University of Central Arkansas
Council of Deans
Wednesday, October 21, 2026
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Wingo 214

MINUTES

1. Welcome: The Council of Deans met on Wednesday, October 21, 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. Nancy Reese, Dr. Patricia Smith, and Dr. Tom Williams. Dr. Amy Hawkins, Assistant Provost to Teaching and Academic Leadership, attended as a guest.

2. Discussion
    - UCA Student Success Study Proposal - Setting Students Up for Success: Dr. Hawkins shared a proposal that will examine how UCA students perceive the instructional practices that support their learning and success. This study aligns with UCA 2035 Imperatives 1 (Center Student Success) and 3 (Discovery in Action). Members provided input regarding campus collaboration and offered support in implementing this proposal.
    - ADHE Program Viability Report: Dr. Boniecki shared the current ADHE program viability report. Members discussed the warning system used by ADHE and their plans for making actionable changes to current at risk programs. Members will share the information with unit chairs and directors.

3. Action Item
    - October 7, 2026 COD Minutes: A motion by Dr. Addison and second by Dr. Smith was made to approve the minutes from October 7, 2026 as presented. The motion carried with one abstention.

4. Provost Updates
    - Members will meet with HLC consultants, Sarah Westfall and Robbie Teahen, on Wednesday, November 11th at 9:00 am in the Wingo Hall Board Room. This is a joint session with the four curriculum committees and Academic Council. COD will meet following this meeting in Wingo 214.
    - Distinguished Scholars Day is Thursday, October 22, 2026.

5. Report Out/Unit Updates
    - College of Business
        i. The Arkansas Insurance Hall of Fame banquet took place last week and was a successful celebration.
        ii. The university is hosting the Regional FBLA Conference next week.
    - Honors College
        i. The college has experienced a positive increase in undergraduate research opportunity funding.

- College of Health and Behavioral Sciences
    i. The college is currently conducting position searches for the Department of Nursing and a chair search in the Department of Psychology and Counseling.
- Kurt Boniecki
    i. The final HLC Criterion forum will be held tomorrow, October 22nd, at x-period.
- Graduate Studies
    i. Research compliance officer interviews are being conducted.
    ii. There will be an IACUC lab inspection today.
- College of Education
    i. Mashburn Center for Learning is providing professional development on campus today.
- College of Science and Engineering
    i. UCA took part in the Forge Summit that addresses Cybersecurity and National Security. A new consortium partnership between The Forge Institute, UCA, Arkansas Tech, and A-State was announced at the summit.

6. Important Information Items and Dates
    - UCA 2035
    - 2026-2027 Academic Timetable
    - COD Meeting
        - November 4, 2026, 8:00 am, Elizabeth House
        - November 11, 2026, 10:00 am, Wingo 214
        - November 18, 2026: 9:00 am, Wingo 214
    - 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
    - December 10, 2026: Graduate Commencement, 5:00 pm, Farris Center
    - December 11, 2026: Undergraduate Commencements, Farris Center
        - 9:00 am - College of Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences; College of Business
        - 12:00 pm - College of Education; College of Health & Behavioral Sciences; College of Science & Engineering

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