

**WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

February 21, 2024

The Western Community College Area Board of Governors held a Regular Board meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 21, 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, February 13, 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
Margaret R. Crouse	Present
Misty L. Curtis.....	Present
Linda A. Guzman-Gonzales.....	Present
F. Lynne Klemke	Present
Allan D. Kreman.....	Present (via zoom)
William M. Packard.....	Absent
Coral E. Richards	Present
R. J. Savely, Jr.....	Present
Marjorie A. Schmidt.....	Present
John P. Stinner, Vice Chairperson.....	Present (via zoom)

Dr. Packard notified the Board secretary that he was unable to attend the meeting due to personal health.

QUORUM

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

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 that each speaker will be limited to a five-minute presentation. There were no public comments.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS

Chair Anderson announced for public information there was a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act available on the table at the back of the room.

Chair Anderson announced 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.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Review Contents of Consent Calendar
 - a. Agenda
 - b. Excuse Absent Board Member(s) (Packard)
 - c. Minutes
 - i. January 17, 2024 Informal Meeting
 - ii. January 17, 2024 Regular Meeting
2. **Claims:** January 2024
 - a. WCCA Unrestricted Fund - \$2,508,400.06
 - b. WCCA Restricted Fund - \$6,432.14
 - c. WCCA Federal Fund - \$1,523.66
 - d. WCCA Agency Fund - \$1,558.71
 - e. WCCA Loan Fund - 0 -
 - f. WCCA Plant Fund - \$563,329.74
 - g. WCCA Auxiliary Fund - \$135,571.82
3. City Planning Commission Reports
4. **Approval** of Consent Calendar
5. Consideration of Items Extracted from Consent Calendar

Chair Anderson inquired if there were any items on the Consent Calendar which needed to be extracted for separate consideration. There were no items extracted from the Consent Calendar.

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

BOARD MEMBER MILEAGE AND/OR EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

Ms. Richards MOVED to approve the following travel expenses: Ms. Misty Curtis for \$161.52 and Ms. Lynne Klemke for \$312.32. **SECONDED** by Dr. Crouse. The vote was, Yes: Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Stinner, Crouse, Anderson. No: None. Abstain: Curtis, Klemke. Absent: Packard. Motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER MILEAGE AND/OR EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

Ms. Schmidt MOVED to approve the following travel expenses: Mr. Allan Kreman for \$26.13 and Mr. R. J. Savely for \$120.60. **SECONDED** by Ms. Guzman-Gonzales. The vote was, Yes: Guzman-Gonzales, Klemke, Richards, Schmidt, Stinner, Crouse, Curtis, Anderson. No: None. Abstain: Kreman, Savely. Absent: Packard. Motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER MILEAGE AND/OR EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

Mr. Savely MOVED to approve the following travel expense: Ms. Marjorie Schmidt for \$339.20. **SECONDED** by Dr. Crouse. The vote was, Yes: Klemke, Kreman, Richards, Savely, Stinner, Crouse, Curtis, Guzman-Gonzales, Anderson. No: None. Abstain: Schmidt. Absent: Packard. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL CONSENT CALENDAR

Review Contents of Personnel Consent Calendar Resignation(s)/Appointment(s)

There were no resignations or appointments.

WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Appointments to Board Standing Committees (2024)

Accreditation Committee

Margaret Crouse (24)
Misty Curtis (24)
Coral Richards (24)
Marjorie Schmidt (24)

Audit Committee

Margaret Crouse (20)
William Packard (16)
Coral Richards (19)

Board Policy Committee

Linda Guzman-Gonzales (17)
Lynne Klemke (11)
Coral Richards (21)
R. J. Savely, Jr. (21)

Executive Committee

Karen Anderson (19)
Margaret Crouse (21)
Linda Guzman-Gonzales (19)
Lynne Klemke (13)
John Stinner (24)

Finance & Facilities Committee

Misty Curtis (24)
Allan Kreman (19)
R. J. Savely, Jr. (15)
John Stinner (24)

Human Resources Committee

Linda Guzman-Gonzales (18)
Allan Kreman (24)
William Packard (15)
Marjorie Schmidt (24)

Risk Management Committee

Misty Curtis (24)
Allan Kreman (19)
R. J. Savely, Jr. (15)

Student Success Committee

Lynne Klemke (11)
William Packard (15)
Marjorie Schmidt (24)

Representatives to Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA)

Margaret Crouse (20)
John Stinner (24)

Representatives to Western Nebraska Community College Foundation Board

Karen Anderson (17)
John Stinner (24)

Representatives to WNCC/ESU 13 Technology Center Board of Directors

Lynne Klemke (18)
R.J. Savely, Jr. (19)

Dr. Crouse MOVED to approve the 2024 Appointments to the Board Standing Committees. SECONDED by Ms. Guzman-Gonzales. The vote was, Yes: Kreman, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Stinner, Crouse, Curtis, Guzman-Gonzales, Klemke, Anderson. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Packard. Motion carried.

2024-2025 Non-Faculty Employee Compensation

Ms. Ault, Human Resources Executive Director, reported that last month the Board approved the Faculty Negotiated Agreement, which included a 3% total compensation increase for faculty for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. To ensure WNCC maintains fair and equitable pay practices, WNCC administration proposed that the Board extend the same total compensation increase of 3% to all staff (administrative, professional and support staff).

Mr. Savely MOVED to approve the 3% salary increase and associated benefits for non-faculty employees. SECONDED by Ms. Richards. The vote was, Yes: Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Stinner, Crouse, Curtis, Guzman-Gonzales, Klemke, Kreman, Anderson. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Packard. Motion carried.

2024 ACCT National Legislative Summit Overview

Ms. Schmidt reported that she recently attended the 2024 ACCT National Legislative Summit in Washington, DC. Ms. Schmidt referenced the handout that was shared with Board members. The document contained 2024 community college federal legislative priorities, listed below.

- 1) Bolster the Role of Community Colleges in Workforce Development
 - Support Workforce Pell Grants for students in short-term programs
 - Strengthen the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity ACT (WIOA)
- 2) Fund Key Education and Workforce Programs
 - Support student access and success
 - Strengthen under-resourced institutions
 - Bolster job training and career and technical education
- 3) Focus Student Tax Policy on Those Who Can Benefit Most
 - End the taxation of Pell Grants, and Modify AOTC & LLC
- 4) Farm Bill
 - Support rural community colleges
 - Increase access to SNAP
- 5) Support Dreamers
 - Enact the Dream Act
- 6) Strengthen Accountability and Transparency
 - Utilize accountability and transparency policies that reflect needs of community colleges

Ms. Schmidt reported that participants were able to meet with legislators and those meetings seemed productive. Even though they had a lot of priorities, they were receptive.

Congressman Mike Flood from Norfolk, provided an evening tour of Capitol Hill, which included the Nebraska Corn Board plus a few Winnebago tribal members. The tour was very interesting.

Ms. Schmidt stated that a worthwhile session regarded the college CEO. It was highly recommended that as a board, we need to be aware of the current CEO contract, including salary. We also need to be apprised of CEO goals and anything that might be changing and ensure that the evaluation of the CEO performance is ongoing. Open communication with the CEO was encouraged along with provisions of mentors and professional development opportunities for both the CEO and the board. Retreats for the board are important and should be conducted more than once a year.

2024 ACCT National Legislative Summit Overview (cont.)

Financial status of the college should also be discussed more than once a year, and include a narrative of the financial status, not just numbers, as well as how much is in reserves.

It was also mentioned that at this time, Board presentation and activity is important to accreditation. Boards work as a team and the meetings are viewed by our communities, staff and faculty and should be conducted in a positive manner.

Student success is currently the main focus. The financial aid discussions included the percentage of Pell grants and whether meetings were scheduled with the Financial Aid committee on a regular basis, not just once a year. Ms. Schmidt mentioned that there is a tax issue with Pell grants that many people are not aware of. When Pell grant funds are issued, if the amount allotted exceeds the cost of tuition, the student is required to pay income tax on the remainder. An additional issue is with access to SNAP (supplemental nutrition assistance program). It seems that applications get lost because the application process is complex.

Meeting participants were informed that credentialing for board trustees is forthcoming. As a board, we need to be apprised legally and consider what the policy would look like for our process. Even though a date was not mentioned, as a Board, we need to be on the lookout for additional information.

Ms. Schmidt stated that as a new board member, the conference was truly educational and she was grateful for the opportunity to attend.

INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS

Information Technology Annual Report

Information Technology Director, Mr. Loren Moench shared the Mission and Vision Statements for the IT Department.

Mission Statement: To become a world-class IT organization.

Vision Statement: Innovative strategic partner supporting student success.

Mr. Moench addressed the various components of the College that the IT Department supports.

Computers	110 servers, 800+Desktops, 100+Laptops, iPads, Chromebooks, Raspberry Pi
Software	Over 500 different software packages and services used throughout the institution
Cyber Security	Malware/Virus protection, Email protection, Log analysis, content filtering
Internet of Things	Security cameras, Door security, Digital security, Bookstore, Dining Hall
Colleague ERP	Colleague, Informer, Blackboard LMS, 25Live scheduling, SoftDocs document management
Classroom	Creston, Cameras, Sound systems, video systems, Zoom or Teams Web conferencing
Network	Connectivity, Internet access, Wi-Fi, Intranet, Telephony
Microsoft Suite	Office 365, Email, Single Sign-on, SharePoint, Azure Services

Information Technology Annual Report (cont.)
2023 Information Technology Achievements

Mr. Moench shared a generalization of the 2023 IT Department achievements. Considering all the day-to-day work in addition to the extra projects that IT staff has worked through; the department's accomplishments were notable. Mr. Moench mentioned one of the biggest accomplishments was the change to the password management process. WNCC had a system that was legacy, password rules could not be implemented which meant that password changes were not required, so the system was becoming highly susceptible and easy to hack. It took about a year to culminate so the process could be changed.

***Note: a legacy system is any piece of technology (including both software and hardware), that lacks modern features that would be available if updated.*

GLBA Assessment

In the May-June timeframe, consultant BerryDunn performed an annual assessment. The Center for Internet Security rated the assessments, which were grouped into three categories (IG1, IG2, IG3), in which each group gets progressively stronger in the controls.

IG	Compliant	Partially Compliant	Not Compliant
1	20	19	29
2	40	32	54
3	45	37	68

The findings were reviewed and IT continues to build remediation plans to improve the overall cybersecurity for the institution. The IT department will continue consultation with BerryDunn to build appropriate controls, procedures and policies for a strong cybersecurity defense.

Cybersecurity Strategy – Document, Implement, Audit

Account Management

Leverage Microsoft tools for password, login, and application security.

Mimecast

Email secure gateway provides URL and attachment protection. Includes training program.

Cisco Umbrella

Protective DNS and content filtering user web searches.

Security HQ

Qradar log analysis and SentinelOne endpoint protection. Can disable/restrict a PC if infected.

Cisco Firewall and Security

Network access controls and cross network protection.

Information Technology Annual Report (cont.)
IT Strategic Prioritization

High Priority	Medium Priority		Low Priority
Staffing Assessment	Technology training for end users (Colleague expertise)	Technical Training for IT	Software inventory and assessment
Next steps with ERP Systems: Colleague	Optimize integrations and automations	Establish Data Governance	Develop technology metrics and assessment model
Cloud Technologies	Project Management	Implement data analysis and reporting framework	Review and standardize IT policies and procedures
Strategic Technology Leadership	Standardize service desk methodologies (ITIL)	Mature technology governance	
Establish Formal IT Security Practice	Examine benchmarking data and professional standards	IT Budget – Operational funding model	
IT Compliance (PCI, GLBA, FERPA, ETC)	Develop consistent communication plan	Equipment device replacement policy, procedure and plan	
Hardware Inventory and Assessment			

IT Strategic Initiatives

Controls: Strengthen data and security controls to ensure compliance, resiliency and business continuity

New Technologies: Leverage new technologies to improve and enhance the overall experience for students, staff, and faculty

Key Performance Indicators: Develop and track key measurements to help track and improve IT services

Infrastructure: Continue to upgrade infrastructure to support dynamic workloads across systems and networks

Partnerships: Develop and improve partnerships to align with the strategic plan and initiatives

End of Semester Enrollment Report – Fall 2023

Mr. Arich Knaub, Enrollment Research Analytics Director explained that the end of semester report looks at students served, the location they are served, and what FTE looks like based on the Nebraska Coordinating Commission’s calculation of FTE as well as the number of graduates enrolled in fall semester.

Mr. Knaub addressed Fall 2023 enrollment by location and explained this is a look at the raw number of students served, or how students are interacting with our services, because we have students at high schools that attend the colleges. For example, students in Mitchell may travel to Alliance, so it is helpful to capture where the students are being served.

End of Semester Enrollment Report – Fall 2023 (cont.)

When looking at the total number of students served across the entire college, the duplicated count means the student would have taken classes at multiple sites, therefore, would be counted more than once.

In response to an inquiry, Mr. Knaub explained that high school select is those students that are taking courses with adjuncts who are teaching for WNCC, in the high schools.

In response to an additional inquiry, Mr. Knaub stated that he does not have a comparison of how WNCC enrollment numbers compare with border states such as Wyoming or South Dakota.

Mr. Knaub explained that when looking at the total number of students served across the entire college, duplicated count is included, so 2,123 people are served.

**An unduplicated count of students based on their primary campus. A primary campus is identified as the campus that the student takes most of their classes at.*

***A duplicated count of students based on all campus locations they utilize. This visualizes how many students each serve. About 532 students utilize multiple campuses for education.*

Unique Students by Primary Campus*		
Type: Full Time	Location	Fall 2023
	Alliance	30
	High School Select	25
	Online	106
	Scottsbluff	476
	Sidney	11
Total Full-Time		648
Type: Part-Time	Location	Fall 2023
	Alliance	33
	High School Select	416
	Online	241
	Scottsbluff	179
	Sidney	1
Total Part-Time		870
Type: Non-Credit	Location	Fall 2023
	Alliance	1
	High School Select	0
	Online	0
	Scottsbluff	72
	Sidney	0
Total Non-Credit		73
Total Students		1,591

Total Students Served by Campus**	
Location	Fall 2023
Alliance	83
High School Select	430
Online	705
Scottsbluff	841
Sidney	24
Total Students	2,123
Total Credits by Campus	
Location	Fall 2023
Alliance	632
High School Select	2,381.5
Online	3,906
Scottsbluff	7,273.5
Sidney	235.5
Total Students	14,428.5

Full-time equivalency calculations are done in accordance with the Nebraska Coordinating Commission guidelines for FTE. When calculating FTE, only the courses on the Master Course List are allowed. Regarding FTE, the College is on track to a year that is similar to last year.

WNCC had forty-six graduates with forty-six awards. Mr. Knaub noted that the average time of completion is five semesters, which is expected with fall graduates. Most students start in the fall and if students graduate in the fall, they are either graduating early or graduating later. In most cases, it is later, so it takes an extra semester for those students.

There is a large age distribution by award. Compared to male students, we see more female non-traditional students, which is the reason for such a large age range of female students.

In response to an inquiry regarding specific age groups by gender, Mr. Knaub stated that male graduates are usually younger, around twenty to twenty-four years of age, where female students are both younger and older.

Full-Time Equivalency by Type	
FTE	Fall 2023
Academic (1.0)	310.40
Light (1.5)	99.05
Heavy (2.0)	76.52
Total	485.96
REU	623.26
Credits	Fall 2023
Academic (1.0)	9,274
Light (1.5)	2,869.5
Heavy (2.0)	2,285
Total	14,428.5
Contact Hours	
Academic (1.0)	1,137
Light (1.5)	3,056
Heavy (2.0)	315
Total	4,508

Total Full-Time Equivalency by Campus	
FTE Type	Fall 2023
Alliance	21.21
High School Select	79.38
Online	130.20
Scottsbluff	247.27
Sidney	7.89
Total	485.96

10-Day Census Enrollment Report – Spring 2024

Enrollment Research Analytics Director, Mr. Arich Knaub reported that as of the tenth day of the semester, there were 591 full-time and 851 part-time students. The total enrollment of 1,442 represents a 0.14% decrease compared to Spring 2023. 72.62% of students that took courses in Fall 2023 returned in Spring 2024.

Female to male ratio was 60.9% female to 38.8% male overall. The WNCC female to male ratio is within 3% +/- of mean national ratios at all community colleges. Hispanic enrollment was 404, representing 28% of all students. This is the fifth consecutive semester where Hispanic enrollment is above 25%. Hispanic enrollment has increased spring-to-spring for the last three semesters.

10-Day Census Enrollment Report – Spring 2024 (cont.)

Total FTE of the ten-day students was 437.27 while total REU was 573.37. This is a marginal decline compared to Spring 2023 10-day. Auditable FTE. Including second eight-week courses, is expected to remain equivalent to Spring 2023. On -track for over 1,000 FTE for 2023-24 Academic Year (currently at 921.9).

WNCC's student body represents each of the counties within the WNCC service area, 20 states outside of Nebraska, and students from around the globe.

High school dual enrollment represents 38.07% of WNCC total enrollment of 549 students. Dual Credit saw a 12.7% increase in enrollment from Fall 2023 (487). 548 (Spring 2023) to 549 (Spring 2024) total dual credit students. 58.7% of College Now! students take a majority of their classes at their high school campus. 41.3% of College Now! students take a majority of their classes at a WNCC campus.

Mr. Knaub accessed the Institutional Effectiveness dashboard so that Board members had a glimpse of the various data that is monitored daily and where data for the enrollment reports are accessed. Mr. Knaub mentioned the ten-day enrollment report is run every day. It is called a ten-day report even though it has nothing to do with the tenth day. The dashboard allows a glimpse of where students are compared to the ten-day report along with the various break downs and ten-day enrollment and FTE trends. The dashboard also provides data related to dual credit; such as the types of programs that are attracting students, which assists with recruiting efforts. We have found that students who take dual credit with us, end up matriculating to WNCC at an almost two times higher rate than students who do not take dual credit courses at the College.

Nebraska Community College Insurance Trust

Ms. Lynne Koski, Vice President of Administrative Services, reported that the Nebraska Community College Insurance Trust is in their 29th year of operation. The Trust operates as a governmental risk management pool and was created in 1995 by and for the Community Colleges of Nebraska under the provisions of the Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Act in order for member colleges to self-insure on a group basis coverage for property, liability, errors and omissions, and workers' compensation claims. Only Nebraska Community Colleges are eligible to participate in the Trust, and all six community college areas in Nebraska are members and owners of the Trust.

Ms. Koski reported that when she started in her role as a vice president, the Southeast Community College business officer managed all of the accounting work. When he retired, they went out for bid and selected the Nebraska Risk Management Association (NRMA) to administer all of the insurance trust activities on a daily basis. NRMA works with the colleges in securing the broker and then through the broker, bids are submitted annually for the premium and insurance coverage, so they have been valuable in assisting the colleges manage all of those requirements.

Ms. Koski mentioned that the last two years have been a struggle, specifically for WNCC. Our premium and now our excess coverage, has an experience factor associated with it. In 2019, our area experienced a hail storm that caused substantial damage and the College also had a significant on-campus accident. Both incidents greatly impacted premiums, so the College had a \$200,000 increase each of the last two years.

Nebraska Community College Insurance Trust (cont.)

NRMA also provides the Trust with safety and loss prevention services including, but not limited to, providing experience and expertise to assist College safety committees and offering presentations and workshops to colleges for the purpose of creating a safer working environment as well as promoting safety for employees, students, and the public. When a major security event occurs at any of the Trust member sites, contact is made to ensure emergency protocols were followed.

Effective July 1, 2012, the Trust established a committee structure for governance, operation and oversight of the Trust's business. The Trust has four committees: Finance and Audit, Claims, Loss Prevention and Safety, and Policy Coverage and Review, with three Trust Board members serving on each committee. The committee structure provides additional opportunity for involvement by all members of the Board in the governance, operation and oversight of the Trust's business.

Funds in the insurance pool are invested and tracked, and an annual report is provided. Audits are scheduled annually with a larger four-year audit of the Trust. In the past, each insurance year had to be tracked separately and the year could not be closed out until every claim was finalized and paid. Once those years were closed out, NRMA was able to make a recommendation to the Trust Board regarding provision of dividends back to the institution. Essentially, getting back premiums that were unused at that time. As of September 30, 2023, the Trust has earned \$2,375,849 in investment income, which has been used for the benefit of the Trust members.

Ms. Koski stated that the Trust has been good for the colleges, particularly the smaller colleges because pooling assets has been beneficial.

Student Report

There was no student report.

Faculty Report

Mr. King reported that on December 16, 2023, Nathaniel Johnson, instrumental music instructor, performed holiday music for 150 Gold-Star family members at the Governor's Residence in Denver, CO. The Gold Star family is one that has experienced a loss of a loved one; an immediate family member who died as the result of active-duty military service.

Ms. Howton provided an overview of what faculty has been discussing in the faculty assembly and the shared governance committees. Ms. Howton reported that President Dart's recommendation to suspend placement scores for all courses outside of English and Math has been discussed. Faculty has been considering the implications of that recommendation.

The Assessment Committee has been considering a handbook that formalizes the assessment process. This assessment is primarily related to the general education goals. Discussion is about the expectations for that assessment and ensuring that everyone knows the process, which has not always been clear. The Online Learning committee discussion has also been regarding a handbook. The committee is looking at formalizing a handbook that addresses the requirements for online learning and offering online classes.

Faculty Report (cont.)

The Faculty Assembly has tried to adhere to the shared governance model and has been working at being transparent in a formalized way with the provision of useful agendas and minutes.

President Dart is planning to speak at the next Faculty Assembly. One of the topics he will be discussing is regarding a faculty senate versus what is currently in place. Most faculty are excited about the possibility of a change and implementation of a smooth process where everyone is aware of the expectations, transparency and a process for approvals.

Nebraska Community College Association

Dr. Crouse, Board member representative to NCCA, reported that at the NCCA January meeting, Executive Director, Dr. Courtney Wittstruck reviewed Legislative bills. At that time, members determined whether they would monitor specific bills. Primarily, any bill that deals with funding should be watched, especially when related to workforce development.

Currently, a couple of bills have priority. The first is related to tenure, which impacts the universities and the state college system and second is related to DEI (diversity, equity, inclusion). The DEI bill includes the requirement of employees to participate in DEI training and spending money on DEI initiatives and quotas.

Mr. Stinner, Board member representative to NCCA, reiterated that Dr. Wittstruck does a good job of keeping the NCCA members updated on Legislation. Mr. Stinner added that he has been monitoring bills that are well intended but do not have a permanent appropriation attached, which is called unfunded mandates, and we need to be wary of that. Mr. Stinner added that he is also monitoring a couple pieces of legislation to ensure they have permanent funding. If they do not, the programs can be discontinued.

Western Nebraska Community College Foundation

Ms. Reisig reported that the third annual scholarship lunch is scheduled February 22nd. Scholarship donors and students who received scholarships will be honored. The lunch is scheduled in the Plex at the Harms center and approximately eighty people are expected. The lunch is an opportunity for donors to visit with the student who received their scholarship.

Ms. Reisig continued by reading a couple of letters from scholarship recipients. Both recipients expressed gratitude for the scholarship they received, which assisted them with achieving their educational goals.

President Comments

President Dart spoke to the recent submission of the Higher Learning Commission Assurance Argument for the College. He expressed gratitude for the team that pulled together information for the report; the information that goes into the assurance argument is the documentation of the work of the last four years. Compared to where the College stood previously, President Dart stated that he feels confident going into this portion of the accreditation process.

This Legislative Session has been fairly quiet so far as it goes with higher education funding. Even though changes were expected, so far, none have been forthcoming. Funding will begin in this next budgeted year, even though the impact is still uncertain. Currently, at the forefront are the bills with issues such as tenure, DEI (diversity, equity, inclusion), and public meetings.

President Comments (cont.)

President Dart mentioned that he continues to work on relationships with the local high schools by scheduling in person meetings. Meetings with area employers have been scheduled as well. Recently, President Dart accompanied, Mr. Doug Mader, Workforce and Lifelong Learning Executive Director, Ms. Alisha Weeden Weitzel, Dean of Health Sciences and Ms. Allie Tyree, Alliance Campus Director on a visit to the Box Butte General Hospital to meet with their leadership team to discuss workforce needs and how the College can have a better partnership with them. Those meetings provide the opportunity to hear about what they are doing and how we might be able to better align our programming with them.

A challenge faced by the community colleges is that the HLC implements processes that become cumbersome and take away the ability to be nimble while attempting to meet workforce needs.

Currently, the College is going through a process that will allow us to have even more dual credit opportunities as early as this fall, with the idea that by next year we will have credit bearing career tech programs in place. As we are trying to meet workforce needs, no matter the program, we need to be nimble in that process.

With just a few more schools to visit, a survey was recently sent to all school districts. We have been gathering data from them regarding how they view our offerings and what the need from us in a partnership. We are doing a lot of work to try to improve our relationships with all high schools in our service area. Not just those that are close to the college, but throughout our 17,000 square mile service region.

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, students will be performing in the play titled Dr. Faustus. Students have been putting in a lot of work and time preparing for the play.

The men's and women's athletic teams have been performing quite well. Cougar men's basketball team is leading the conference at nine and one. The team travels to Trinidad this Friday and if they win that game, chances are they will be hosting the conference tournament this year. The women's team has twenty-two wins and has been playing great basketball. Softball and baseball will be starting and the E Sports team has been highly competitive. The dance team has been performing at the basketball games, so our athletes are busy.

Today, about 170 high school students were on campus for Discover WNCC. The students are receiving general information about attending college and also about Financial Aid, our advising process, and this afternoon, meeting with faculty members.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Guzman-Gonzales suggested inviting students to lunch with the Board. This invitation would provide an opportunity for students to meet Board members and learn more about the work involved with serving as a Board member. It would also be beneficial for students to attend the Board meetings, if they are available or interested. Students could share information about how they are engaged in the community or internally, and in what sort of projects or events they are participants. Our students are our constituents as well as their parents, so the Board also serves them.

Members of the HLC Steering Committee were thanked for their work with preparation of the HLC Four-Year Assurance Argument.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

1. February 23 – 25, 2024 | Theatre Arts | *Dr. Faustus*
Judy Chaloupka Theater
7:30 p.m. Friday & Saturday | 2:00 p.m. Sunday
\$10 General Admission | \$5 Seniors, Students & Military | \$3 Groups of 10+
2. 2024 NCCA Legislative Day
February 28, 2024 (all day)
State Capitol Building, Lincoln, NE
3. Theatre Arts | *Dr. Faustus*
February 23–25, 2024
Judy Chaloupka Theater, Scottsbluff Campus
7:30 p.m. Friday & Saturday | 2:00 p.m. Sunday
\$10 General Admission | \$5 Seniors, Students & Military | \$3 Groups of 10+
4. 2024 NCCA Legislative Day
February 28, 2024 (all day)
State Capitol Building, Lincoln, NE
5. Governance Leadership Institute (GLI)
March 20-22, 2024
Long Beach City College
Long Beach, California
**Deadline to receive discounted rate is Tuesday, February 27th
6. Vocal Music *Spring Gala*
April 5–6, 2024
Gering Civic Center, Gering, NE
6:00 p.m. Social Time | 6:30 p.m. Performance
Tickets: \$32 | Ticket sales close at noon on April 4
7. 2024 AACC Annual (American Association of Community Colleges)
April 5-9, 2024
Louisville, Kentucky

Upcoming Meetings and Events (cont.)

8. 2024 Higher Learning Commission Conference
April 13–16, 2024
Chicago, IL

9. Instrumental Music Spring Band Concert
April 21, 2024
Judy Chaloupka Theater
3:00 p.m. Performance
\$10 General Admission | \$8 Seniors | Free – WNCC Students and Staff

10. Theatre Arts | Student Directed One Acts
April 26–28, 2024
Judy Chaloupka Theater
7:30 p.m. Friday & Saturday | 2:00 p.m. Sunday
\$10 General Admission | \$5 Seniors, Students & Military | \$3 Groups of 10+

11. Instrumental Music | Honors Recital
May 4, 2024
3:00 p.m. Performance
Judy Chaloupka Theater
Tickets: Free

12. Instrumental Music | Jump, Jive & Swing
Date and Location to be determined
5:15 p.m. Cocktails & Live Music | 6:00 p.m. Dinner & Dancing
Tickets: \$25 | Ticket sales close at noon on April 29

13. NCCA Second Quarter Meeting
Monday, May 6, 2024
Lincoln, NE or via Zoom

14. WNCC Commencement
10:00 a.m., Saturday, May 11, 2024
Cougar Palace

15. Nurses' Pinning
1:00 p.m., Saturday, May 11, 2024
Judy Chaloupka Theater

16. ABE/GED Graduation
4:00 p.m., Saturday, May 11, 2024
Judy Chaloupka Theater

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, March 20, 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 2:47 p.m.

Karen S. Anderson, Chairperson

Susan L. Verbeck, Secretary