

**WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**INFORMAL MEETING
MINUTES**

January 15, 2025

The Western Community College Area Board of Governors held an Informal Board meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 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, January 7, 2025.

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

Those in attendance were Allan D. Kreman, Lori J. Liggett, William M. Packard, Coral E. Richards, R. J. Savely, Linda A. Guzman-Gonzales, Starr Lehl, Marjorie A. Schmidt, John P. Stinner.

A copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available on the table at the back of the room.

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

Community Comments

Pursuant to Board Policy BP-106, community members who wish to make comments will be limited to a five-minute presentation. There were no community comments.

Budget Update

Mr. Stinner shared information regarding the Nebraska legislative general fund financial status. Following discussion, Mr. Stinner stated ARPA funds will no longer be available, which is a concern regarding dual credit funding.

President Dart shared information regarding options for balancing the 2025-2026 College budget. Under consideration is the elimination of programs whose enrollment numbers have been at the lower end of the spectrum. Data was collected from the past three years and five factors were considered when the programs were ranked. President Dart added that a timeline is associated with the elimination of programs.

The cash in lieu associated with health benefits would be discontinued which results in savings of approximately \$250,000. Current employees will be grandfathered and continue to receive the cash in lieu but discontinued for future hires. In response to an inquiry, President Dart stated that change would be implemented the end of May.

Regarding personnel, President Dart shared his executive assistant will be departing, and rather than fill the position, it would be merged into another role. With the September retirement of the dean in CTE and Business, that position would be eliminated. Reduction of faculty release/overload time would also be considered.

Budget Update (cont.)

WNCC has established a voluntary separation incentive program pursuant to Board policy BP-429 Employee Voluntary Separation. Through this program, the College is offering voluntary separation incentives to qualifying regular full-time employees paid from the general fund to provide an opportunity to proactively address budgetary and/or workforce challenges, and/or reorganization. The purpose of the program is to enable some College employees to voluntarily leave employment with the College, thereby assisting the College in implementing necessary budget reductions in accordance with its Strategic Plan. Voluntary separation incentives would be offered at the President's discretion and are allowable within available funding.

Board Member Comments

With the timeline involved with some of the budget options presented at this meeting, additional meetings may be scheduled for further discussion.

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 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 12:04 p.m.

Susan L. Verbeck, Secretary