

**WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

MINUTES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021
1:02 p.m.

The Western Community College Area Board of Governors held a Regular Board meeting at 1:02 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 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 Wednesday, April 14, 2021.

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

Chair Klemke expressed deepest condolences to the families of Yemin An and Zhaoxin Chen who earlier this month died of injuries sustained at the Aviation Maintenance Facility in Sidney. As a Board, and as a college and as a community, we are all so saddened by this, and impacted. The Board also wishes to express huge gratitude to our staff, the student life staff, and particularly the Sidney campus staff, administration, faculty, and students who went above and beyond to take care of our Aviation students. The College has received an outpouring of support from the community as well, and we are extremely grateful. There truly are no words to express our thoughts and feelings during such a difficult time.

Chair Klemke requested a period of silence to remember these young men and all the lives they touched.

AREA BOARD

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

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.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Chair Klemke reviewed the contents of the Consent Calendar, which includes the following items:

1. Review Contents of Consent Calendar
 - a. Agenda
 - b. Excuse Absent Board Member(s) Linda Guzman-Gonzales
 - c. Minutes
 - i. Regular Meeting, March 17, 2021
2. Claims:
 - a. WCCA Unrestricted Fund - \$3,700,302.03
 - b. WCCA Restricted Fund - \$3,750.05
 - c. WCCA Federal Fund - \$897.88
 - d. WCCA Agency Fund - \$6,880.02
 - e. WCCA Loan Fund - 0 -
 - f. WCCA Plant Fund - \$82,143.90
3. WCCA Auxiliary Fund - \$332,135.81
4. City Planning Commission Reports (City of Sidney)

Mr. Kelly explained that this report is regarding the use of Tax Increment Funding (TIF).

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval

Chair Klemke inquired if there were any item(s) 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. Richards MOVED to approve the Amended Consent Calendar as presented. SECONDED by Mr. Stickney.

Voting Yes: Anderson, Crouse, Kreman, Marcy, Packard, Perkins, Richards, Savely, Stickney, Klemke

Voting No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Guzman-Gonzales

MOTION CARRIED

CONSENT CALENDAR

Consider Item Extracted

Ms. Anderson reported that this expense, payable to the Scottsbluff/Gering United Chamber of Commerce is for the membership investment for the College Foundation in the amount of \$205.00. Ms. Anderson explained that she is the Executive Director of the Scottsbluff/Gering United Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Perkins MOVED to approve the extracted item payable to the Scottsbluff/Gering United Chamber of Commerce for the membership investment for the College Foundation in the amount of \$205.00. SECONDED by Dr. Packard.

Voting Yes: Crouse, Kreman, Marcy, Packard, Perkins, Richards, Savely, Stickney, Klemke

Voting No: None

Abstain: Anderson

Absent: Guzman-Gonzales

MOTION CARRIED

BOARD MEMBER MILEAGE AND/OR EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

Ms. Anderson MOVED to approve the following travel expenses: Ms. F. Lynne Klemke for \$87.36, Mr. Allan D. Kreman for \$43.68, and Mr. R. J. Savely for \$100.69. SECONDED by Ms. Richards.

Voting Yes: Marcy, Packard, Perkins, Richards, Stickney, Anderson, Crouse

Voting No: None

Abstain: Kreman, Savely, Klemke

Absent: Guzman-Gonzales

MOTION CARRIED

BID CONSENT CALENDAR

Review of Bid Consent Calendar

Bid Number 21-EQ-12 Diesel Engine Trainer

The Finance and Facilities Committee recommended to the Board of Governors, the lowest responsible bid received from ConsulLab for \$80,325.00.

Main Building Pod Renovation, Phase I

The bid received is below the estimated cost of the approximately 1.5-million-dollar budget. Baker and Associates, Inc. has recommended awarding the bid to Anderson-Shaw Construction. Based on their experience, Anderson-Shaw Construction is a qualified contractor for the size and type of project. Construction Cost Funding: Capital Fund \$1,386,021.52

The Board Finance and Facilities Committee recommended the Pod Renovation Phase I, 2021 bid in the amount of \$1,386,021.52.

BID CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of Bid Consent Calendar

Ms. Richards MOVED to approve the Bid Consent Calendar. SECONDED by Ms. Anderson.

Voting Yes: Marcy, Packard, Perkins, Richards, Savely, Stickney, Anderson,
Crouse, Kreman, Klemke

Voting No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Guzman-Gonzales

MOTION CARRIED

Consideration of Items Extracted from Bid Consent Calendar

No items were extracted.

PERSONNEL CONSENT CALENDAR

Review Contents of Personnel Consent Calendar

a. Resignation(s):

- i. Ms. Francesca Mintowt-Czyz, Theatre Instructor, Academic Enrichment,
Language & Fine Arts Division, Scottsbluff Campus
Effective August 31, 2021

b. Appointment(s)

- i. Mr. Dustin Eicke, Institutional Research Director, Scottsbluff Campus
Effective May 1, 2021
- ii. Ms. Debra Kildow, Honorary Status of Professor Emeritus
- iii. Dr. Tracy O'Neal, Honorary Status of Professor Emeritus
- iv. Dr. William E. Spurgeon, Honorary Status of Professor Emeritus

Approval of Personnel Consent Calendar

Ms. Richards MOVED to approve the Personnel Consent Calendar as presented.
SECONDED by Ms. Anderson.

Voting Yes: Packard, Perkins, Richards, Savely, Stickney, Anderson, Crouse,
Kreman, Marcy, Klemke

Voting No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Guzman-Gonzales

MOTION CARRIED

Consideration of Items Extracted from Personnel Consent Calendar

No Items were extracted.

WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Request for Sale and Use of Alcohol Beverages at a College Sponsored Event *Jump, Jive, and Swing Instrumental Performance, May 2, 2021, Hampton Inn*

Jennifer Reisig explained that the College contracts with outside venues for the sale of alcohol beverages. People have the option to have a drink, but this is a cash bar so none of the cost is included in the price of the tickets, the revenue goes to the venue.

Mr. Stickney MOVED to approve the request for Sale and Use of Alcohol Beverages at the May 2, 2021 Jump, Jive and Swing Instrumental Performance located at the Scottsbluff Hampton Inn. SECONDED by Ms. Anderson.

Voting Yes: Perkins, Richards, Stickney, Anderson, Crouse, Kreman, Marcy,
Klemke

Voting No: Savely

Abstain: Packard

Absent: Guzman-Gonzales

MOTION CARRIED

Authorized Signatures for Surety Bonds

Ms. Koski reported that Nebraska State Statute §85-1508 requires officers and employees of a community college area authorized to handle funds to have and maintain a corporate surety bond in an amount, in a form, and with sureties approved by the Board. Once approved by the Board, bonds must be filed with the Secretary of State.

WNCC has acquired a surety bond on behalf of Dr. Carmen Simone, President and Ms. Lynne Koski, Vice President of Administrative Services and CFO. WNCC also has insurance coverage through the Nebraska Community College Insurance Trust's comprehensive crime package with Travelers Casualty and Surety Company of America for employees responsible for handling funds.

The Board Finance and Facilities committee recommended the approval of the corporate surety bond as follows: Dr. Carmen Simone in the amount of \$150,000 and Ms. Lynne Koski in the amount of \$50,000. The cost of such funds is \$600.

Mr. Savely moved for approval of the corporate surety bond on behalf of Dr. Carmen Simone in the amount of \$150,000 and Ms. Lynne Koski in the amount of \$50,000. SECONDED by Ms. Anderson.

Voting Yes: Richards, Savely, Stickney, Anderson, Crouse, Kreman, Marcy,
Packard, Perkins, Klemke

Voting No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Guzman-Gonzales

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution to Authorize Issuance of the College Area's Student Facility Revenue Funding Bonds to Refund the Outstanding Student Facility Revenue Bond of the College Issued in 2012 and 2015

Ms. Koski reported that current economic conditions make it favorable to consider the refunding of student facility revenue bonds. The estimated savings reflected in the document included with the meeting information provides a preliminary view of the potential impact of refunding the existing bond debt based on three different options.

Mr. Tobin Buchanan, First National Capital Markets Vice President of Public Finance joined the meeting to provide additional information. Mr. Buchanan explained that both issues are past their five-year call date and it makes sense to look at combining the two during this refunding into one series 2021 revenue bond. When looking at two different ways to approach that, if we were to combine those and refund at the current interest rates and try to realize that savings annually, savings looks to be preliminarily around \$188,000. Another way to structure these would be to take as much of that interest savings as possible and apply it toward pay down of bond par value or principle on the back end, which would help accelerate the pay-off of these bonds causing them to mature one year sooner. That would increase the overall savings to around \$207,000 over the life of the bond through this refunding. The current average interest rate across the two bonds is about 2.72%. If we were to look at combining and accelerating them, we would be able to get into market with the new bond at an average interest rate of about .88%.

In response to inquiries from the Board, Ms. Koski responded that the bonds are paid with the rental income from the residence halls.

Outstanding amount on the bonds is \$2,645,000. We did not go out for requests for proposals. Due to time savings and efficiency, we reached out to individuals we worked with in the past.

Mr. Buchanan added that the mature date on one bond is 2034 and the other is 2027. By combining, the mature date would be 2033. Where one bond currently matures in 2027, we will not stretch that one out to 2033. We will leave the same principle amounts as are currently in place. We are combining them together, but we are not stretching any principle out longer than it would already be paid off, if done separately or left as they are.

Mr. Savely MOVED for adoption of a resolution authorizing the college administration to refund the Series 2012 and 2015 Student Facilities Revenue Bonds by combining them into a single refunding bond not to exceed \$2,700,000. SECONDED by Ms. Anderson.

Voting Yes: Savely, Stickney, Anderson, Crouse, Kreman, Marcy, Packard, Perkins, Richards, Klemke

Voting No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Guzman-Gonzales

MOTION CARRIED

2021-2022 Non-Faculty Employee Compensation

Ms. Kathy Ault, Human Resources Executive Director explained that on behalf of WNCC administration, she is proposing that the Board extend the same total compensation increase to non-faculty as they are to faculty for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. This includes 126 employees with classification of administrative, professional, and support staff both full-time and part-time. The total compensation increase according to the negotiated agreement for faculty is 3.75%. Included in the total increase of 3.75% is a 2.99% increase in benefits.

Ms. Anderson MOVED for approval of a total compensation increase for non-faculty employees that is equal to the faculty total compensation increase of 3.75% for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year. Non-faculty staff include all administrative, professional, and support staff, full-time and part-time. SECONDED by Dr. Packard.

Voting Yes: Stickney, Anderson, Crouse, Kreman, Marcy, Packard, Perkins,
Richards, Savely, Klemke
Voting No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Guzman-Gonzales
MOTION CARRIED

Date and Time for September Meetings

**Public Hearings on Proposed WCCA Budgets 2021-2022 (September 8, 2021, 1:00 p.m.)
Regular Meeting (September 8, 2021, approximately 1:15 p.m.)**

Ms. Lynne Koski explained that the meeting date is set earlier in the month of September so that we can meet the September 20 deadline for budget hearings and submission of information to the state. August 20, we receive the information on property taxes, which allows time for preparation of information and submission to the state by that deadline.

Ms. Richards MOVED to approve scheduling the Public Hearings on Proposed WCCA Budgets 2021-2022 on September 8, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. and scheduling the Regular Board meeting at approximately 1:15 p.m. on September 8, 2021. SECONDED by Mr. Savely.

Voting Yes: Anderson, Crouse, Kreman, Marcy, Packard, Perkins, Richards,
Savely, Stickney, Klemke
Voting No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Guzman-Gonzales
MOTION CARRIED

WCCA Board Member Conference Registration

2021 Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference, April 5-9, 2021 (virtual event)

Ms. Karen Anderson and Dr. William Packard

Mr. Stickney MOVED to approve registration for the 2021 Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference for Ms. Karen Anderson and Dr. William Packard. SECONDED by Dr. Perkins.

Voting Yes: Crouse, Kreman, Marcy, Perkins, Richards, Savely, Stickney, Klemke
Voting No: None
Abstain: Anderson, Packard
Absent: Guzman-Gonzales
MOTION CARRIED

Reports and Recommendations from the Executive Committee

Chair Klemke reported that the Executive Committee met and reviewed a draft of possible Board goals. The draft has been distributed to all Board members and will be discussed and finalized later. Dr. Simone's goals are under development as well. Discussion involved expansion of responsibilities for the Risk Management committee to include oversight or monitoring of safety protocols throughout the college.

Reports and Recommendations from the Human Resources Committee

First Read: BP-414 Confidentiality of Employee Records Board Policy

Ms. Kathy Ault reported that concern about identity theft and confidentiality of personnel files initiated revision of this policy. The main change to this policy is regarding who has access to personnel files. She explained that personnel files cannot be removed from the HR office and only specific business related requests for information are considered. Human Resources works by best practices provided by the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM).

Reports and Recommendations from the Student Success Committee

First Read: BP-321 Board Scholarships Performance Grants and Waivers Board Policy

Information Only: PP-321 Academic Award Score Requirements President's Procedure

Ms. Tonya Hergenrader, Career Pathways and Advising Director reported that this policy and procedure expands eligibility for the academic awards and provides more equity in the awarding of those academic awards based on test scores in two different ways. The Academic Award program is available to high-achieving graduating high school seniors or recent GED graduates seeking first time, degree-seeking admission to WNCC. The awarding of an Academic Award is based on academic placement scores including, but not limited to, the ACT, SAT, or Next Generation Accuplacer.

In response to inquiries, Ms. Hergenrader confirmed that there is an expiration date on all test scores. The expiration period is three years. This policy was revised prior to the HLC visit. The change came from a suggestion by Dr. Black with SEM Works in an effort to attract more students.

First Read: BP-620 Library Services Board Policy

Information Only: PP-620 Library Services President's Procedure

Ms. Ellen Dillon, Associate Dean/Interim TRIO Director reported that this policy authorizes the provision of library services and materials within WNCC. The library services staff work closely with faculty to determine the resources of greatest benefit. Suggestions from employees, students, or individuals of the general public are considered using the criteria for selection.

RECESS

Chair Klemke declared a recess at 2:11 p.m.

OPEN MEETING

Chair Klemke declared the Open Meeting in session at 2:17 p.m.

Reports and Recommendations from the Higher Learning Commission Committee – Dr. Perkins 2021 HLC Annual Conference Overview (Anderson, Klemke, Packard, Perkins)

Dr. Perkins reported that the sessions were very interesting and gave him a better understanding of the scope of its responsibilities. One takeaway of the conference is that the Higher Learning Commission is still trying to interpret the Federal Education guidelines. WNCC is fortunate to have completed accreditation before July 1, when the Federal guidelines went in effect.

A second point of reference is the way HLC is organizing its strategic plan around the term EVOLVE: Equity, Vision, Outcomes, Leadership, Value, and Engagement.

Dr. Perkins shared that over time, he has grown to respect institutional memories. A memory of a history that includes both success and weaknesses that inform the present. We can build on strengths of the past and learn from mistakes.

A term he is newly acquainted with is that of an evidence manager. The responsibilities of the evidence manager is to continually update and manage data related to the HLC criteria for accreditation. The value of such a person lies in the fact that when accreditation rolls around, the data is ready to be organized for review. This suggests that a college would not have to frantically collect data that has been scattered over the years, but rather simply organize the data according to the HLC criteria.

Ms. Anderson reported that she thought the conference was very enlightening, especially since we have been through the HLC accreditation process. Seeing all the work involved with the preparation for accreditation as well as the continued oversight, she has a new appreciation for the staff and the Board. The session that impacted her most was the session done by Green Mountain College, which has since closed. Many colleges are struggling financially and it made her appreciate where we are, but knowing that a pandemic or legislation change could affect the College. She concurs that an evidence manager is vital to staying on top of what we need to do.

Dr. Packard reiterated that the Green Mountain College closing was very concerning. It confirmed that if we do not do things right, there are ramifications. The presentations from the smaller colleges were best and a couple of the guest speakers were very good. He shared an example of the innovation by a small college in need of lab supplies. Overall, it was a very good conference.

Chair Klemke shared that she enjoyed the conference as well. She agrees that an evidence manager is vital. Rather than scramble at the last minute to gather required documentation, staying on top of and organizing evidence and documentation is the preference. Several speakers addressed EQ (emotional quotient). She stated that it is important for institutions to have a high level of EQ to stay vibrant and healthy.

INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS

Higher Learning Commission Institutional Update -Dr. Fortney and Ms. Koski

Ms. Koski shared that annually, we are required to provide updates to the Higher Learning Commission. Financial indicators are generated from the information that is provided through this annual update. Information comes directly from our audit. They take that information and generate what is call a Composite Financial Index (CFI) used to measure financial health. The HLC takes those ratios that are calculated based on three or four different measures and they assign a strength and weight to those to come up with a CFI number. The total CFI number is made up of four separate categories to create ranges or zones. You can be above the zone or below the zone and ranges are assigned for private versus public institutions. To be above the zone, you would have a CFI number of 1.1 up to 10. If you fit within that range, HLC would require no additional follow up. If you are in the zone, between a 1 and 1.4, HLC will submit a letter of concern to the President. If you fall below the zone (-4 to -.1) in a second year, you would have to provide additional financial documentation that would be reviewed by a panel of peer reviewers and in subsequent years you would be required to submit a report following each institutional update.

Dr. Patrick Fortney provided information regarding student headcount. Student headcount numbers by category were reviewed. Categories include level, category, institutional, dual credit, and degree programs awarded. With the pandemic and this period of uncertainty, numbers are slightly lower. This information is annually submitted to HLC in April. Chair Klemke stated that the Board appreciates this report and would like to review on a regular basis.

In response to an inquiry, Dr. Simone reported that the Ag program has been placed on inactive status (through June 2022). We have about a year to get the program up and running again. The curriculum will need to be re-developed and we have scheduled a meeting with an advisory committee. We have an opportunity to partner with Gering High School as well as Chadron State College. Several partnering opportunities are being explored and we have Foundation funds available for scholarships in agriculture. The hardest part is finding an instructor.

Student Report – Ms. Devany Turner, President of Cougar Council

Ms. Turner reported that the Sidney Student Awards was moved to 4:30 p.m. on April 27 at the Sidney Elks Lodge. Cougar Council has planned to provide survival packs for students in the upcoming week leading into finals. Ms. Turner thanked faculty, staff, and administration for their efforts this year to help students have face-to-face instruction. COVID presented challenges for student learning but the care taken in providing remote opportunities for instruction demonstrated commitment to student success and showed a tremendous level of care for their health and welfare. She expressed gratitude to the

Board for the level of care given to student concerns and issues brought forward. They are excited about the efforts to make the College look more inviting for students and those prospective students coming to WNCC. These actions demonstrate that the student voice is meaningful at all levels of the College.

Ms. Turner recognized the student services team who worked with Cougar Council: Erin Huddleston, Megan Wescoat, Norman Coley, David Nash, Allie Tyree. They kept students engaged in WNCC activities and provided a platform for students to discuss concerns and issues and helped us work through them.

Ms. Turner thanked Board members, President Simone, Senior Leadership, WNCC staff, and Cougar Council members who came to honor the aviation students who earlier this month died of injuries sustained at the Aviation Maintenance Facility. She is thankful for the beautiful memorial service and for the opportunity to honor the two young men, their religious beliefs, their culture and who they were.

Ms. Turner shared that she will be graduating in a few weeks and she is glad that she decided to attend WNCC. She found a career she is passionate about and made lifelong friends. She continued by thanking Paula Abbott, Erin Huddleston, Norman Coley, Regina Kuhns, and Megan Wescoat, who helped her to be so involved at WNCC, they played a big part in who she is at WNCC. It has been an honor and privilege and she is grateful for the opportunity.

Faculty Report – Mr. Brian Croft, Ms. Amy Winters

Mr. Brian Croft reported that perspective is something that we all need to be reminded about. Getting through this last year has been challenging, but most faculty feel fortunate to be in jobs they love. Even though we are not done with COVID completely, we are getting over the hump and the safety team will meet to discuss protocol for summer and fall. For faculty, this has been a year of uncertainties on many different levels; student numbers, dual credit, administrative changes, faculty placement changes, many things are in the air. Dr. Wilson starts June 1 and there will be frank discussions, but faculty believe there are possibilities to work through the issues.

The renovation involves classrooms and offices and there is concern regarding what happens in the offices, specifically, the use of old furniture or lack of the ability to use old furniture. Faculty have been under the assumption that we will have a static uniformity and from a financial perspective, that is disconcerting. Faculty appreciate the amount of influence they have and hope that continues in our shared governance structure.

Ms. Amy Winters reiterated that this has been a challenging year. She reported that the recent PTK induction ceremony was in person and livestreamed. The speaker was amazing and joined the event virtually. Amy shared that a non-traditional online student who lives in Norton, Kansas was able to join the induction ceremony via Zoom. He expressed his gratitude via email, which she shared with the Board.

Our Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) chapters have done outstanding work this year. Lambda Pi has been named one of the top 100 chapters within this international organization. This is quite an accomplishment, given there are around 1,285 chapters worldwide.

Ms. Winters recognized the student services team who has stepped up to engage students by providing various activities. They provided several fun virtual activities and their support of the students is appreciated.

Nebraska Community College Association – Dr. Perkins

Dr. Perkins reported that Legislation has been introduced that would require governmental subdivisions to meet with each of the county boards, the purpose of which is to describe what they are asking for in terms of their budget. LB-644 is the bill that was introduced. The bill would require representatives of each community to attend county board meetings and would require a representative of each college to attend joint county board meetings. The meeting would include all political subdivisions within the county that would be asking for an increase in their property tax asking. The problem is that if we were required to go to each county commission in our area we would have to travel to Valentine, Nebraska and that is an 800 mile round trip. That is not feasible, so the revenue committee has filed an amendment to this bill, which would require community colleges or any other subdivision in multiple counties to attend one joint meeting, which is where the community college is located in the county, rather than have to travel great distances.

Association of Community College Trustees – Dr. Perkins

No Report

Western Nebraska Community College Foundation – Ms. Anderson

Ms. Jennifer Reisig, Foundation Executive Director expressed condolences to the families and friends of the aviation students, Yemin An and Zhaoxin Chen. In response to community requests to help during this time, a fund has been set up for the aviation program. The funds are available to assist with expenses for both of the current aviation class students. This could include but is not limited to counseling services above and beyond what WNCC already provides, potential loss of revenue for those students who were scheduled to begin jobs right after graduation, but will now be in class through the end of May, living expenses, tuition, fees, etc. Funds above what is needed by current aviation students will be put in a scholarship in memory of Yemin An and Zhaoxin Chen for use by future aviation students. We have already started to receive donations to this fund through our website and through check and cash donations to the Foundation office. We are humbled and appreciative that we can give some tangible assistance to our current and future aviation students.

Ms. Reisig shared information about the WNCC Foundation faculty and staff opportunity grant. They worked hard to get information out about this grant and this quarter received three applications from various departments. The grant committee will review those three applications and the full Foundation Board will make a determination on April 29. July 1 is the next application deadline. This is an ongoing commitment by the Foundation Board to support our programs at WNCC and to help get something off the ground when there might not be funding available.

The tenth annual Monument Marathon is scheduled Saturday, September 25. Platte Valley Companies has committed as our title sponsor again this year and they generously pledged an additional \$10,000 in honor of the 10th year. A press conference is scheduled 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 5 at the Platte Valley Companies community room and Board members are invited to join her at the press conference to thank the community for ten years of support of WNCC and our students through this event.

Wyobraska Gives community wide giving day is scheduled Tuesday, May 4. This event is hosted by Oregon Trail Community Foundation and is a one-stop place for community members to give to non-profits throughout our entire community. The point behind this giving day is to connect with the whole community and help them support non-profits throughout our area.

President Comments

Dr. Simone thanked the Board for their support of the recommendation for a compensation increase for staff. Just like our faculty, we believe our staff members deserve recognition for their continued commitment to us. We could not do what we do without them.

Dr. Simone shared that she and Paula Abbott participated in a special ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Sidney campus. ESU 13 partners celebrated a grand opening of their new facilities collocated on our campus. Bill Knapper was thanked for his vision on this project, his impact on the ESU 13 Board has been tremendous and their appreciation of him was quite evident. To make a good day perfect, campus signage arrived just in time.

Last week, State Colleges Chancellor Paul Turman and Chadron State President Randy Rhine paid us a rare visit. Chancellor Turman discussed our past connections and our growing work together. We are all grateful for the Panhandle Advantage and both institutions are committed to growing our partnership for the benefit of the residents of the Panhandle.

Over the last several weeks, we have reached out to the hospitals in both Sidney and Chadron and our efforts have been well received. There are some potential collaborations being discussed and we are committed to assisting with the workforce needs in the healthcare industry.

Doug Mader was thanked for his willingness to explore our support of local businesses throughout the Panhandle. We have touched Chadron, Alliance, Kimball and Lewellen this past month. We offer great programming at a reasonable price and sometimes, we are a well-kept secret. With the ongoing federal pandemic relief efforts, there is money to be spent and the need for our support is growing. Through networking and partnerships, we are having a positive impact.

The American Association of Community Colleges hosted their commission meetings virtually a few weeks ago. Dr. Simone shared that she represented WNCC at the Commission on Small and Rural Colleges. Focus of discussion was on access to rural

broadband grant opportunities with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the recent Association of Community College Trustees initiative on Strengthening Rural Community Colleges, which Dr. Perkins has been supporting. Dr. Simone stated that it was nice to connect with so many other presidents who face the same circumstances we face.

Dr. Simone thanked those who recently participated in the virtual Higher Learning Commission conference. We were very well represented with over a dozen participants.

Dr. Simone stated that in a few short weeks, this entire academic year would be in the books. We started Fall 2020 in the midst of a pandemic filled with uncertainty and hope. The importance of face-to-face instruction for our students was clear to us, even when viewed through masks. We were challenged and we persevered.

As we were preparing for a much-needed day off, we faced the unthinkable with the loss of two of our Aviation students. Dr. Simone thanked those who came together to support one another and, more importantly, to support our students.

The season of celebration is well underway and soon, we will be celebrating in the culminating event – commencement with our students. Dr. Simone thanked faculty and staff for their service to our students.

Dr. Simone thanked the Board of Governors for asking great, guiding questions, for listening without judgment, for knowing our challenges, and for always doing what is right for our institution.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Savely thanked Board member, Kimberly Marcy for her dedication and service to the Board under less than ideal circumstances. He thanked Dr. Simone, Phil Kelly and Paula Abbott for the ongoing support provided to our students during this difficult period. Paula Abbott was thanked for her attendance at the memorial service for former automotive instructor, Mr. Marvin Bartling, who taught twenty-six years at WNCC.

Ms. Richards extended congratulations to our theater and music department for excellent performances. Both were superb under less than perfect circumstances. She also congratulated the Lady Cougars on their athletic accomplishments.

Mr. Stickney expressed appreciation for the report provided by our student representative Ms. Devany Turner.

Chair Klemke thanked WNCC for the professional development opportunities. Participating via Zoom has allowed attendance at multiple conferences and the Board is grateful.

RECESS

Chair Klemke declared a recess at 3:32 p.m.

OPEN MEETING

Chair Klemke declared the Open meeting in session at 3:37 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Strategy Session Concerning Pending or Threatened Litigation

Ms. Richards MOVED, pursuant to Section 84-1410 of the Reissue of the Revised Statutes, known as the Nebraska Public Meetings Law, that the Board hold a closed session with Dr. Carmen Simone, Ms. Susan Verbeck, and Mr. Philip Kelly, College Attorney, for the purpose of discussion of a strategy session concerning pending or threatened litigation.

She further moved that this closed session is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual(s) and that strategy sessions with respect to pending or threatened litigation are specifically authorized by the Nebraska Public Meetings Law. SECONDED by Dr. Perkins.

Voting Anderson, Crouse, Kreman, Marcy, Packard, Perkins, Richards,
Yes: Savely, Stickney, Klemke
Voting No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Guzman-Gonzales
MOTION CARRIED

Chair Klemke stated the reason for the Executive Session is a Strategy Session Concerning Pending or Threatened Litigation.

The Board of Governors and those so named in the motion adjourned to an Executive Session at 3:40 p.m.

The Executive Session ended at 4:28 p.m.

OPEN MEETING

Chair Klemke declared the Open meeting in session at 4:28 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel Matters - Evaluation of the College President

Dr. Packard MOVED, pursuant to Section 84-1410 of the Reissue of the Revised Statutes, known as the Nebraska Public Meetings Law, that the Board hold a closed session with Dr. Carmen M. Simone for the purpose of discussion of personnel matters regarding the evaluation of the College President. He further moved that this closed session is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual, and that Dr. Simone has not requested a public meeting and has consented to discussion in closed session, and that evaluation of the job performance of a person is specifically authorized by the Nebraska Public Meetings Law. SECONDED by Ms. Richards.

Voting Anderson, Crouse, Kreman, Marcy, Packard, Perkins, Richards,
Yes: Savely, Stickney, Klemke
Voting No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Guzman-Gonzales
MOTION CARRIED

Chair Klemke stated the reason for the Executive Session is Personnel Matters regarding the Evaluation of the College President.

The Board of Governors and Dr. Simone adjourned to an Executive Session at 4:31 p.m.

Dr. Simone left the Executive Session at 5:20 p.m. The Board of Governors remained in Executive Session.

The Executive Session ended at 5:53 p.m.

Chair Klemke declared the Open meeting in session at 5:53 p.m.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

1. Annual Student Awards Event
April 27, 2021
Elks Lodge, Sidney
2. Annual Student Awards Event
April 29, 2021
WNCC Harms Center
3. Jump, Jive and Swing Instrumental Music Concert
May 2, 2021
Hampton Inn, Scottsbluff
4. NCCA Second Quarter Meeting
May 3, 2021
Lincoln, NE
5. GED Graduation (CANCELLED)
May 7, 2021 (7:00 p.m.)
Scottsbluff Campus
6. WNCC Commencement
May 8, 2021 (10:00 a.m.)
Scottsbluff Campus

7. Nurse Pinning Ceremony
May 8, 2021 (1:00 p.m.)
Scottsbluff Campus
8. NCCA Third Quarter Meeting
August 2, 2021
Lincoln, NE
9. NCCA Fourth Quarter Meeting
October 3 and 4, 2021
Scottsbluff, NE
10. ACCT Leadership Congress
October 13-16, 2021
11. WNCC Homecoming
"A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes"
October 18-23, 2021

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, May 19, 2021, 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 5:58 p.m.



F. Lynne Memke, Chairperson

Susan L. Verbeck, Secretary