

**WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

INFORMAL MEETING

MINUTES

October 16, 2024

The Western Community College Area Board of Governors held an Informal Board meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 16, 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, October 8, 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, Chairperson	Present
Linda A. Guzman-Gonzales	Absent
F. Lynne Klemke	Present
Allan D. Kreman	Present
Starr Lehl	Present
Lori J. Liggett	Absent
William M. Packard	Present
Coral E. Richards	Present
R. J. Savely, Jr	Present
Marjorie A. Schmidt	Present
John P. Stinner, Vice Chairperson	Absent

Quorum

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

Community Comments

Chair Anderson asked for comments from the community. Pursuant to Board Policy BP-106, Chair Anderson reminded community members who wish to make comments will be limited to a five-minute presentation. There were no public comments.

Board Member Training

Update on WNCC's Four-Year Assurance Argument and Monitoring Report

Ms. Reichert, Institutional Effectiveness and Planning Director, explained that WNCC's accreditor is the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The HLC offers two pathways to reaffirmation of accreditation, Standard and Open. WNCC follows the Open Pathway which are ten-year cycles in which members affirm the quality of their offerings and demonstrate continuous improvement.

Board Member Training (cont.)

Update on WNCC's Four-Year Assurance Argument and Monitoring Report

The purpose of accreditation is to validate the quality of an institution's academic programs and evaluate the quality of the institution beyond its academic offerings.

Following the WNCC four-year assurance argument, the report from the peer reviewers stated the College met the requirements of seventeen out of eighteen core components. However, the College "met with concerns" the requirements for Core Component 4.C., which states "the institution pursues educational improvement through goals and strategies to improve retention, persistence, and completion rates in its degree and certificate programs".

WNCC is in year five of the accreditation process. Years five to seven, a requirement of the open pathway is a quality initiative which is a project of our choosing. The project must be approved by HLC, and once approved, the College has four years to complete the project and report on the quality of the project. Years seven to nine is when the report is completed. Year eight, the College will have a multi-location visit. WNCC's separate locations include Alliance and Sidney, and the Powerline and Aviation facilities.

Report Requirements:

- 4.C.1 explicit retention, persistence, and completion goals
- 4.C.2 specific measurements and Key Performance Indicators for the retention, persistence, and completion goals
- 4.C.2 demonstration of collected evidence which could include linking existing data
- 4.C.4 to newly defined goals and/or starting to collect new data, if needed to measure goal attainment
- 4.C.2 descriptions of how data are analyzed
- 4.C.3 recent examples of how WNCC has used data to reach informed decisions and closed the loops

Routine Monitoring

If a peer review team or a panel determines an institution is following the criteria for accreditation, but there is no concern about an institution continuing to meet the standards of the criteria, facing significant changes or challenges, or has plans that need to come to fruition, then routine monitoring can occur. WNCC currently has plans that need to come to fruition. September 1, 2026, the College monitoring report is due.

Boardsmanship – What Every Board Member Should Know

This item was tabled due to time constraint.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Reichert was thanked for sharing the Higher Learning Commission information. This information was important for new Board members to hear and a good refresher for all.

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, October 16, 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 12:06 p.m.

Karen S. Anderson, Chairperson

Susan L. Verbeck, Secretary