

**WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 16, 2022**

The Western Community College Area Board of Governors held a Regular Board meeting at 1:02 p.m. on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 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, February 9, 2022.

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.

AREA BOARD

Karen S. Anderson, Vice Chairperson.....	Present
Margaret R. Crouse (via Zoom)	Present
Linda A. Guzman-Gonzales (via Zoom)	Present
F. Lynne Klemke, Chairperson	Present
Allan D. Kreman	Present
Kimberly A. Marcy (via Zoom)	Present
William M. Packard.....	Present
M. Thomas Perkins.....	Present
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.

Ms. Klemke announced the next order of business to come before the Board is the re-organization of the Board for the 2022 year.

Ms. Klemke called for nominations for Chairperson of the Western Community College Area Board of Governors for the 2022 year. Board members were reminded that nominations do not require a second.

Dr. Perkins nominated Ms. Klemke. There were no further nominations.

Ms. Richards moved nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Ms. Lynne Klemke as Chairperson of the Western Community College Area Board of Governors for the 2022 year. Seconded by Mr. Stickney. The vote was, Yes: Anderson, Crouse, Kreman, Marcy, Packard, Perkins, Richards, Savely, Stickney. No: None. Abstain: Klemke. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales. Motion carried.

Ms. Guzman-Gonzales joined the meeting via Zoom at 1:10 p.m.

Ms. Klemke called for nominations for Vice Chairperson of the Western Community College Area Board of Governors for the 2022 year. Board members were reminded that nominations do not require a second.

Mr. Stickney nominated Dr. Crouse, Dr. Packard nominated Ms. Anderson. There were no further nominations.

Chair Klemke moved nominations cease. Ms. Verbeck asked Mr. Kelly to serve as Election Clerk. Dr. Crouse, Ms. Guzman-Gonzales, and Ms. Marcy were in attendance via Zoom and cast their vote via text message to the Board Secretary. The ballots were gathered and counted with the following results: Ms. Anderson – 8; Dr. Crouse – 3.

Chair Klemke announced Ms. Anderson was elected Vice Chairperson of the Western Community College Area Board of Governors for the 2022 year.

Chair Klemke reported the positions of Secretary and Treasurer are appointments; therefore, motions will be in order to appoint the Secretary and the Treasurer.

Dr. Perkins moved the Board appoint Ms. Susan Verbeck as Secretary of the Western Community College Area Board of Governors for the 2022 year. Seconded by Ms. Anderson. The vote was, Yes: Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Marcy, Packard, Perkins, Richards, Savely, Stickney, Anderson, Crouse, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Dr. Packard moved the Board appoint Ms. Lynne Koski as Treasurer of the Western Community College Area Board of Governors for the 2022 year. Seconded by Ms. Anderson. The vote was, Yes: Kreman, Marcy, Packard, Perkins, Richards, Savely, Stickney, Anderson, Crouse, Guzman-Gonzales, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Due to the cancellation of the January 19, 2022 meeting, Chair Klemke reviewed the contents of the December and January Consent Calendar, which includes the following items:

1. Review Contents of Consent Calendar
 - a. Agenda
 - b. Excuse Absent Board Member(s)
 - c. Minutes
 - i. Regular Meeting, December 15, 2021
2. Claims: (December)
 - a. WCCA Unrestricted Fund - \$2,623,840.63
 - b. WCCA Restricted Fund - \$91,464.72
 - c. WCCA Federal Fund - \$30.99
 - d. WCCA Agency Fund - \$3,082.56
 - e. WCCA Loan Fund - 0 -
 - f. WCCA Plant Fund - \$331,346.95
 - g. WCCA Auxiliary Fund - \$433,294.09
3. Claims: (January)
 - a. WCCA Unrestricted Fund - \$2,320,517.64
 - b. WCCA Restricted Fund - \$6,261.50
 - c. WCCA Federal Fund - \$253.51
 - d. WCCA Agency Fund - \$2,377.29
 - e. WCCA Loan Fund - 0 -
 - f. WCCA Plant Fund - \$13,960.50
 - g. WCCA Auxiliary Fund - \$57,266.74
4. City Planning Commission Reports
 - a. City of Scottsbluff (Tax Increment Funding)
 - b. City of Gering (Tax Increment Funding)
5. **Approval** of Consent Calendar

CONSENT CALENDAR (cont.)

6. Consideration of Items Extracted from Consent Calendar
 - a. Scottsbluff Gering United Chamber of Commerce

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 items payable to the Scottsbluff/Gering United Chamber of Commerce.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

Consider Item(s) Extracted

Ms. Anderson reported that the expenses payable to the Scottsbluff/Gering United Chamber of Commerce represent payment in the amount of \$30.00 for WNCC staff attendance at the Pre-Legislative Breakfast, \$500.00 for the Hoops 4 Heroes Sponsorship, and \$250.00 for WNCC staff attendance at the 2022 Chamber Banquet.

Mr. Savely MOVED to approve the extracted items payable to the Scottsbluff/Gering United Chamber of Commerce which represent payment in the amount of \$30.00 for WNCC staff attendance at the Pre-Legislative Breakfast, \$500.00 for the Hoops 4 Heroes Sponsorship, and \$250.00 for WNCC staff attendance at the 2022 Chamber Banquet. SECONDED by Dr. Perkins. The vote was, Yes: Packard, Perkins, Richards, Savely, Stickney, Crouse, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Marcy, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: Anderson. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Board Member Mileage and/or Expense Reimbursement

Approval of Board Member Mileage and/or Expense Reimbursement

Ms. Anderson MOVED to approve the following travel expenses: Dr. Margaret Crouse for \$110.88 and Mr. Allan Kreman for \$21.84. SECONDED by Mr. Savely. The vote was, Yes: Perkins, Richards, Savely, Stickney, Anderson, Guzman-Gonzales, Marcy, Packard, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: Crouse, Kreman. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Board Member Mileage and/or Expense Reimbursement

Approval of Board Member Mileage and/or Expense Reimbursement

Ms. Richards MOVED to approve the following travel expenses: Ms. Marcy for \$106.96, Mr. Savely for \$100.80, Mr. Stickney for \$59.36. SECONDED by Ms. Anderson. The vote was, Yes: Richards, Anderson, Crouse, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Packard, Perkins, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: Marcy, Savely, Stickney. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Bid Consent Calendar

Review of Bid Consent Calendar - There were no bids.

Personnel Consent Calendar

Review Contents of Personnel Consent Calendar

- a. Resignation(s):
 - i. Mr. Quinton M. Walker, Powerline Coordinator
Applied Tech Division, Alliance Campus
Effective, January 7, 2022
 - ii. Ms. Megan S. Wescoat, Student Engagement Director
Student Services Department, Scottsbluff Campus
Effective, January 14, 2022
 - iii. Ms. Debra Carpenter-Nolting, English Instructor
Academic Enrichment, Language and Fine Arts Division
Effective, January 14, 2022
 - iv. Ms. Jeanette F. Johnson, Business Instructor
Business and Applied Technology Division
Effective, August 31, 2022
- b. Appointment(s)
 - i. Ms. Courtney Imel McKim, Career Pathways Advisor, Scottsbluff Campus
Effective, January 31, 2022

Approval of Personnel Consent Calendar

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

Consideration of Items Extracted from Personnel Consent Calendar

No items were extracted from the Personnel Consent Calendar.

In response to an inquiry, Mr. Marrin clarified that the Powerline program resignation is from Mr. Walker, the Powerline Program Coordinator, not the instructor.

Western Community College Area Board of Governors

Reports and Recommendations from the Executive Committee

Approval of Suspension of Policy 825.0100.00 Appointment and Term of Office

(Standing Committees/Appointments and Term of Office)

Chair Klemke reported that at the recent Executive Committee meeting, she suggested for one more year, standing committees remain as they are. The policy states that the term of office for standing committees is four years. Even though she understands the rationale behind the rotation, Chair Klemke explained that her recommendation to suspend the policy for another year is so that work can continue with the newly implemented shared governance structure as well as the completion of the Strategic Plan. Chair Klemke stated that she understands rotating committee membership gives Board members the opportunity to become familiar with the responsibilities of each committee; however, she struggles with moving people if their expertise is beneficial to their role as chair of a particular committee. Ms. Klemke added that she asked Ms. Verbeck and Ms. Reichert to research practices at other institutions and share that information with the Board Policy committee for review. The Board Policy committee will forward a recommendation to the Executive Committee and at this time next year some shuffling can be expected.

Ms. Richards MOVED that pursuant to Policy Number 825.0100.00 Appointment and Term of Office be temporarily suspended to allow the 2022 Standing Committee Appointments to remain in full force and effect through January 2023. SECONDED by Ms. Guzman-Gonzales. The vote was, Yes: Stickney, Anderson, Crouse, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Marcy, Packard, Perkins, Richards, Savely, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Approval of Standing Committee Assignments for 2022

Ms. Richards MOVED to approve Standing Committee appointments for the year 2022. SECONDED by Mr. Kreman. The votes was, Yes: Anderson, Crouse, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Marcy, Packard, Perkins, Richards, Savely, Stickney, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Audit Committee

Allan Kreman (21)
Kimberly Marcy (18)
R. J. Savely, Jr. (16)

Board Policy Committee

Kimberly Marcy (19)
Coral Richards (21)
R.J. Savely, Jr. (21)
Richard Stickney (21)

Executive Committee

Karen Anderson (19)
Margaret Crouse (21)
Linda Guzman-Gonzales (19)
Lynne Klemke (13)
William Packard (21)

Finance Committee

Karen Anderson (18)
Allan Kreman (19)
R. J. Savely, Jr. (17)
Richard Stickney (18)

Higher Learning Commission Committee

Karen Anderson (19)
Linda Guzman-Gonzales (19)
William Packard (19)
Thomas Perkins (19)

Human Resources Committee

Margaret Crouse (21)
Linda Guzman-Gonzales (18)
Coral Richards (19)
Richard Stickney (19)

Risk Management

Kimberly Marcy (16)
Coral Richards (19)
Richard Stickney (21)

Student Success

Margaret Crouse (20)
Allan Kreman (19)
William Packard (18)
R. J. Savely, Jr. (17)

Representatives to Nebraska Community College Association

Margaret Crouse (20)
Thomas Perkins (00)
Karen Anderson (18) – Alternate

Representatives to Western Nebraska Community College Foundation Board

Karen Anderson (17)
William Packard (20)

Representatives to WNCC/ESU #13 Technology Center Board of Directors

Linda Guzman-Gonzales (19)
Lynne Klemke (18)
R. J. Savely, Jr. (19)

Reports and Recommendations from the Human Resources Committee

Approval of Policies to Repeal: Employee Grievances - 415.1500.79 Dismissal

Ms. Guzman-Gonzales asked Ms. Ault to share information about this item. Ms. Ault reported that in 2020 a group of policies were repealed when they were replaced with a new grievance policy for employees, but this policy was inadvertently overlooked at that time. All faculty dismissals would stay in line with the Nebraska statutes listed at the top of the policy. Mr. Croft mentioned that a couple of faculty had concerns, which were addressed in a conversation with Ms. Ault. In absence of additional discussion, Ms. Ault recommended repeal of the Dismissal policy.

Reports and Recommendations from the Human Resources Committee

Approval of Policies to Repeal: Employee Grievances - 415.1500.79 Dismissal (cont.)

Dr. Packard MOVED to approve repeal of Policy number 415.1500.79. SECONDED by Ms. Anderson. The votes was, Yes: Crouse, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Marcy, Packard, Perkins, Richards, Savely, Stickney, Anderson, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Approval of Date and Time for September Meetings

Public Hearings on Proposed WCCA Budgets 2022-2023 (September 14, 2021, 1:00 p.m.)

Regular Meeting (September 14, approximately 1:15 p.m.)

Chair Klemke explained that the meeting date is set earlier in the month of September so that the deadline for budget hearings and submission of information to the state can be fulfilled. The time for the Budget Hearings is 1:00 p.m. and the Regular meeting start time is approximately 1:15 p.m.

Mr. Savely MOVED to approve scheduling the Public Hearings on Proposed WCCA Budgets 2022-2023 on September 14, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. and scheduling the Regular Board meeting at approximately 1:15 p.m. or immediately following the Budget Hearings on September 14, 2022. Both meetings will be offered via Zoom. SECONDED by Ms. Anderson. The vote was, Yes: Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Marcy, Packard, Perkins, Richards, Savely, Stickney, Anderson, Crouse, Klemke. Motion carried.

Chair Klemke initiated discussion regarding scheduling additional meetings via Zoom. Mr. Kelly reported that according to statute, pre-approval is not required for meetings offered via Zoom, but there are specific requirements for the public notice drafted for those meetings. The decision to schedule the meeting via videoconference would need to be determined at least ten days before the date of the meeting so that specific information can be included in the public notice. In addition to the September meeting, Chair Klemke suggested the months of March, April, November and December. She explained that in March and April, she is out of the state, and during the months of November and December, safety is a concern for those who live a distance from the college. With the flexibility to offer six meetings via Zoom each calendar year, the dates can be determined at a later time without pre-approval.

Approval of September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023 Collective Bargaining Agreement

Mr. Kelly, College Attorney, thanked the negotiating team as well as the Association committee headed by Mr. Scott Winters for their time spent in meetings and assistance with gathering information. Mr. Kelly reported that this agreement is for one year, which allows negotiation of compensation in another year. This last year of the contract we were at 108% of the compensation median point of the community colleges, which was 6% higher than regulations require. The total compensation increase was 2% and includes salary and insurance. The idea was to review compensation in a year and see where we are in the array as far as the median point of the other community colleges. There is the possibility they will catch up to us and perhaps something different can be done about compensation for the 2023-2024 contract year. This year's contract eliminated the supplemental retirement contribution of \$125,000 which is part of what put us in the higher percentage of the median because it seems the other community colleges do not have that benefit. The retirement contribution can be brought up again next year to see if it can be added back into the agreement. There were minor changes to the sick leave policy. Mr. Kelly explained that if a family member is ill and the faculty member needs to stay home to provide care, that group of people covered by that benefit was expanded.

A minor course development provision was eliminated and a provision put in place regarding the approval process.

Management prerogatives had minor changes to include faculty provisions and a more expansive definition. Provisions were added to allow the faculty Association (NWCEA) to use the college facilities for meetings and electronic communications.

Approval of September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023 Collective Bargaining Agreement (cont.)

The group worked on Grievance Policy updates and clarification of the appeal process. This is a process that previously contained an appeal to the full Board. Currently, the final appeal would be with a committee of three Board members who would meet the morning of the Regular Board meeting. The policy states that first an informal meeting is scheduled to try to resolve the issue, then there could be an appeal to their supervisor, to a grievance committee consisting of faculty and administration, to the college president and the final step would be the Board committee.

Mr. Kelly recommended approval of the 2022-2023 negotiated agreement.

In response to an inquiry, Mr. Kelly explained that the overload pay went up to \$25 and the teaching hourly rate went up \$4.00.

Chair Klemke thanked everyone involved in the negotiation process.

Ms. Anderson MOVED to approve the 2022-2023 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Nebraska Western College Education Association which is a one year agreement, September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023. SECONDED by Mr. Savely. The vote was, Yes: Kreman, Marcy, Packard, Perkins, Richards, Savely, Stickney, Anderson, Crouse, Guzman-Gonzales, Klemke. Motion carried.

Institutional Reports

WNCC Enrollment – Dr. Dustin Eicke and Mr. Brian Elkins

Final, Fall Semester 2021

Ten-Day Report, Spring Semester 2022

Dr. Eicke reported that this is a follow up to the fall 2021 end of semester report. The percentage increase in enrollment across the semester is due to the number of non-credit enrollees that occur after the ten-day report. Dr. Eicke stressed that the end of the semester report is important so that both sides are captured because they don't start at the same time.

Reduction in FTE/REU on the credit side is typical due to students dropping courses over time. It is the intention of the Institutional Research office to eventually produce a report that can identify where we are retaining students as well as where we are struggling with retention.

The Fall 20 to Fall 21 difference for FTE is 7.55 and REU is 25.74. FTE is the better proxy for academic activity on campus, enrollment numbers can be deceptive because a student might be enrolled in just one class, so it is better to look at actual production per student. Dr. Eicke commented that nationwide, community college enrollments are down 13.2% since COVID-19. WNCC enrollment is essentially flat. Even though enrollment shows a slight increase, we are doing better than some of the others.

Dr. Eicke reported that as of the tenth day of the semester, January 29, 2022, there were 650 full-time and 904 part-time students. The enrollment total of 1,554 represents a slight increase of 3.6% compared to spring 2021. The end of spring semester 2022 total enrollment is expected to be 1,636.

Female to male ratio was 60.36% female to 39.64% male overall, which is similar to past figures and reflective of the nation. The full-time ratio equals 56.2%/43.8% and part-time ratio equals 63.4%/36.6%. The WNCC female to male ratio is within 3% +/- of mean national ratios at all community colleges. Hispanic enrollment was 377, representing 24.3% of all students.

Total FTE was 459.53 while total REU was 612.69. The end of semester total FTE is expected to increase as the non-credit enrollment numbers continue to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The WNCC student body has students representing each of the counties within the WCCA service area. High school dual enrollment represents 34.36% of WNCC total enrollment with a total of 534 students, which is a 48.33% increase over spring 2021.

Chair Klemke thanked Dr. Eicke and Mr. Elkins for their time spent preparing the report and for sharing the enrollment information.

Student Report – Ms. Benedict Nsenga Manvuwa

Chair Klemke welcomed Ms. Nsenga Manvuwa, student representative.

Ms. Manvuwa reported that representatives from Cougar Council will attend the WNCC Discovery Day scheduled today, February 16, 2022. At the event, information about Cougar Council will be shared with perspective students.

Student representatives will work with the Assistant Dean of Student Services; the Sidney Student Services Coordinator and an Alliance representative regarding the club allocation for the spring semester.

Suggestions/requests that have been forwarded by students include non-athlete student access to the weight room at the Williams Building, extending the College closing time from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. and locating ATM machines in additional spaces along with updated equipment.

Upcoming Activities for the Spring Semester include:

- Up all Night: Friday February 18, 2022.
- Next Tuesday is appreciation night for students. A dinner is scheduled and students will be recognized during the basketball game.
- A food drive is being planned around the Theatre productions. Those attending will be encouraged to bring a food donation.
- Cultural Night is being planned in the Bishop Dining Hall.
- The week of spring break, an activity is being planned that will focus on health. Some interesting topics have been discussed.
- April 12, 2022, the Cougar Council is planning to organize an activity that includes a comedian. The event is currently scheduled April 12, 2022.

Ms. Nsenga Manvuwa shared the various meetings attended by Cougar Council members and expressed appreciation to all who have been working with Shared Governance.

College Council: Representative, Vice President of Cougar Council or designee

Administrative Services Council: Representative, Secretary/Historian or designee

Student Services Council: Representative, Cougar Council President or designee

Access Committee: Representative, Cougar Council Treasurer

Budget Advisory Committee: Representative, Cougar Council Vice President or designee

Facilities Advisory Committee: Representative, Cougar Council Treasurer

Western Nebraska Area Board of Governors: Representative, Cougar Council President or designee

Chair Klemke thanked Ms. Nsenga Manvuwa for her attendance at the Board meeting and for a very nice report.

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

Mr. Croft recognized Ms. Carrie Howton and Mr. Jordan Colwell for their work with coordination of the faculty meetings. Faculty have been spending time on program mapping and working with Dr. Gregory on the program review committee to ensure proper procedure is followed. The committee has been allowing time for the programs to pull things together and there has been good back and forth communication. Positive developments have come from the program review.

Faculty has been working with Academic Proposals (PA). The proposals can be initiated by any faculty member and are voted on electronically, which can be a challenge, but strides have been made to ensure faculty are all together when action is proposed.

Mr. Croft thanked retiring faculty members, Ms. Debra Carpenter-Nolting and Ms. Jeannette Johnson for their time at WNCC. Both instructors will be missed.

Faculty Report (cont.)

Faculty recently met with Dr. Geri Anderson to complete a SLOT analysis. Even though more time would have been helpful, the session with Dr. Anderson was productive. Mr. Croft stated that inclusion in the strategic plan development process is appreciated.

Mr. Croft shared that Ms. Amy Winters was nominated for the National Council of Institutional Administrators Rising Star Institute.

Ms. Winters reported that Jade Cash, December 2021 AFA musical graduate made it to the semi-final round of the Irene Ryan scholarship competition as part of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Nebraska Community College Association – Dr. Margaret Crouse, Dr. Thomas Perkins

Dr. Perkins stated that he had no report. Dr. Crouse commented that she believes Ms. Courtney Wittstruck, the new NCCA Executive Director has been doing a god job. She has been keeping everyone apprised of the Legislative Bills and is on top of what is happening.

Association of Community College Trustees – Dr. Thomas Perkins

Dr. Perkins stated that he had nothing to report at this time.

Western Nebraska Community College Foundation – Ms. Karen Anderson

Ms. Anderson deferred to Ms. Reisig, Foundation Executive Director. Ms. Reisig shared information about the Foundation's year end giving. At the year-end \$68,899 was raised. That excludes billed scholarships, scholarships that come in to specific students, recurring monthly gifts, land gifts and payment to pledges such as the Marathon and Campaign. Of that nearly \$69,000, \$35,749 came into the greatest needs fund, so that they can be responsive to whatever the greatest need is. \$32,700 came in for scholarships and \$450 for performing arts.

Upcoming events include a Scholarship Breakfast this Friday, February 18, 2022 at 7:30 a.m. A couple of staff members, students and a parent will be speaking about the importance of scholarships for students who attend WNCC.

The Foundation's 50th Anniversary Celebration is scheduled at the Gering Civic Center, Thursday, March 24, 2022, 5:30-8:30 p.m. The cost of tickets is \$30.00 which will go toward support of the general scholarship. This will be a celebration of the Foundation and the impact it has had on the College.

President Comments

Interim President, John Marrin extended an invitation to greet high school students in attendance at the WNCC Discovery Day scheduled throughout the day.

The updated schedule for the Strategic Planning Listening Tours has been shared. The first session is scheduled next week at the community center in Bridgeport. An invitation was extended to Board members representing Morrill County.

The Strategic Planning process is going well. Dr. Geri Anderson recently conducted SLOT analysis sessions with staff and faculty which initiated excellent discussions. As part of the Strategic Planning process, a weekly question is emailed to gather input from faculty and staff. Last week, the question that was emailed was "What great opportunities do you see for the College." Staff responded with great ideas and numerous suggestions for improvement. The information collected during the Strategic Planning process is not only valuable at this point in time, but also for future reference.

Mr. Marrin shared information about the Legislative sessions he attended in January and provided updates about the bills that impact the community colleges.

President Comments (cont.)

Ms. Wittstruck, NCCA Executive Director was commended for her time spent in providing Legislative summaries for the community colleges and for her representation during this session.

Mr. Marrin mentioned that he is planning to attend an upcoming hearing regarding Legislative Bill 1087, which is promoted by the Appropriations Committee, chaired by Senator Stinner. This bill represents funding for Dual Credit. Mr. Marrin shared that one of the college presidents stated that this is a significant year because the hearings are not just about defending ourselves and trying to maintain, this is the year we are actually going out and being able to represent the good things that we do and the growth that can happen in the state due to additional funding opportunities.

Mr. Marrin extended an invitation to Board members in attendance at the March 16 Board meeting to join the College staff for lunch in the Bishop Dining Hall. This is an excellent opportunity to get to know one another a little better.

The Diesel program is full this year and although we have been able to offer course work in the tech building, additional training space is needed. When we get into the next semester, new students will be joining the current students. It was decided that the high bay and low bay at the Harms Center could be adapted to accommodate the program. Additionally, a couple of changes, supported by the instructor, will be implemented. A separate structure will be added that will keep diesel fumes away from the inside of the building and due to concerns and current practices, remote engine start up would take place behind an enclosed structure with windows for monitoring by students, but this is not considered a long term solution. This safety measure will be implemented for the Aviation program as well.

In response to an inquiry about the Dual Credit bill being considered by the Legislature, Mr. Marrin commented that the increase in funds would go toward the relationships with the area high schools.

In response to an inquiry, Mr. Marrin explained that the type of structure to be added for the Diesel program is under consideration.

As the result of a request for a tour of the Harms Center high and low bays, Mr. Marrin suggested addition of a tour at the March meeting.

Dr. Packard left the meeting at 2:22 p.m.

Board Member Comments

Chair Klemke shared that she recently received a request for a CNA class in Garden County. After contacting Mr. Marrin and Dr. Wilson, she is happy to report that come May, a class will be provided. She thanked those involved in the quick response to this request and is hopeful that this can be a model to be shared with additional communities. Additionally, Chair Klemke extended thanks for the HERF funds that were recently shared with dual credit students.

Chair Klemke reiterated that participation at the Strategic Planning Listening Sessions is encouraged, but to avoid the possibility of a quorum at the sessions, please inform the Board Secretary when attendance is planned.

Ms. Richards commented that she is pleased that Mr. John Cook, UNL women's volleyball coach will be on campus Friday, March 4. She added that the WNCC athletic teams have been performing very well.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

The Furies by Aeschylus (Performing Arts)
February 25 and 26, 2022, 7:30 p.m. & February 27, 2022, 2:00 p.m.
Scottsbluff Campus

2022 Governance Leadership Institute
March 23-25, 2022, Philadelphia, PA

2022 HLC Annual Conference
April 1-5, 2022, Chicago, IL

AACC Annual Conference
April 30 – May 3, 2022, New York, NY

NCCA Second Quarter Meeting
May 2, 2022, Lincoln, NE

NCCA Third Quarter Meeting
August 1, 2022, Lincoln, NE

NCCA Fourth Quarter Meeting
November 6 - 7, 2022, Central Community College Area

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, March 16, 2022, 1:00 p.m., Coral E. Richards Boardroom, Scottsbluff Campus, 1601 East 27th Street, Scottsbluff, NE

Adjournment

F. Lynne Klemke, Chairperson

Susan L. Verbeck, Secretary