

**WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 19, 2023**

The Western Community College Area Board of Governors held a Regular Board meeting at 2:01 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 in the Coral E. Richards Boardroom at Western Nebraska Community College, Scottsbluff Campus, located at 1601 East 27th Street, in the City of Scottsbluff, in the County of Scotts Bluff, in the State of Nebraska, as per the publicized notice in the Star-Herald on Tuesday, April 11, 2023.

A current agenda was available in the Board Secretary's office on the Scottsbluff Campus at the time of the publicized notice.

AREA BOARD

Karen S. Anderson, Vice Chairperson.....	Present
Margaret R. Crouse	Present
Linda A. Guzman-Gonzales.....	Present
F. Lynne Klemke, Chairperson	Present (via Zoom)
Allan D. Kreman.....	Present
Kimberly A. Marcy	Present (via Zoom)
William M. Packard.....	Present
M. Thomas Perkins	Absent
Coral E. Richards	Present
R. J. Savely, Jr.....	Present
Richard G. Stickney.....	Present

Dr. Thomas Perkins notified the Board secretary that he was unable to join the meeting because of personal health.

QUORUM

Chair Klemke declared a quorum was present for the transaction of business.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Chair Klemke asked for comments from the community. Pursuant to Board Policy BP-101, Chair Klemke reminded community members who wish to make comments that each speaker will be limited to a five-minute presentation. There were no public comments.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS

Chair Klemke announced that for public information there is a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act available on the table at the back of the room.

Chair Klemke announced that the Board reserves the right to enter into closed session if deemed necessary for any item on the agenda per Section 84-1410 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Review Contents of Consent Calendar

- a. Agenda
- b. Excuse Absent Board Member(s)
- c. Minutes
 1. Regular Meeting, March 15, 2023

Claims: March 2023

- a. WCCA Unrestricted Fund - \$3,302,120.20
- b. WCCA Restricted Fund - \$10,113.96
- c. WCCA Federal Fund - \$830.48
- d. WCCA Agency Fund - \$10,139.00
- e. WCCA Loan Fund - 0 -
- f. WCCA Plant Fund - \$30,822.91
- g. WCCA Auxiliary Fund - \$129,226.83
- h. City Planning Commission Reports (no reports)

Approval of Consent Calendar

Consideration of Items Extracted from Consent Calendar

Chair Klemke inquired if there were any items on the Consent Calendar which any Board member wished to have extracted for separate consideration. Ms. Anderson requested extraction of the item payable to the Scottsbluff/Gering United Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Guzman-Gonzales MOVED to approve the amended Consent Calendar. SECONDED by Ms. Richards. The vote was, Yes: Anderson, Crouse, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Marcy, Packard, Richards, Savely, Stickney, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Perkins. Motion carried.

Ms. Anderson reported that the expense payable to the Scottsbluff/Gering United Chamber of Commerce represents payment in the amount of \$215.00 for the WNCC Foundation membership. Ms. Anderson is the Executive Director of the Scottsbluff/Gering United Chamber of Commerce.

Chair Klemke entertained a motion for approval of the extracted item.

Ms. Guzman-Gonzales MOVED to approve the extracted item payable to the Scottsbluff/Gering United Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$215.00 for the WNCC Foundation membership. SECONDED by Mr. Savely. The vote was, Yes: Crouse, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Marcy, Packard, Richards, Savely, Stickney, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: Anderson. Absent: Perkins. Motion carried.

Board Member Mileage and/or Expense Reimbursement

Mr. Stickney MOVED to approve the following travel expenses: Dr. Margaret Crouse for \$423.23 and Mr. Allan Kreman for \$26.20. SECONDED by Dr. Packard. The vote was, Yes: Guzman-Gonzales, Marcy, Packard, Richards, Savely, Stickney, Anderson, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: Crouse, Kreman. Absent: Perkins. Motion carried.

Board Member Mileage and/or Expense Reimbursement (cont.)

Ms. Guzman-Gonzales MOVED to approve the following travel expense: Mr. R. J. Savely for \$117.90. SECONDED by Ms. Anderson. The vote was, Yes: Kreman, Marcy, Packard, Richards, Stickney, Anderson, Crouse, Guzman-Gonzales, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: Savely. Absent: Perkins. Motion carried.

Review of Bids/Contracts

Bid #23-SER-15 Mowing Services

TABULATION

COMPANY	CITY/STATE	TOTAL AMOUNT
Yost Lawn Service, LLC	Scottsbluff, NE	\$88,000.00
First Class Grass, LLC	Minatare, NE	\$115,000.00
AJ's Landscaping	Scottsbluff, NE	Bidder Disqualified

Ms. Koski, Vice President of Administrative Services, explained that the College maintenance staff will be busy with campus projects, so it was determined that the best option was to hire an external mowing service. The selection committee recommended the 2023 Mowing Services contract be awarded to Yost Lawn Services, LLC.

Approval of Bids/Contracts

Mr. Savely MOVED to approve awarding Bid #23-SER-15 Mowing Services to Yost Lawn Service, LLC in the amount of \$88,000.00. SECONDED by Ms. Anderson. The vote was, Yes: Marcy, Packard, Richards, Savely, Stickney, Anderson, Crouse, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Perkins. Motion carried.

A-Pod Technology Renovations

TABULATION

COMPANY	CITY/STATE	TOTAL AMOUNT
AllinIt	Centennial, CO	\$302,975.30

In June 2022, the Board of Governors approved engaging AllinIt to develop technology room designs for the renovated pods. AllinIt completed its analysis and provided pricing documents for the A-Pod Technology Renovations.

In June 2022, the Board of Governors reviewed and approved the recommendation of outside consultant, Jerry Perez to engage AllinIT to develop the technology related room design for the Pods.

AllinIt presented a package that updates and standardizes the technology for the Pods. The package meets the classroom requirements agreed on by the Instructional Technology Committee, including Zoom capabilities for online students and Dual Credit students, collaboration spaces, interactive TV for instruction, microphone, and speakers to allow effective engagement with online students and wireless display broadcast and sharing.

To ensure the standard that was established through the original selection process, it is requested that the Board Finance and Facilities Committee recommend to the Board of Governors the approval of the A-Pod Technology Renovations to AllinIt for \$302,975.30.

Approval of Bids/Contracts (cont.)

Ms. Anderson MOVED to approve awarding the A-Pod Technology Renovations to AllinIt in the amount of \$302,975.30. SECONDED by Dr. Packard. The vote was, Yes: Packard, Richards, Savely, Stickney, Anderson, Crouse, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Marcy, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Perkins. Motion carried.

Personnel Resignations/Appointments

Review of Personnel Resignations

1. Ms. Pauline Newman, Accounting Services Assistant Director
Effective June 1, 2023
2. Mr. Terry Sickler, Aviation Maintenance Program Coordinator
Effective April 28, 2023
3. Ms. Amber Jacoby, Nursing Instructor
Effective August 31, 2023
4. Dr. William Hanson, Science Instructor
Effective August 31, 2023
5. Dr. Scott Schaub, Physics Instructor
Effective August 31, 2023
6. Mr. Sean Clymer, Facilities Operations Director (rescinded)

Approval of Personnel Resignations

Ms. Guzman-Gonzales MOVED to approve the following Personnel Resignations: Ms. Pauline Newman, Accounting Services Assistant Director, effective June 1, 2023, Mr. Terry Sickler, Aviation Maintenance Program Coordinator, effective April 28, 2023, Ms. Amber Jacoby, Nursing instructor, effective August 31, 2023, Dr. William Hanson, Science instructor, effective August 31, 2023 and Dr. Scott Schaub, Physics instructor, effective, August 31, 2023.

Ms. Koski explained that Mr. Sean Clymer, Facilities Operations Director rescinded his resignation and because he has been a valuable employee and with the President's approval, she would like to continue Mr. Clymer's employment with the College. President Marrin stated that he approves of the continuation of Mr. Clymer's employment at WNCC. SECONDED by Mr. Savely. The vote was, Yes: Richards, Savely, Stickney, Anderson, Crouse, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Marcy, Packard, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Perkins. Motion carried.

Review of Personnel Appointments

1. Ms. Pauline Newman, Accounting Services Director
Effective June 1, 2023
Salary for this full-time position for the twelve-month fiscal year, i.e., July 1 2022, through June 30, 2023 is \$76,250.00
2. Mr. David Hessler, Technical Support Specialist
Effective April 3, 2023
Wage for this full-time position for the twelve-month fiscal year, i.e., July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 is \$18.19 per hour.

Review of Personnel Appointments (cont.)

3. Mr. Ming Ng, TRIO VUB Advisor (based out of Rapid City, SD)
Effective April 10, 2023
Wage for this full-time position for the twelve-month fiscal year, i.e., July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 is \$19.33 per hour.
4. Ms. Katie Moser, Career Pathways Advisor
Effective June 5, 2023
Salary for this full-time position for the twelve-month fiscal year, i.e., July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 is \$43,116.
5. Ms. Susan Dickinson, Honorary Status of Professor Emeritus

Approval of Personnel Appointments

Dr. Crouse MOVED to approve the following Personnel appointments: Ms. Pauline Newman, Accounting Services Director, effective June 1, 2023, Mr. David Hessler, Technical Support Specialist, effective April 3, 2023, Mr. Ming Ng, TRIO VUB Advisor, effective April 10, 2023, Ms. Katie Moser, Career Pathways Advisor, effective June 5, 2023, and Ms. Susan Dickinson, Honorary Status of Professor Emeritus. SECONDED by Mr. Kreman. The vote was, Yes: Savely, Stickney, Anderson, Crouse, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Marcy, Packard, Richards, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Perkins. Motion carried.

WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Presidential Search

Approval of Appointment of the College President

Chair Klemke thanked all involved in the Presidential Search process. A huge thank you to Ms. Anderson for agreeing to chair the Presidential Search Advisory Committee. This was an enormous endeavor and the Board is grateful for the guidance provided by Dr. Angela Provart, Pauly Group President.

Ms. Anderson added that the search committee represented each sector of the College; four Board members as well as staff, faculty, student and community representatives. The honesty and input were remarkable and it was a great group to work with.

Last October, the search began with engaging a firm to guide the process. Following interviews with search firms, the Pauly Group was retained. Initially, forty-two applications were forwarded to the committee for review, so a lot of time was spent reading through the information submitted by each applicant. Following review of applications, the Presidential Search Advisory Committee was able to narrow the pool to nine semi-finalists. Following Zoom interviews of the nine semi-finalists, the Committee narrowed the pool to three finalists.

Interviews were scheduled with tours of the College and community, and meet and greet sessions at each campus. Open forums were scheduled with links to surveys for each candidate to gather input from the College faculty, staff, students, and community members.

Chair Klemke thanked Dr. Provart and her team as they brought WNCC three finalists who were extremely well qualified. The Presidential Profile, interviews, forums, reference information, and survey results all contributed to the Board's selection of a College President.

Ms. Anderson, Chair of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee reported that Mr. Greg Dart was selected as the next WNCC President. Chair Klemke entertained a motion for approval of the selection of Mr. Greg Dart as the next WNCC President.

Ms. Anderson MOVED for approval of the Board of Governor's selection of Mr. Greg Dart as the next WNCC President. SECONDED by Ms. Guzman-Gonzales. The vote was, Yes: Anderson, Crouse, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Marcy, Packard, Richards, Savely, Stickney, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Perkins. Motion carried.

Reports and Recommendations from the Board Policy Committee

BP-210 College Philosophy, Role, Mission, and Values

The adoption of the Strategic Plan in January prompted an update to Board policy BP-210 College Philosophy, Role, Mission, and Values. With the support of legal counsel; the mission statement and the vision statement will be removed from policy and will now reside within the strategic plan. They are typically reviewed during the strategic planning process, so this allows them to be changed quickly and more valuable.

BP-552 Student Registration and AP-552 Student Registration

This policy concerns registrations and changes in registration, including course and college withdrawal. This information previously resided in the College catalog, now all the work that has been going on for a number of years will be placed within a policy and procedure. The most significant change is dropping courses at the end of the first week to the end of the second week. After a week, students may not be certain where they are headed, so this gives them a chance to make that decision and to withdraw from courses. There will also be changes to tuition and the refund schedule, so Administrative Services Council will review that process.

BP-726 Institutional Standards of Conduct

This policy was commissioned by the Board of Governors and sent to the President with a request to move it through the shared governance process. The Human Resources Advisory Council was asked to review the policy as well. After consultation with the College attorney and Rocky Mountain Employers Council, the document was sent to all faculty and staff for comment. Most were supportive of the document, but there were some concerns expressed primarily within freedom of expression, which resulted in additional research. The policy was then sent out for a second review by all employees and approved by College Council.

INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS

2023 Governance Leadership Institute Overview

March 22-24, 2023, New Orleans, Louisiana (Ms. Klemke, Ms. Anderson)

Chair Klemke reported that she found the conference to be valuable. The College has been in the process of selecting a new president and because the focus was on board and president relationships, the information will be helpful when a new president is on board. The importance of relationships and communication on the part of the president and the board are essential. Honesty, transparency, and willingness to work as a team was repeatedly stressed.

2023 Governance Leadership Institute Overview (cont.)

March 22-24, 2023, New Orleans, Louisiana (Ms. Klemke, Ms. Anderson)

Ms. Anderson shared that her attendance at the conference confirmed that we are truly fortunate to have a Board that works together. The focus of the conference was on the Board's relationship with the president as well as open, honest communication. Ms. Anderson stated that the conference was timely and she was grateful for the opportunity to attend.

2023 Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference Overview

March 24-28, 2023, Chicago, IL (Ms. Anderson, Ms. Guzman-Gonzales, Dr. Packard)

Ms. Anderson reported that she attended the President's Session and 2023 HLC Trends were shared. Mental health was at the top of list. Mental health challenges can impact the students and faculty as well as staff, and resilience is becoming a necessary skill. An additional important topic was the changing landscape of education and how institutions will find it necessary to adapt. Of course, the focus should always be the students. Overall, it was an interesting conference.

Ms. Guzman-Gonzales reported that the session that was of interest involved the use of AI. Examples were provided regarding how AI is used with the students and to promote growth. Students should always be the focus; they are our job and we need to do our best to create an environment that serves them well. The Criterion Four session was interesting as well. Ms. Guzman-Gonzales stated that the College has a good HLC team and it was a good conference.

Dr. Packard reported that the session with Dr. Bordenkircher was the most relevant. Dr. Bordenkircher shared the process for formally contesting an accreditation review if the result was not as expected. A lot of information was similar to that shared at the previous year's conference, but was still quite good overall.

Student Report – There was no report.

Faculty Report

Patsy Yeager organized an event in celebration of *The Week of the Young Child*. Ms. Yeager engaged community organizations, businesses, and individuals to set up a carnival-like atmosphere. Nearly four hundred children and their families participated in the event scheduled April 1, 2023. Congratulations to Ms. Yeager, this event was a shining example of our mission as a community college.

WNCC staff will be taking twelve students of various ages, including three Dual Credit students, to study two weeks in San Miguel del Allende, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Participants will study Spanish twenty hours per week in a local school, stay with host families, and go on educational tours in the afternoons and on weekends including Guanajuato City and Mexico City. Numerous activities such as visits to museums, pyramids, and markets are also scheduled.

WNCC Performing Arts is currently on tour to perform for students and recruit for all programs at WNCC. Included were Cheyenne East High School, Cheyenne South High School, and Cheyenne Central High School, Mountain View High School, Berthoud High School, Douglas High School, Guernsey-Sunrise High School, and Franklin Middle School.

Faculty Report (cont.)

WNCC students will also see a performance of the National Tour of *The Color Purple* and attend the community talkback after the show. Forty students are on tour this Spring, featuring scenes and tap dancing from the Theatre students, songs performed by Varsity Vocalise, and songs performed by Cougar Rock.

Amy Winters has been chosen to receive the NSEA Award for Teaching Excellence for 2023. Her name will be submitted as Nebraska's nominee for the 2024 National Teaching Excellence Award Program. Presentation of the award will be during the 162nd Delegate Assembly on Saturday, April 29th at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln, NE.

The winners for the Spring 2023 AMATYC math competition include:

Gurnoor Hayer - 1st Place - 9.0 points - \$300

Anna Smith - 2nd Place - 8.0 points - \$200

Alessandra Meoni - 3rd Place - 5.5 points - \$100

The other top scorers that will be included in the team score are:

Ajayi Oluwapelumi - 4th Place - 4.5 points

Andjawo Diwenitissiou - 5th Place - 3.5 points

Nebraska Community College Association

Dr. Crouse reported that it has been a difficult time for the Legislature and bills are currently being bundled. According to the NCCA Executive Director, Ms. Courtney Wittstruck, the tax levy bill is still in progress. The outcome is uncertain, but seems better than originally introduced.

The All-Nebraska Academic Team traveled to Lincoln and while at the Capitol, the Governor spoke with the group. The team will be heading to the international meeting.

This year is the 50th year celebration for Nebraska Community Colleges. Life-size posters of each of the colleges have been hung in the rotunda at the Capitol. The Powerline program is on the poster for WNCC and depicts that the College is a CTE institution and a Pathways institution.

Dr. Crouse encouraged attendance at the NCCA Annual Meeting scheduled November 5 and 6, 2023 in North Platte. A program is planned along with the regular committee meetings.

Ms. Anderson reiterated that it is indeed a difficult time for the Legislature as they filibuster and bundle bills. Ms. Wittstruck keeps NCCA members and the community college presidents informed of Legislature updates.

Western Nebraska Community College Foundation

In the absence of Ms. Reisig, Ms. Anderson reported that the Foundation recently received two memorial funds. The first was in memory of former Cosmetology program instructor, Mr. Jeff Pippit. The funds will be used to help train BNA students in Sidney. The second was in memory of Mr. Lee Dick, long time educator and Math Lab tutor at WNCC. The funds will be used to help provide equipment such as graphing calculators for the Math Lab.

Western Nebraska Community College Foundation (cont.)

Foundation staff completed an application for a \$300,000 grant for the Construction Trades, and should hear soon if the application makes it to the second round for consideration. Two additional grant applications are being looked into for other potential funding sources for Construction Trades.

President Comments

On behalf of the College, Mr. Marrin thanked the Board and all faculty, staff and community members that supported the endeavor of finding a new president. The Pauly Group's work was fantastic as well.

Mr. Marrin reiterated that a lot is happening with the Legislature. The legislative bill that deals with taxation and the ability to levy taxes has been put into Legislative Bill 243. The bill has been placed on select file, but has not gone through the second round of debate. Once the budget passes, hopefully the rest of the bills will follow. The other bill that is important to the College would enable the expansion of clinical nursing sites, especially in rural settings. It is difficult to determine how many bills will make it through this session.

Workforce training was a topic of discussion at both the AACC and HLC conference. The Higher Learning Commission wants to do a review to see how they can do quality assurance for workforce training, which is a concern. Workforce training often involves quick response training options and waiting for approval from HLC would derail efforts to provide a quick turn-around response to those training requests. Concerns have been shared, especially since workforce training is probably the future for the community colleges.

Recently, student Binny Canales was recognized at the AACC President's Breakfast. Mr. Canales is one of twenty students named to the All-USA Academic Team. WNCC student, Ms. Dacia Boyer had the opportunity to speak at the Capitol during the recent recognition ceremony in Lincoln.

The HLC Site review in Alliance is complete, and the report from the visit will be forthcoming. Dr. Joyce Hardy, Professor of Natural Sciences at Chadron State College was the reviewer.

Mr. Marrin mentioned that he recently met with the President of Bellevue University. This meeting was regarding articulation agreements. If we have an articulation agreement with another college, we have a pathway. These agreements are a prescribed way to guarantee every course a student takes will transfer.

Student award ceremonies have been scheduled at all three campuses and Board member attendance is appreciated. Board members were invited to attend the Response Tours as well.

Wilkins Architecture was on campus the 14th of April. Meetings were scheduled with nursing and CTE faculty, which are the areas that will be looked at for expansion and growth. Discussions were good and they will be returning on the 28th to continue discussions. As the facilities plan is built, all faculty will be engaged.

Board Member Comments

Chair Klemke thanked all involved in the effort to find a new president for the College and thanks to all who were supportive of the search. The structure of the search committee was addressed in the revised Presidential Search Board policy. The revision ensured that everyone involved on the Search Committee was connected with the institution more closely than in the previous search.

Ms. Anderson reported that she accompanied the finalist candidates when they visited the Alliance and Sidney campuses. The visit with the Powerline program students was enlightening. The passion of the instructor and his connection with the students was phenomenal, as was the Aviation program in Sidney.

Ms. Guzman-Gonzales suggested a new photo of the Board members and suggested posting the photo on all three campuses so that students and employees are aware of who they are. Rotating meetings at all three campuses would be helpful as well.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

1. "Music in Our Schools Month" Concert
Featuring WNCC's Fire in the Pan Swingers and BMS Jazz Band
March 23, 2023
Scottsbluff, Campus
2. 2023 Governance Leadership Institute
March 22-24, 2023
New Orleans, Louisiana
3. 2023 Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference
March 24-28, 2023
Hyatt Regency, Chicago, IL
4. Vocal Music – Spring Gala
March 31 and April 1, 2023, 6:30 p.m.
Gering Civic Center, Gering, NE
5. 2023 AACC Annual Conference
April 1-4, 2023
Denver, Colorado
6. Instrumental Music – Spring Band Concert
April 23, 2023
Scottsbluff Campus
7. Instrumental Music – Honors Recital Featuring WNCC Students
April 29, 2023
Scottsbluff Campus
8. NCCA Second Quarter Meeting
Monday, May 1, 2023
Lincoln, NE or via Zoom

Upcoming Meetings and Events (cont.)

9. Theatre Arts – *Bridge to Terabithia*
May 4-6, 2023
Scottsbluff Campus

10. WNCC Student Art Exhibit
May 5–June 25, 2023
Scottsbluff Campus

11. Instrumental Music – Jump, Jive, and Swing
May 7, 2023, 5:15 p.m.
Hampton Inn, Scottsbluff, NE

12. WNCC Commencement
May 13, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Cougar Palace, Scottsbluff Campus

13. NCCA Third Quarter Meeting
Monday, August 7, 2023
Lincoln, NE

14. ACCT Leadership Congress
October 9-12, 2023
Aria Resort and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada

15. NCCA Fourth Quarter Meeting and Annual Conference
Sunday, November 5 and Monday, November 6, 2023,
North Platte, NE

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, May 17, 2023, 1:00 p.m., Coral E. Richards Boardroom, Scottsbluff Campus, 1601 East 27th Street, Scottsbluff, NE

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 3:05 p.m.

F. Lynne Klemke, Chairperson

Susan L. Verbeck, Secretary