

**WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
AREA BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**INFORMAL MEETING
MINUTES**

January 17, 2024

The Western Community College Area Board of Governors held an Informal Board meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 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 9, 2024.

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	Absent
Misty L. Curtis	Present
Linda A. Guzman-Gonzales	Absent
F. Lynne Klemke, Chairperson	Present
Allan D. Kreman	Present
William M. Packard	Absent
Coral E. Richards	Present
R. J. Savely, Jr	Present
John P. Stinner	Absent
Marjorie A. Schmidt	Present

QUORUM

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

Board Chairperson Comments

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 into closed session if deemed necessary for any item on the agenda per Section 84-1410 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Chair Klemke asked for comments from the community. Pursuant to Board Policy BP-106, 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.

New Board Member Onboarding Session

Chair Klemke explained there are times when the Board may wish to purchase flowers for an occasion such as a funeral. In the past, purchases were funded via contributions collected from Board members at a Board meeting, which was not always the best option. It was suggested that it would be helpful if a fund could be established for such purchases. The WNCC Foundation assisted by setting up a Board Gift Fund account so that transactions

New Board Member Onboarding Session (cont.)

could be routed through their office. Twice a year, in January and July, Board members will be asked to contribute to the fund. Amounts are at the discretion of the contributor.

Chair Klemke mentioned the first item of business at the Regular Board meeting is the re-organization of the Board. Re-organization involves the positions of the Board Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Nominations are required for the Chair and Vice Chair and require specific verbiage. Chair Klemke reviewed the nomination and motion verbiage for the two positions.

New Board Member Onboarding Session

Tour of Renovated Commons Area and A-Pod - Tour of Library and Bookstore

President Dart and Ms. Koski, Vice President of Administrative Services led Board members on a tour of the recently completed renovation of the student commons area (Pit) and the A-Pod classrooms and faculty offices. The group also toured Buddy's Bookstore and Bistro and the College Library. Ms. Allison Reisig, Technical Services Librarian, provided information about the study rooms and services provided by the Library.

Board Member Work Session with President Dart

Budget Philosophy

President Dart referenced the Budget Philosophy memo he recently shared with Board members. This information was disclosed so Board members had an opportunity to provide feedback before presentation to the Budget Advisory Committee later in the week.

President Dart stated that the budget has changed dramatically, especially regarding funding. With the Community College Future Fund that was introduced and supported by Governor Pillen last Legislative session, the goal has been to move the community colleges away from property tax funding. Nebraska has been a 40-40-20 state; 40% state funding, 40% property tax and 20% tuition for community colleges. In the last Legislative session and after the current budget year, the colleges will move to 80-20 with the state funding replacing the property tax funding.

The College adopted a new Strategic Plan in 2023. The plan, Re-Envisioning WNCC, included four goals, one was re-envisioning institutional vitality, which includes an objective related to resource allocation and budgeting. The purpose of the memo is to help articulate the underlying budget philosophy that will be necessary to achieve the goals within the strategic plan. Hopefully, these philosophies can be reflected during the 2024-25 budget development process.

Campus Master Planning and the Board's Role

Due to lack of time, this item will be addressed at the February 21, 2024 Informal meeting.

Board member Comments

Board members expressed gratitude for the tour of the facilities. The classroom renovation will provide a nice learning environment for the students.

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, January 17, 2024, 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 12:00 p.m.

F. Lynne Klemke, Chairperson

Susan L. Verbeck, Secretary