

University of Central Arkansas
Council of Deans
Wednesday, September 23, 2026
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Wingo 214

MINUTES

1. Welcome: The Council of Deans met on Wednesday, September 23, 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. Debbie Dailey, Dr. Michael Mills, Dr. Nancy Reese, Dr. Patricia Smith, and Dr. Tom Williams. Guests: Dr. Kim Hoffman and Mrs. Amber Hall
2. Guests
 - [UCA Next Generation Service Corps](#): Dr. Kim Hoffman, Professor and Director of the Public Administration Program in the Department of Government, Public Service, and International Studies, shared that UCA is partnering with the Volker Alliance to join the Next Generation Service Corps, a nationwide network of higher education institutions committed to preparing undergraduate students for public service. UCA is the first institution of higher education in Arkansas to join this network to inspire and prepare students to serve their communities. UCA Next Gen is currently recruiting and accepting applications for January 2027. The cohort will consist of ten students per year. Members discussed how they can amplify the application process and steps to make the program more visible on campus for students. The College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences has committed funding for the first two years of the program.
 - Department and Program Health Reports: Mrs. Amber Hall, Director of Institutional Research, shared revised reports based on college meetings with department chairs. Members were asked to contact April Gunn and Mrs. Hall to schedule college-based Argos training for department chairs via Zoom. Training will begin on October 5th so that all Department Chair, Directors, and Deans will have access to the reports.
3. Action Item
 - September 9, 2026 COD Minutes: A motion by Dr. Addison and second by Dr. Smith was made to approve the minutes from September 26, 2026 as presented. The motion carried with one abstention.
4. Discussion
 - Building Space Inventory: This initiative is a building space audit designed to establish full operational visibility and to identify where and how academic spaces are being used on campus. Members were asked to send contact information to April Gunn so she may begin the process.
 - Student Absences: Dr. Dailey requested discussion regarding student absences, specifically whether faculty should drop them or maintain their

enrollment. Dr. Dailey will create a policy statement for review and a more in-depth discussion will take place at a later COD meeting.

5. Provost Updates

- Day One Access: Members discussed feedback received from faculty regarding day one access.
- VERI: 51 employees accepted VERI. Provost Hargis will meet with members individually to discuss prioritized needs.

6. Report Out/Unit Updates

- College of Science and Engineering
 - i. Partnering with Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) to expand career opportunities for students and recent graduates while strengthening the pipeline of qualified applicants for positions with DLA.
- College of Education
 - i. Residents are on campus for professional development today.
 - ii. Renee Calhoon has been selected to receive the Gordon R. Alley Partnership Award from the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning (KUCRL). This national award recognizes professionals who exemplify the spirit of partnership, mentorship, and collaboration in advancing the work of the Center.
- Graduate School
 - i. Meeting with program coordinators to discuss operational pieces.
 - ii. Working with the URC regarding professional conference funds.
- College of Health and Behavioral Sciences
 - i. Angie Longing is the new President and CEO of Conway Regional Health Center.
 - ii. Tuesday, October 27th, "Lead Where You Are" speaker series. 5:00 pm in Brewer-Hegeman Conference Center.

7. Important Information Items and Dates

- [UCA 2035](#)
- [2026-2027 Academic Timetable](#)
- COD Meeting
 - October 7, 2026, 9:00 am, Wingo 214
 - October 21, 2026, 9:00 am, Wingo 214
 - November 4, 2026, 8:00 am, Elizabeth House
 - November 11, 2026, 9:00 am, Wingo 214
 - November 18, 2026: 9:00 am, Wingo 214
- September 24, 2026: HLC Spotlight-Integrity in Action: Criterion 2 Feedback Forum - X-period, Burdick 205
- October 2, 2026: Board of Trustees Meeting
- October 6, 2026: Campus Talks - X-period, COB Auditorium
- November 9-11, 2026: HLC Mock Site Visit
- December 2, 2026: Academic Affairs Leadership Team Meeting, 9:00 am, Wingo 315
- December 4, 2026: Board of Trustees Meeting