The University of Central Arkansas Board of Trustees convened at 10:00 a.m., October 2, 2026, with the following officers and members present:

Mr. Jim Rankin, Jr. – Chair
Mr. Kelley Erstine – Vice Chair
Ms. Kay Hinkle – Secretary
Mr. Curtis Barnett
Ms. Amy Denton
Dr. Terry Fiddler
Dr. Michael Stanton

MINUTES

The board unanimously approved the minutes of the August 6, 2026, board meeting, as submitted upon motion by Curtis Barnett and second by Kelley Erstine.

REPORTS FROM THE PRESIDENTS OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION, FACULTY SENATE, AND STAFF SENATE

The statements from the presidents of the Student Government Association, Faculty Senate, and Staff Senate are attached to the original minutes.

REPORTS

President's Report – President Davis recognized Taylor Brewer and Student Veterans of America as the Bear C.L.A.W.S. recipients.

Audit and Finance Committee Report – Kay Hinkle, chair of the Audit and Finance Committee, informed the trustees of the business that was discussed by the committee.

Fall Enrollment and UCA Commitment Update – Kevin Thomas provided an update on fall enrollment and UCA Commitment. A copy of his report is attached to the original minutes.

Financial Report – Jeremy Bruner provided a financial report which is attached to the original minutes.

ACTION AGENDA

Contract Review Procedures – Board Policy No. 416

Pursuant to Board Policy No. 416, Contract Review Procedures, the administration must seek board approval for any contract that requires the university to expend funds in excess of $500,000.

The administration is seeking board approval for the university to enter into contract with the following company/organization:

1. JSK Company Inc. dba IK Electric, IK Network Solutions

The board unanimously adopted the following resolution upon motion by Terry Fiddler and second by Curtis Barnett:

"**BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees authorizes the administration to enter into the contract with the company/organization listed above and on the following page."**

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS
REASON FOR REQUIRING BOARD REVIEW AND ACTION
(Board Policy No. 416)

Contract exceeds $500,000

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1. Vendor/Party: JSK Company Inc. dba IK Electric, IK Network Solutions

Amount: Approximately $5,303,000 (total amount for seven years).

Summary of Contract Information: The university is utilizing the State of Arkansas contract SP-21-004 to complete a comprehensive campus network refresh, covering all core networking and edge switches.

Term: October 2, 2026, to October 1, 2030. The initial term is for four years, but the contract may be extended for three more years not to exceed a total contract length of seven years.

Insurance Services

Health Insurance

Total projected costs for the university health plan in 2027 are $16,536,110, an increase of $1,674,059 over the previous year's budget.

To fund this increase, UCA will contribute $1,227,070, while $446,989 will be funded through employee premiums. This represents a 12% increase in employee health insurance premiums for the 2027 calendar year.

Overall, UCA will fund 75% of the total 2027 health plan costs ($12,364,435), while employees will fund the remaining 25% ($4,171,675).

The proposed changes are based on a review of claims experience and medical and pharmacy trend analysis provided by Stephens Insurance, Inc. Proposed employee premium rates are listed below.

Proposed PPO	Employee	Employer	Total
Employee Only	$106.84	$661.96	$768.80
Employee/Spouse	$488.04	$1,098.11	$1,586.15
Employee/Child(ren)	$347.75	$1,112.11	$1,459.86
Employee/Family	$777.45	$1,398.32	$2,175.77
*Special Family	$367.12	$1,808.65	$2,175.77

Proposed CDHP	Employee	Employer	Total
Employee Only	$61.25	$499.70	$560.95
Employee/Spouse	$359.69	$809.29	$1,168.98
Employee/Child(ren)	$258.03	$825.17	$1,083.20
Employee/Family	$603.08	$995.84	$1,598.92
*Special Family	$285.67	$1,313.25	$1,598.92

*Special Family applies when two married employees are on the same plan.

Dental, Vision, Life, and Long-term Disability Insurance

There are no rate or plan design changes proposed for dental, life, or long-term disability insurance for 2027. Blue Cross Blue Shield is now the vendor for vision benefits, which are fully funded by employees.

Curtis Barnett recused himself from participation in this agenda item. The board adopted the following resolution upon motion by Kelley Erstine and second by Terry Fiddler:

"BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the administration to make the above changes to the UCA Health Plan and authorizes the president of the university, or his designee, to execute documents, enter into contracts, and take such other steps as may be necessary or required to facilitate the insurance and disability plans."

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board unanimously declared an executive session to consider employment and disciplining of employees, upon motion by Kay Hinkle and second by Amy Denton.

OPEN SESSION

No action was taken during Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned upon motion by Curtis Barnett and second by Kay Hinkle.

The University of Central Arkansas Board of Trustees

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Jim Rankin, Jr.
Chair

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Kay Hinkle
Secretary