

**WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**INFORMAL MEETING
MINUTES
Wednesday, June 18, 2025**

The Western Community College Area Board of Governors held an Informal Board meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at Western Nebraska Community College Scottsbluff Campus, 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, June 10, 2025.

A current agenda was available in the Board Secretary's office on the Scottsbluff Campus at the time of the publicized notice.

ROLL CALL

AREA BOARD

Linda A. Guzman-Gonzales	Present
Allan D. Kreman	Present
Joshua R. Hanson	Absent
Mark A. Kaufman.....	Present
Starr Lehl, Vice Chairperson.....	Present
Lori J. Liggett	Absent
William M. Packard.....	Present
Coral E. Richards.....	Present
R. J. Savely, Jr.	Present
Marjorie A. Schmidt	Present
John P. Stinner, Chairperson	Present

Mr. Hanson and Ms. Liggett informed the Board Secretary they would be unable to attend the meeting due to personal business commitments.

QUORUM

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

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

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

BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS

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

WNCC Budget Review – General Fund

Ms. Koski, Vice President of Administrative Services, presented the Preliminary Unrestricted Fund Budget for FY 2025–2026 and noted the General Fund is the primary source of financial support for the College's day-to-day operations.

General Operating Fund Preliminary Revenue Budget 2025-2026

Summary by Source	2024-25 Budget	Percent of Total	2025-26 Proposed	Percent of Total	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Tuition & Fees	\$2,597,812	8.45%	\$2,219,631	7.53%	-\$378,181	-14.56%
State Aid	\$13,531,796	44.02%	\$13,647,777	46.31%	\$115,981	0.86%
Local Property Taxes	\$9,600	0.03%	\$9,600	0.03%	\$0	0.00%
Future Fund	\$12,186,512	39.65%	\$12,613,040	42.80%	\$426,528	3.50%
Other	\$817,637	2.66%	\$679,000	2.30%	-\$138,637	-16.96%
Project Reserves	\$1,594,205	5.19%	\$300,000	1.02%	-\$1,294,205	-81.18%
Total by Source	\$30,737,562	100.00%	\$29,469,048	100.00%	-\$1,268,514	4.13%

General Operating Fund Expenditure Budget

Summary by Source	2024-25 Budget	Percent of Total	2025-26 Proposed	Percent of Total	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Personnel	\$19,997,373	65.06%	\$19,719,562	65.61%	-\$277,811	-1.39%
Operating	\$9,273,313	30.17%	\$8,935,577	29.73%	-\$337,736	-3.64%
Travel	\$538,049	1.75%	\$526,938	1.75%	-\$11,111	-2.07%
Equipment	\$928,827	3.02%	\$875,000	2.91%	-\$53,827	-5.80%
Total by Object	\$30,737,562	100.00%	\$30,057,077	100.00%	-\$680,485	-2.21%

General Fund Budget Analysis – FY 2025-2026

2025-26 Projected Revenue		\$29,469,048
2024-25 Continuation Budget		\$30,737,562
Expenditure Changes		
Increases		
Salary & Benefits negotiated agreements	\$429,215	
Decreases		
Personnel expense reductions		(\$707,026)
Operating continuation reductions		(\$402,674)
2025-26 Continuation Budget		\$30,057,077
2025-26 Revenue in Excess (deficit) of Expenditure Budget – Continuation Budget		(\$588,029)
New Budget Requests:		
2025-26 Strategic/Expanded Operating Requests	\$499,840	
2025-26 Capital Outlay Requests exceeding budget allocation	\$700,863	
Total Additional Requests		\$1,200,703
2025-26 Expenditure Budget Requests in Excess of available Revenue Budget		(\$1,788,732)

2026 Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA) Budget Review

Board members reviewed the proposed 2026 NCCA budget. At the conclusion of discussion, Chair Stinner noted that concerns will be addressed at the NCCA third quarter meeting scheduled August 11th in Lincoln.

Board Training – HLC Quality Initiative

President Dart reported the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) expects accredited institutions to continuously engage in quality improvement. This is a standing expectation to maintain accreditation status. The ongoing quality improvement requires each institution to designate one major improvement effort as its quality initiative. The quality initiative serves to demonstrate a commitment to institutional innovation and measurable, outcome-based improvement.

The Quality Initiative should be tailored to meet the institution's current concerns or aspirations. The HLC encourages institutions to use the Quality Initiative to take risks, innovate, take on a tough challenge, or pursue a yet unproven strategy or hypothesis. Thus, partial success or even failure to achieve the goals of the project is acceptable; an institution may learn as much from failure as it does from success.

During the four-year assurance argument for WNCC, section 4.C. was found to be "met with concerns." 4.C. states "The institution pursues educational improvement through goals and strategies to improve retention, persistence, and completion rates in its degree and certificate programs."

This is less about the College's retention and completion rates and more about having identified goals that are appropriate for the institution, measuring progress through the systematic review of data, and tying planning and resource allocation to achievement of goals. An interim monitoring report is required by September 1, 2026. Significant work is already occurring in the Strategic Enrollment Management Committee, and next steps will be discussed soon.

The College has established strong structures for both curricular and co-curricular assessment, as well as program review. The next critical step is to actively utilize the data gathered through these processes to enhance academic programs, guide decision-making, and provide the best possible educational experience for WNCC students.

WNCC's 10-Year Accreditation Cycle

	Interim Monitoring Report	September 1, 2026
Years 5-9	Quality Initiative	2025-2029
Years 7-9	Preparation for the 10-Year Review	2027-2029
Year 8	Multi-Location Site Visit	2028
Year 10	Comprehensive Review (site visit)	Spring 2030
Years 1-3	Preparation for Four-Year Assurance Review	2031-2033

OR

	Student Success Quality Initiative (if eligible)	
Year 3	Multi-Location Site Visit	2033
Year 4	Four-Year Assurance Review	2034

Board Member Comments

There were no comments.

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 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 11:55 a.m.

John P. Stinner, Chairperson

Susan L. Verbeck, Secretary