

**WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**INFORMAL MEETING  
MINUTES  
November 15, 2023**

The Western Community College Area Board of Governors held an Informal Board meeting at 10:38 a.m. on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 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 Tuesday, November 7, 2023.

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.....	Present
F. Lynne Klemke, Chairperson .....	Present
Allan D. Kreman .....	Absent
William M. Packard .....	Present
Coral E. Richards .....	Present
R. J. Savely, Jr .....	Present
Marjorie A. Schmidt .....	Present

Chair Klemke reported that due to personal health, Dr. Crouse and Mr. Kreman were unable to attend the meeting.

**QUORUM**

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

**Board Chairperson Comments**

1. Copy of Nebraska Open Meetings Act Available on the table at the back of the room.
2. 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-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.

### **Cougar Strides Wellness Team Projects**

Ms. Jenny Keener, member of the Cougar Strides Wellness Team, shared information about upcoming winter projects.

*Fall Bake Off:* faculty and staff were encouraged to bring a favorite fall dessert for a taste testing contest. Tasting admittance requires an item for donation to the Cougar Cupboard.

*Wall of Thanks:* the construction wall at the top of the stairs outside the Student Life offices will be used for a wall of thanks. Everyone was encouraged to leave a handprint on the wall with a note stating something they are thankful for.

*Wreath Decorating Contest:* an artificial wreath and door hanger will be provided to individuals or groups for decorating. Once wreaths have been judged, they will be donated to area senior care homes. Judging will take place December 1st and delivery will be scheduled the week of December 4, 2023. Winner(s) receive a *Subway Sandwich* party courtesy of the Cougar Strides Wellness Team.

*Ugly Sweater Contest:* scheduled December 20, 2023. Everyone was encouraged to wear an ugly sweater. Ms. Keener requested Board member assistance with judging the sweaters. Judging will take place at the conclusion of the December 20th Board meeting.

### **New Board Member Onboarding Session**

The new Board member onboarding manual was distributed and the 30-day and 90-day onboarding schedules included in the manual were reviewed and discussed.

### **2024 Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference**

#### ***April 13-16, 2024, Chicago, IL***

Chair Klemke reported that registration is open for the 2024 Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference and asked if any Board members were interested in attending. Ms. Guzman-Gonzales and Ms. Schmidt expressed interest in attending the conference. Ms. Reichert will be in touch to discuss travel and registration details.

### **2024 ACCT National Legislative Summit**

#### ***February 4-7, 2024, Washington, D.C. (early bird registration deadline, December 13, 2023)***

Chair Klemke reported that the early bird registration deadline for the 2024 Legislative Summit is December 13, 2023. Chair Klemke asked if any Board members were interested in attending. Ms. Schmidt expressed interest in attending the conference. The Board secretary will be in touch to discuss travel and registration details.

### **2024 Board Meeting Schedule (off-site locations – Alliance, Chadron, Sidney)**

Chair Klemke explained that in the past, two Board meetings were scheduled off-site, during the spring and summer months. Off-site locations included Sidney, Alliance and Chadron. Following discussion, it was determined that in 2024, off-site meetings will be scheduled in Alliance and Chadron. Dates will be determined at a spring meeting.

**Board Member Work Session with Ms. Jennifer Reisig**

***Cultivating the Right Partnerships***

Ms. Reisig, Foundation Executive Director, reported that partnerships are mutually beneficial and can provide numerous opportunities for the College and our students. Building partnerships takes a lot of conversations from many people and if a partnership is to be successful, open communication is vital. Advisory committees provide a connection between area partners and the College staff and faculty. Advisory committees also provide an opportunity for information sharing and discussion of training needs and how the College can assist.

Partners such as Nebraska Caterpillar and PREMA commit to monetary or equipment donations and may hire WNCC students once they have completed their training.

**Next Regular Meeting:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 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 12:05 p.m.

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F. Lynne Klemke, Chairperson

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Susan L. Verbeck, Secretary