

**WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
July 20, 2022**

The Western Community College Area Board of Governors held a Regular Board meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 in the Coral E. Richards Boardroom, at Western Nebraska Community College, Scottsbluff Campus, located at 1601 East 27<sup>th</sup> 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, July 12, 2022.

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.....	Absent
F. Lynne Klemke, Chairperson .....	Present
Allan D. Kreman .....	Present
Kimberly A. Marcy.....	Present
William M. Packard.....	Present
M. Thomas Perkins.....	Absent
Coral E. Richards .....	Present
R. J. Savely, Jr. ....	Present
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.

Chair Klemke reported that Ms. Linda Guzman-Gonzales and Dr. Tom Perkins notified the Board Secretary that they would be unable to attend the meeting today because of Personal Business.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

1. Review Contents of Consent Calendar
  - a. Agenda
  - b. Excuse Absent Board Member(s) Guzman-Gonzales, Perkins
  - c. Minutes
    - i. Regular Meeting, June 15, 2022

## **CONSENT CALENDAR (cont.)**

2. Claims:
  - a. WCCA Unrestricted Fund - \$2,748,164.01
  - b. WCCA Restricted Fund - \$22,006.05
  - c. WCCA Federal Fund - \$22,570.28
  - d. WCCA Agency Fund - \$6,064.43
  - e. WCCA Loan Fund -0 -
  - f. WCCA Plant Fund - \$913,632.44
  - g. WCCA Auxiliary Fund - \$244,266.58
3. City Planning Commission Reports
  - a. City of Alliance (tax increment financing)
4. Approval of Consent Calendar
5. Consideration of Items Extracted from Consent Calendar

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **Approval**

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.

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

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **Consider Item(s) Extracted**

Ms. Anderson reported that the expense payable to the Scottsbluff/Gering United Chamber of Commerce represents payment in the amount of \$300.00 for the WNCC Chamber map advertisement. Ms. Anderson mentioned that she is the Executive Director of the Scottsbluff/Gering United Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Richards MOVED to approve the extracted item payable to the Scottsbluff/Gering United Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$300.00 for the WNCC Chamber map advertisement. SECONDED by Mr. Savely. The vote was, Yes: Crouse, Kreman, Marcy, Packard, Richards, Savely, Stickney, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: Anderson. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Perkins. Motion carried.

### **Approval of Board Member Mileage and/or Expense Reimbursement**

Ms. Anderson MOVED to approve the following travel expenses: Dr. Margaret Crouse for \$133.38 and Ms. Lynne Klemke for \$203.58. SECONDED by Ms. Marcy. The vote was, Yes: Kreman, Marcy, Packard, Richards, Savely, Stickney, Anderson. No: None. Abstain: Crouse, Klemke. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Perkins. Motion carried.

### **Approval of Board Member Mileage and/or Expense Reimbursement**

Dr. Crouse MOVED to approve the following travel expenses: Mr. Allan Kreman for \$23.40 and Mr. R. J. Savely, for \$174.34. SECONDED by Ms. Anderson. The vote was, Yes: Marcy, Packard, Richards, Stickney, Anderson, Crouse, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: Kreman, Savely. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Perkins. Motion carried.

### **Review of Bid Consent Calendar**

Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF)

Standby Generators for Residence Halls at Scottsbluff and Sidney campuses

Ms. Richards requested agenda Item G(1)(a), Higher Education Relief Funds (HEERF), be extracted from the Bid Consent Calendar and moved to Reports and Recommendations from the Finance and Facilities Committee.

### **Approval of Bid Consent Calendar**

#### **Consideration of Items Extracted from Bid Consent Calendar**

There were no bids.

### **Review Contents of Personnel Consent Calendar**

#### **Resignation(s):**

There were no resignations.

#### **Assignment(s):**

- i. Ms. Misti Lacy, CollegeNOW! Director  
Effective July 1, 2022
- ii. Ms. Baily Clear, CollegeNOW! Coordinator  
Effective July 11, 2022
- iii. Ms. Madison Bloodgood, Assistant Dean of Students  
Effective July 1, 2022
- iv. Mr. Michael Coste, Interim Dean of Instruction  
Effective August 1, 2022
- v. Ms. Bethany Fuchs, Student Engagement Specialist  
Effective August 1, 2022
- vi. Mr. Timothy Cook, Environmental Health & Safety Coordinator  
Effective August 1, 2022

### **Approval of Personnel Consent Calendar**

#### **Consideration of Items Extracted from Personnel Consent Calendar**

In the absence of extracted items, Chair Klemke entertained a motion to approve the Personnel Consent Calendar.

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

## **WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

### **Reports and Recommendations from the Board Executive Committee**

#### **Status of Board Policy: Selection and Hiring of the College President**

Chair Klemke reported that an Ad Hoc committee (Karen Anderson, Margaret Crouse, and Lynne Klemke) met earlier this morning to review the recently revised Selection and Hiring of the College President Board Policy. Following review of the policy, the committee requested additional revisions. The final draft of the policy will be reviewed by the Board Executive Committee and the Board Policy Committee before presentation at a Board meeting.

**Reports and Recommendations from the Finance and Facilities Committee**  
**Consider Authority to Exceed the Budget Limit for 2022-23 Fiscal Year by an Additional 1% and Carry Forward all Unused Authority to 2023-24**

Ms. Koski reported that this item is an annual request for the Board to consider approval of the authority to exceed the budget limit by an additional 1% and carry forward all unused authority to the 2023-24 year. Budget authority is not related to expenditures, it allows receipt of state aid or property taxes in addition to the 2.5%.

Ms. Anderson MOVED the Board vote to consider approval of the authority to exceed the budget limit by an additional 1% and carry forward all unused authority to the 2023-24 year. SECONDED by Mr. Savely. The vote was, Yes: Richards, Savely, Stickney, Anderson, Crouse, Kreman, Marcy, Packard, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Perkins. Motion carried.

**Reports and Recommendations from the Finance and Facilities Committee**  
**Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF)**

**Purchase of standby generators for Residence Halls at Scottsbluff and Sidney campuses**

Ms. Koski reported that this item is regarding the use of HEERF funds to purchase standby generators for the Residence Halls at the Scottsbluff and Sidney campuses. The memo included in the meeting information provides a comparison of natural gas and diesel generators. The Board was asked to consider approval for Administration to move forward with a request for proposals (RFP) for the natural gas generators.

Mr. Savely MOVED to approve authorization of the Administration to proceed with forwarding requests for proposals for the purchase of standby generators for the Scottsbluff and Sidney campus Residence Halls. SECONDED by Ms. Anderson. The vote was, Yes: Savely, Stickney, Anderson, Crouse, Kreman, Marcy, Packard, Richards, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Perkins. Motion carried.

**Reports and Recommendations from the Human Resources Committee**  
**Policy Repeal: 415.2500.09 Family and Medical Leave**

*(Board Policy BP-420 Family and Medical Leave Act was approved June 2022)*

Ms. Ault, Executive Director of Human Resources reported that this is a request for repeal of Board Policy 415.2500.09 Family and Medical Leave. The policy was replaced with Board Policy BP-420 Family and Medical Leave Act. The new policy was drafted to make the information easier to read and understand.

Mr. Savely MOVED to approve the Repeal of Board Policy 415.2500.09 Family Medical Leave. SECONDED by Dr. Packard. The vote was, Yes: Stickney, Anderson, Crouse, Kreman, Marcy, Packard, Richards, Savely, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Perkins. Motion carried.

**Reports and Recommendations from the Board Policy Committee**  
**Policy Repeal: 235.0200.15 Use of Tobacco Products on College Property**

*(Board Policy BP-311 Tobacco-Smoke-, and Vape-Free College was approved May 2019)*

Ms. Koski, Vice President of Administrative Services reported that policy 235.0200.15 Use of Tobacco Products on College Property was replaced by the updated Board Policy BP-311 Tobacco, Smoke, and Vape-Free College.

Mr. Savely MOVED to approve the Repeal of Board Policy 235.0200.15, Use of Tobacco Products on Campus. SECONDED by Dr. Crouse. The vote was, Yes: Anderson, Crouse, Kreman, Marcy, Packard, Richards, Savely, Stickney, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Perkins. Motion carried.

### **Reports and Recommendations from the Board Policy Committee**

#### **Policy Repeal: 630.0100.98 Information Technology Resources**

(Board Policy BP-809 Acceptable Use was approved June 2022) and

(Board Policy BP-702 Data Governance was approved January 2020)

Ms. Koski, Vice President of Administrative Services reported that policy 630.0100.98 Information Technology Resources was replaced by updated Board Policies BP-809 Acceptable Use and BP-702 Data Governance.

Mr. Savely MOVED to approve the Repeal of Board Policy 630.0100.98 Information Technology Resources. SECONDED by Ms. Marcy. The vote was, Yes: Crouse, Kreman, Marcy, Packard, Richards, Savely, Stickney, Anderson, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Perkins. Motion carried.

### **Reports and Recommendations from the Board Policy Committee**

#### **Policy Repeal: 630.0300.10 Electronic Data Communication**

(Board Policy BP-808 Information Security was approved June 2021)

Ms. Koski, Vice President of Administrative Services reported that policy 630.0300.10 Electronic Data Communication was replaced by the updated Board Policy BP-808 Information Security.

Mr. Savely MOVED to approve the Repeal of Board Policy 630.0300.10 Electronic Data Communication. SECONDED by Ms. Marcy. The vote was, Yes: Kreman, Marcy, Packard, Richards, Savely, Stickney, Anderson, Crouse, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Perkins. Motion carried.

### **INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS**

#### **National Association of College and University Attorneys (NACUA) Annual Conference**

Mr. Ossian, attorney for WNCC, explained that part of their commitment to the Board and the College President is that they stay current on developing issues that impact higher education. As a part of that commitment, they annually attend the National Association of College and University Attorneys annual conference. Each year, the location for the conference moves around the country and this year was located in Pittsburg. NACUA includes just under 1,700-member institutions from each state with around 5,000 attorney representatives.

The conference is a good resource for information sharing in regard to topics such as policies and procedures. Mr. Ossian mentioned that there is usually a breakout session for the community colleges that is always well attended. There is a lot of common ground amongst community colleges and information sharing is beneficial.

This year, web accessibility was a point of discussion, which is a current issue for WNCC as well as all universities and colleges. March of this year, the Department of Justice issued new guidance on web accessibility that impacts state and local governments. The guidelines address the new standards for how people with disabilities, and in compliance with ADA, are insured that the college website is accessible.

Additional discussion was regarding Esports, which WNCC has started. The reach of Esports is growing exponentially. *League of Legends* is currently one of the popular games that is played and in 2018 the world championship for this video game experienced 99.6 million unique views compared to the 2019 Superbowl that had 98.2 million unique views. In terms of colleges currently taking part in Esports, there were over 4,200 teams registered in one league alone and they had 709 institutions. The positive is that in terms of recruitment, the retention rate for the students taking part in these leagues was 93%. The student's dedication is truly eye opening.

***National Association of College and University Attorneys (NACUA) Annual Conference (cont.)***

Regarding Title IX, June 23 of this year, the government issued a newly proposed rule make. They reviewed what was written a few years ago, and now are proposing to rewrite it again. There are 50 pages of proposed regulations and 650 pages of included comment and discussion that impact the new regulations. There will be a sixty-day period for comments once proposals are published in the federal registry. The final regulations will likely be between one and two years out, so there is some lead time. Internally, Ms. Ault, Human Resources Executive Director will coordinate with the Title IX team and with ATIXA to provide ongoing training as it becomes clearer regarding what the changes will be.

Mr. Ossian reported there were a number of sessions regarding accommodations and disability related issues in the COVID era. How does someone affected by COVID impact requests for accommodations? Essentially, COVID is not a disability, but its impacts on somebody can be.

In response to an inquiry regarding who is in charge of Title IX, Mr. Ossian explained that regarding the enforcement of Title IX, the Department of Education has the Office of Civil Rights branch, which are the primary people the college would work with. The Justice Department is primarily charged with drafting a lot of the proposed rulemaking and they have somebody in the Department of Justice working closely with legal counsel at the Department of Education.

Regarding the past Federal list of disabilities that require accommodations, the question was asked if the list is expanding to include COVID and how is it decided what deserves accommodation? Mr. Ossian stated that with COVID, the illness itself is not considered a disability, but what can constitute a disability can be a lot of the things associated with daily functioning that symptoms can impact, such as breathing issues or brain fog, as well as additional issues.

Chair Klemke thanked Mr. Ossian for his report and for assisting the College.

***2021-2022 Athletic Department Overview***

WNCC Athletic Director, Mr. Ryan Burgner shared additional information about Esports at WNCC. He explained that the NCAA does not recognize Esports as a sport, but the NJCAA does. WNCC joined the NJCAA Intramural Organization, which allows WNCC students to play other teams that could be NCAA Division One or Division Two, but still play in a NJCAA League tournament or national championship.

Mr. Burgner reported that it becomes complicated when it comes to cash winnings from tournament participation. If a student pays to be in a tournament, even though they are under WNCC supervision, do they collect the winnings or does WNCC pay the entrance fee for a tournament, and if they win, does that money come back to the College? This is just one of the areas under consideration.

In response to an inquiry, Mr. Burgner confirmed that some scholarships funds are available for Esports.

Mr. Burgner continued with the Athletic Department overview stating that WNCC is fortunate to have great athletes and great coaches. The College is lucky to have been able to keep the coaches long-term, but because they are good coaches, they can be tempted away from us. Two coaches left this year, but were replaced with two young, energetic coaches who have previous connections to the College.

The student athletes are busy in the classroom, on the court, and in the community. Following a couple of years of COVID restrictions, this year, the students were able to get back out into the community. A lot of their time was spent at the area elementary schools where they assisted with the reading programs. The men's baseball and soccer teams helped with set up and clean up at the St. Agnes elementary school penny carnival fundraiser and members of the women's volleyball team volunteered at the Buckboard Therapeutic Riding Academy. Throughout the academic year, the student athletes participated in sixteen community service projects, volunteering several hours of service.

### **2021-2022 Athletic Department Overview (cont.)**

Mr. Burgner reported that in the classroom, it has been an outstanding year. WNCC had thirty-three NJCAA All-Academic athletes, which is a 3.6 GPA or higher (six had a 4.0 GPA), forty-four Region IX All Academic Athletes, which is a 3.25 GPA or higher and four NJCAA All-Academic Team Awards, which is a 3.0 GPA or higher (women's basketball, volleyball, softball, women's soccer). Out of seven teams, six excelled academically.

The athletes were successful on the court as well. Women's basketball was a participant in the NJCAA National Championship and the NJCAA National Championship Final Four. WNCC had two NJCAA All-American athletes, two Region IX Freshmen of the Year (men's soccer and softball), one Region IX Player of the Year (volleyball), twenty All Region IX athletes and women's basketball coach, Chad Gibney was named Region IX Coach of the Year.

In conclusion, Mr. Burgner thanked the administration and the coaching staff for their support and guidance. Mr. Burgner expressed additional appreciation for everything the institution does to assist the coaches and the student athletes.

### **Faculty Report**

In the absence of Board Faculty Representatives, Dr. Wilson shared an email report provided by Ms. Winters.

Tom Robinson will be attending the Night Sky Presentation at the Scottsbluff National Monument scheduled Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:45 p.m. Mr. Robinson will bring telescopes and will be available to answer questions.

Last week, Sara Schleicher, Patsy Yager, and Amy Winters attended the Anthology Together 2022 in Orlando to learn more about Blackboard, which is the Learning Management System at the College. The group came back with a lot of information to share. One of the keynote speakers was Marlee Matlin, an award-winning actress from the movie series, CODA. Ms. Matlin talked about DEIA-Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access. She was a great speaker and her message initiated thoughts about what we can do to help our students. Even though good things are happening, there is always the need to focus on doing better.

Recently, a virtual training was scheduled for the Nebraska Math Readiness Program (NMRP). Teachers, counselors, and community college representatives from across the state were in attendance. The program is changing over the next few years and work will continue with high school partners to grow the program to help more students be college math ready when they graduate from high school.

Ms. Winters was recently selected as a STEM Representative to the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Program Council. She is one of five faculty selected nationwide to serve. This is a four-year commitment and next week she will travel to San Juan, Puerto Rico for a week to work on the Honors Study Topic, the Honors Program Guide, and the Civic Scholar.

### **Nebraska Community College Association**

Dr. Crouse reported that the NCCA Executive Director, Ms. Courtney Wittstruck, recently scheduled a retreat for NCCA members to assist with drafting a strategic plan. The group looked at support of the colleges, advocating for the colleges through the Legislature, and promoting the visibility of the colleges and what they do for the state. The plan is still in the development stage.

### **Western Nebraska Community College Foundation**

Ms. Reisig shared an update regarding the Math Readiness Project. She mentioned that the Kiewit Foundation has pledged \$293,000 over a three-year period toward the project and the Foundation provides matching funds. Thus far, funds have been pledged by the Suzanne and Walter Scott

### **Western Nebraska Community College Foundation (cont.)**

Foundation (\$48,000 over the next three years), last week an application for \$90,000 was submitted to another Nebraska foundation with notification expected in a couple of months, which is in addition to another pending application that opens in October. If those come through, that should just about fully fund the match.

Ms. Reisig reported that back up options are in place. Meetings have begun with local partners because it is understood that the Math Readiness Project is important for area high school students and getting them college math ready. Conversations also included discussion of sustainability for 2025 and beyond.

Grants assist with funding equipment needs for the Powerline and Nursing programs, as well as the pursuit of additional opportunities. Additionally, work continues with implementation of new software that will help with grant coordination throughout the Foundation and the College.

Ms. Reisig reported that the Monument Marathon has raised around \$95,000 in cash pledges, grants, and sponsorships. That is in addition to everything else the community does; the in-kind sponsorships, the law enforcement assistance, and the city support. Currently 290 runners are registered. Runners come from twenty-seven U.S. states and five countries. Ms. Reisig stated that they are excited to have runners from Canada, Kenya, Morocco, the Netherlands, and Niger. There is still room for additional runners and volunteers. Volunteers interested in receiving a Marathon T-shirt, are encouraged to sign up by the next Board meeting. Registration can be completed online.

### **Student Report**

There was no student report at this time.

### **President Comments**

President Marrin reported that twenty-three positions were filled in June and July. Recently, a reception was scheduled so that the new employees had an opportunity to meet and visit with current faculty and staff. It was a fun event and will be continued in the future.

Work continues to move forward with the Strategic Plan and the first draft of focus areas is ready for review. Some of the themes are being considered for re-envisioning, which is how we look at doing something differently, so that we can do a better job.

Panhandle Advantage meetings continue. President Marrin reported that he recently met with Chadron State College President, Dr. Randy Rhine, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. James Powell, and Vice President of Enrollment Management, Dr. Tami Selby. Discussion centered on the continuation of collaborative efforts and program expansion.

President Marrin reported that he recently traveled to the Alliance and Sidney campuses to discuss placing community coordinators in area communities. A meeting has been scheduled next week to continue discussion regarding hiring community coordinators to organize non-credit classes along with the expansion of the coordinator roles in the communities. The plan is to start with Hyannis and Kimball communities.

Campus Works services have been engaged to conduct an assessment of the IT department. Campus Works will look at the department's use of programs, whether the programs are being utilized effectively, cybersecurity, IT operations and what skills might be missing and if additional staff is needed. The first report should be available in eight to ten weeks.

President Marrin commented that it is almost August and the faculty and staff are preparing for a great semester.

### **Board Member Comments**

Dr. Packard mentioned that Dr. Perkins has asked to be replaced as the Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA) Board representative.

Ms. Anderson reminded Board members that the Night Glow Old West Balloon Fest is scheduled August 10, 2022, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

### **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

1. NCCA Third Quarter Meeting  
August 1, 2022, Lincoln, NE
2. Monument Marathon  
September 24, 2022, Scottsbluff, NE
3. WNCC Homecoming  
October 15 – 21, 2022  
Homecoming Banquet, October 21, 2022, Harms Center Plex
4. 2022 ACCT Leadership Congress  
October 26-29, 2022, New York, NY
5. NCCA Fourth Quarter Meeting  
November 6 - 7, 2022, Central Community College, Grand Island, NE

**Next Regular Meeting:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022, 1:00 p.m., Coral E. Richards Boardroom, Scottsbluff Campus, 1601 East 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Scottsbluff, NE

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 2:06 p.m.

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F. Lynne Klemke, Chairperson

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Susan L. Verbeck, Secretary