



COA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY Minutes

**February 20, 2025, 12:10 pm
Rosen Plaza Hotel, Grand Ballroom**

Call to Order (Jena Dunn, COA Chair)

Seating of Delegates (Jena Dunn)

Chair Dunn reminded attendees 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, Jon Jones (Jena Dunn)

Chair Dunn acknowledged the recording secretary, Jon Jones.

Approval of Minutes from the February 14, 2024 Meeting and July 19, 2024 E-Vote
(Minutes on Annual Meeting App)

Motion: Approve minutes of the February 14, 2024 Meeting and July 19, 2024 E-Vote. MSC

Greeting from ABHE President (Philip Dearborn)

- Acknowledged and thanked Executive Director Beatty, Chair Dunn, and Commission staff for their effective leadership
- Acknowledged and thanked the members of the Commission for their service
- Expressed concern about the current higher education environment
- Emphasized the importance of peer accreditation in keeping the promises we make to the public, students, and their families.

COA Executive Director's Report (Lisa Beatty)

- Recognized two Commissioners stepping off the Commission
 - Dr. LaTanya Tyson
 - Dr. Yvonne Thigpen
- Recognized Commission staff
- Membership
 - 155 Institutions served by the COA (Applicant, Candidate, and Accredited)
 - 120 Accredited institutions
 - 7 Institutions with programmatic accreditation
 - 9 Candidates
 - 20 Applicants
 - 8 Association-only members
 - Total = 163
- U.S. Department of Education

- It's hard to know what to expect from the Trump administration at this time; however, they appear to be doing what they said they would do during the campaign.
- ABHE's next review for ED recognition is in 2027. The related petition is due July 8, 2025, and will include a request for expansion of scope to include doctoral education.
- ABHE's midpoint report to CHEA is due December 2025
- Summarized actions taken to implement new Standards
- Commission will continue its policy review work, particularly for policies that are not relevant to the U.S. Department of Education review
- Recognized evaluators and encouraged delegates to become a part of the Peer Evaluator Network
- Due to a policy change, CACREP is now willing to accept applications from ABHE-accredited institutions
- Summarized findings from COA assessment efforts

Motion: Accept reports as presented. MSC

Summary of February 2025 COA Actions (Jena Dunn)

- Election of Commission Officers for 2025-2026
 - Jon Jones – Secretary
 - Elaine Phillips – Vice Chair
 - Jena Dunn – Chair
- Policy Actions
 - Adopted changes to seven policies and approved changes to seven policies that will be sent out for a public call for comment
- Institutional Actions
 - Approved eleven substantive changes, deferred action on one substantive change, and denied one substantive change
 - Placed one institution on warning status; continued two institutions on warning status and one institution on probation status
 - Withdrew accreditation from one institution
 - Granted three institutions applicant status; deferred one applicant
 - Granted one institution candidate status
 - Granted three institutions initial accreditation
 - Granted six institutions reaffirmation of accreditation
 - Granted one institution programmatic accreditation

COA Nominating Report (balloting) (Jena Dunn)

(Ballots available to voting delegates in the foyer immediately prior to the meeting)

Nominees (Bios on Annual Meeting App)

- Four-year term (2025-2029)
 - Teddy Bitner, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Calvary University (MO)
 - Donald Grafton, Vice President of Academic Affairs, New Hope Christian College (OR)
- Second four-year term (2025-2029) (unopposed)
 - Jena Dunn, Provost, Stark College and Seminary (TX)
- Second four-year term (2025-2029) (unopposed)
 - Marty Harris, President, LABI College (CA)

The results of the election will be announced in the next Commission Connection newsletter.

[Update — Terry Bitner was elected to a four-year term.]

Closing Remarks/Adjournment (Jena Dunn)

Motion: Motion to adjourn at 12:47 pm. MSC