for

implementation. Following the college-level meetings, the Council of Deans will conduct another review before the reports move into use.

As a reminder, the initial implementation cycle will remain iterative, with opportunities to refine the data, reporting model, and associated processes based on experience and feedback. The Council will also establish an appropriate cadence for ongoing review of the reports and methodology.

As the next extension of this work, Academic Affairs will work with the Council of Deans to formalize an annual department and program health review and reporting process during Spring 2027, with expectations and timelines established in advance of implementation for AY 2027–28. This work supports the Council's strategic priorities related to academic portfolio health, responsible resource stewardship, and data-informed decision-making.

6. Report Out/Unit Updates

- College of Business
 - i. The college is being restructured and the changes will be implemented beginning January 1, 2027.
- Honors College
 - i. LLC Open House is Tuesday, September 1st at X-period.
 - ii. The commuter hub and LLC headquarters have been relocated to McAlister.
- Graduate School
 - i. The research compliance officer position search has begun. Mrs. Kimberly Ashley-Pauly is the point-of-contact until the position is filled.
- CHBS
 - i. The Department of Nursing is currently experiencing a short-staffing of faculty.
- Kurt Boniecki
 - i. The HLC Working Group is currently gathering qualitative evidence of experiential and applied learning across our programs to complement our quantitative metrics.
- College of Education
 - i. Dr. Alicia Cotabish is stepping down as Change Leadership Ph.D. Program Director. Director
 - ii. The college has launched its year-long residency program.
 - iii. The college will be working with the Conway School District regarding their literacy needs.
- COSE
 - i. The Innovation Campus is running and offering six classes. The building will not be running a full slate of classes until spring 2027.

7. Important Information Items and Dates

- [UCA 2035](#)
- [2026-2027 Academic Timetable](#)
- Academic Affairs Leadership Team Meeting
 - September 2, 2026, 9:00 am - 11:00 am, Wingo 315

- COD Meeting
 - September 9, 2026, 9:00 am - 11:00 am, Wingo 214
 - September 23, 2026, 9:00 am - 11:00 am, Wingo 214
- COD Book Discussion
 - September 16, 2026, 9:00 am - 11:00 am, Wingo 214
- September 17, 2026: Distinguished Scholars Day
- October 2, 2026: Board of Trustees Meeting

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm