



COA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY Minutes

**February 15, 2024, 12:00 pm
Rosen Plaza Hotel, Grand Ballroom**

Call to Order (Jena Dunn, COA Chair)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jena Dunn at 12:15 pm.

Seating of Delegates (Jena Dunn)

Chair Dunn gave a reminder that representatives from COA candidate and accredited institutions may vote in voice votes; only credentialed delegates of COA-accredited institutions may vote by ballot.

Acknowledgement of Recording Secretary

Chair Dunn acknowledged the recording secretary, Charles Faber.

Approval of Minutes from the February 16, 2023 Meeting (previously distributed)

Motion: Approve the minutes of the February 16, 2023 meeting. MSC

Greeting from ABHE President Philip Dearborn

- Acknowledged and thanked Executive Director Beatty, Chair Dunn, and the Commission staff.
- Informed delegates that a report on ABHE data is being provided electronically.
- Acknowledged and thanked the members of the Commission
- Thanked Executive Director Beatty and Chair Dunn for their leadership in updating the standards.
- Thanked all institutions for supporting biblical higher education.

COA Executive Director Lisa Beatty's Report

- Recognized Commissioners and Commission staff.
- Summarized the institutions associated with ABHE.
- Summarized recent US Department of Education activities.
- Reported on activities of the US House of Representatives in regard to higher education costs.
- Reported that ABHE's next USDE recognition review comes in 2027. The application will be submitted in 2025. Requests to expand scope to include doctoral degrees must be submitted as a part of this recognition review process.
- Announced ABHE will be working on policies regarding doctoral programs.

- Summarized CHEA activities and reported that CHEA asked for ABHE to present a pre-conference video regarding our approach to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion which focuses on the outcome of creating a welcoming culture. It was well received.
- Reported that ABHE will also have a 2025 report to submit to CHEA.
- Summarized work done over the past year couple of years on the process of revising the standards and when institutions will need to comply with the new standards.
- Announced that the Commission will turn its attention to streamlining policy statements.
- Summarized AIU reporting process and the available data sets.
- Encouraged delegates to become a part of the Peer Evaluator network.

Motion: Accept these reports as presented. MSC

Summary of February 2024 COA Actions – Chair Dunn provided a summary of the February 2024 COA actions:

- Elected Commission Officers for 2024-2025
 - Jon Jones – Secretary
 - Elaine Phillips – Vice Chair
 - Jena Dunn – Chair
- Adopted changes to 2 policies and made edits to 5 that will be sent out for comments.
- Approved 7 substantive changes
- Deferred action on accreditation for 3 institution
- Continued on negative sanction 3 institutions
- Removed negative sanction from 1 institutions
- Reinstated 1 institution to applicant status
- Granted programmatic applicant status to 1 institution
- Granted applicant status to 8 institutions
- Granted candidate status to 7 institutions
- Granted initial accreditation to 4 institutions
- Reaffirmed the accreditation of 11 institutions

Proposed Conditions of Eligibility and Standards for Accreditation (institutional and programmatic) (Jena Dunn)

Motion: Adopt the proposed Conditions of Eligibility and Standards for Accreditation. MSC by voice vote.

COA Nominating Report (balloting) (Jena Dunn)

Announced that the dates for the terms of the last three positions are incorrect on the agenda but are correct on the ballot.

- Four-year term (2024-2028)
 - Evan Posey, Executive Vice President and Provost, Luther Rice College and Seminary (GA)
 - Lee “Rusty” Waller, Distinguished Professor of Education, Baptist University of the Americas (TX)
- Four-year term (2024-2028)

- Aaron Proffitt, Vice President for Academic Affairs, God's Bible School and College (OH)
 - Alicia Plant, Associate Academic Dean, Beulah Heights University (GA)
- Four-year term (2023-2027)
 - Curtis Essenburg, Dean of Students and Work, Kuyper College (MI)
 - Brian Sherstad, Executive Vice President, Grace Christian University (MI)
- Second four-year term (2023-2027) running unopposed.
 - Joel Badal, Dean of Institutional Effectiveness, Professor of Leadership Studies, College of Biblical Studies (TX)
- Second four-year term (2023-2027) running unopposed.
 - Elaine Phillips, Provost, Family of Faith University (OK)

The results of the election will be announced at a later time.

[Update — Evan Posey, Brian Sherstad, and Aaron Proffitt were elected to four-year terms.]

Closing Remarks/Adjournment (Jena Dunn)

Motion: Motion to adjourn. MSC at 1:00 pm