PROPOSED AGENDA

A. Call to Order, Ms. Wisniewski

B. Oath of Office, Re-elected Board Members

C. Roll Call

D. Introduction of Visitors
   1) Community Comments

E. Board Chairperson Comments
   1) Copy of Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available at back of room

F. Re-Organization of Board for 2009
   1) Election of Chairperson
   2) Election of Vice Chairperson
   3) Appointment of Secretary
   4) Appointment of Treasurer

G. Consent Calendar
   1) Review Contents of Consent Calendar
      a) Agenda
      b) Excuse Absent Board Member(s)
      c) Minutes
         1) Regular Meeting, December 17, 2008
G. Consent Calendar – Cont

1) Review Contents of Consent Calendar – Cont

   d) Claims (Enclosure)
      1) WCCA Unrestricted Fund - $1,858,182.38
      2) WCCA Restricted Fund - $42,526.78
      3) WCCA Federal Fund - $1,676.13
      4) WCCA Agency Fund - $15,883.10
      5) WCCA Loan Fund - $0
      6) WCCA Plant Fund - $972,002.78
      7) WCCA Auxiliary Fund - $60,761.44
   e) City Planning Commission Reports
   f) Reports and Proposals
      1) From the Students
      2) From the Faculty
      3) From the Administration
      4) From the Board

2) Approval of Consent Calendar

3) Consideration of Items Extracted from Consent Calendar

H. Bid Consent Calendar

1) Review Contents of Bid Consent Calendar - None

2) Approval of Bid Consent Calendar

3) Consideration of Items Extracted From Bid Consent Calendar

I. Personnel Consent Calendar

1) Review Contents of Personnel Consent Calendar

   a) Resignation(s):
      1) Mr. John J. Berge, Foundation Executive Director for Western Nebraska Community College
      2) Mr. J. D. Deloney, Assistant Men’s Basketball Coach
   b) Appointment(s): - None
   c) Agreement to Amend Contract(s):
      1) Ms. Kathleen M. Potter, Nursing Instructor
      2) Ms. Susan M. Reading-Martin, Interim Nursing Instructor

2) Approval of Personnel Consent Calendar

3) Consideration of Items Extracted from Personnel Consent Calendar
J. Western Nebraska Community College Area Board of Governors – Ms. Wisniewski
   a) Improvement of Services to Area Constituents
      1) Retain CLARUS Corporation to Conduct Area-wide Needs Analysis
   b) Appoint a Board Member to Sabbatical Leave Committee

K. Reports/Recommendations from Educational and Student Services Committee – Dr. Gramberg, Dr. Kinney
   1) Proposal to Add Men’s and Women’s Golf Program beginning 2009 – 2010

L. Final Recommendation of the WCCA President for Amendment of Contracts and Reduction of Staff Members for the 2009 – 2010 Academic Year – Dr. Ely

M. Monitoring Reports
   1) WNCC Enrollment – Mr. Hovey
      a) Preliminary, Spring 2009
   2) 2009 Legislation – Dr. Ely
   3) Higher Learning Commission – Ms. Barkeloo, Ms. Dickinson
      a) Accreditation Visit
         1) February 2010
   4) Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission – Mr. Miller
   5) Nebraska Community College Association – Dr. Gramberg, Dr. Perkins
   6) Association of Community College Trustees – Dr. Perkins
      a) Letter of Support for Nomination to Board of Directors
         1) Mr. Robert Feit, Southeast Community College

N. Western Nebraska Community College Facilities
   1) WNCC/ESU #13 Technology Center – Dr. Shirley
      a) Final Construction Update

O. Board Member Comments
P. President’s Comments

Q. Upcoming Meetings

1) WNCC/ESU #13 Technology Center
   a) Open House/Ribbon Cutting
      1) February 18, 2009
      2) 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

2) Nebraska Community College Association Board of Directors
   a) Regular Meetings
      1) First Quarter Meeting
         A) February 23, 2009
         B) Southeast Community College
      2) Second Quarter Meeting
         A) May 4, 2009
         B) Southeast Community College
      3) Third Quarter Meeting
         A) August 10, 2009
         B) Mid-Plains Community College - McCook
      4) Annual Meeting
         A) November 3 and 4, 2009
         B) Embassy Suites, Lincoln
         C) Host: Southeast Community College

3) Association of Community College Trustees
   a) 2009 National Legislative Summit
      1) February 9 – 11, 2009
      2) Marriott Wardman Park Hotel
      3) Washington, D.C.

4) Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
   a) Regular Meeting
      1) August 20, 2009, 8:30 a.m.
      2) The Plex, Harms Advanced Technology Center
      3) Scottsbluff, Nebraska
R. Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, February 18, 2009, 1:00 p.m., Boardroom, Western Nebraska Community College, Scottsbluff Campus, 1601 East 27th Street, Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

S. Adjournment
MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA

TIME AND PLACE
A regular meeting of the Western Community College Area Board of Governors was held at 1:03 p.m., on Wednesday, January 21, 2009, in the Boardroom, 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 published notice in the Star-Herald, on Saturday, January 17, 2009, with the following members present: Timothy H. Daniels, Merlyn L. Gramberg, L. Paul Leseberg, Dennis W. Miller, Jr. Jack L. Nelson, M. Thomas Perkins, Darrell E. Roberts, Richard G. Stickney, Jane Wisniewski, Chairperson. Absent: Jacqueline M. Cervantes-Guzman, Jecca R. Ostrander. Student Representatives present: None. Faculty Representatives present: Guy Wylie, Scottsbluff Campus. College staff present: Eileen E. Ely, William D. Knapper, Coral E. Richards, David E. Groshans, Daniel P. Kinney, Kathryn J. Shirley, Garry R. Alkire, Paul G. Jacobsen, Melina L. Burbach, Royce J. Ammon, Roger L. Hovey, Joan Green, Mary Barkeloo, Paulette Yarnall. College attorney present: Richard A. Douglas. A current agenda was available for public inspection in the College President’s office and the Board Secretary’s office on the Scottsbluff Campus at the time of the published notice.

ROLL CALL

NOTICE OF MEETING

OATH OF OFFICE
Prior to the roll call, Ms. Richards, Board Secretary, administered the Oath of Office to re-elected Board members: Dennis W. Miller, District Two; Richard G. Stickney, District Three; Timothy H. Daniels, District Four; Jane Wisniewski, District Five; and M. Thomas Perkins, At-Large.

QUORUM
Ms. Wisniewski declared a quorum was present for the transaction of business.

VISITORS
Visitors were: Rick Myers, Kevin Mooney, Scottsbluff.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS
Ms. Wisniewski asked for comments from the community. There were none.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS
Ms. Wisniewski 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. Wisniewski reported that Ms. Cervantes-Guzman notified the Secretary she would be unable to attend the
meeting because of Personal Business. Ms. Wisniewski reported further that Ms. Ostrander notified the Secretary she would be unable to attend the meeting because of Personal Business.

Ms. Wisniewski reported the Panhandle Business and Professional Women recently named Ms. Cervantes-Guzman as the organization’s Woman of the Year. Ms. Cervantes-Guzman was honored for her efforts to make a difference among women and minorities through volunteering, mentoring and her position as a University of Nebraska-Lincoln extension educator. On behalf of the Board of Governors, Ms. Wisniewski extended congratulations to Ms. Cervantes-Guzman.

The re-organization of the Board for the 2009 year was the next order of business.

Ms. Wisniewski called for nominations for Chairperson of the Western Community College Area Board of Governors for the 2009 year.

Mr. Daniels nominated Ms. Jane Wisniewski. There were no further nominations.

Dr. Gramberg moved nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Ms. Jane Wisniewski as Chairperson of the Western Community College Area Board of Governors for the 2009 year. Seconded by Mr. Miller. The vote was, Yes: Daniels, Gramberg, Leseberg, Miller, Nelson, Perkins, Roberts, Stickney. No: None. Abstain: Wisniewski. Absent: Cervantes-Guzman, Ostrander. Motion carried.

Ms. Wisniewski called for nominations for Vice Chairperson of the Western Community College Area Board of Governors for the 2009 year.

Dr. Gramberg nominated Mr. Dennis W. Miller. There were no further nominations.

Mr. Nelson moved nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Mr. Dennis W. Miller, Jr. as Vice Chairperson of the Western Community College Area Board of Governors for the 2009 year. Seconded by Mr. Leseberg. The vote was, Yes: Gramberg, Leseberg, Nelson, Perkins, Roberts, Stickney, Daniels, Wisniewski. No: None. Abstain: Miller. Absent: Cervantes-Guzman, Ostrander. Motion carried.
Mr. Miller moved the Board appoint Ms. Coral E. Richards as Secretary of the Western Community College Area Board of Governors for the 2009 year. Seconded by Mr. Daniels. The vote was, Yes: Leseberg, Miller, Nelson, Perkins, Roberts, Stickney, Daniels, Gramberg, Wisniewski. No: None. Absent: Cervantes-Guzman, Ostrander. Motion carried.

Mr. Leseberg moved the Board appoint Mr. William D. Knapper as Treasurer of the Western Community College Area Board of Governors for the 2009 year. Seconded by Mr. Nelson. The vote was, Yes: Miller, Nelson, Perkins, Roberts, Stickney, Daniels, Gramberg, Leseberg, Wisniewski. No: None. Absent: Cervantes-Guzman, Ostrander. Motion carried.

Ms. Wisniewski reviewed the contents of the Consent Calendar which include the following items:

1) Agenda, January 21, 2009  
2) Excuse Absent Board Member(s) – Cervantes-Guzman, Ostrander  
3) Minutes  
   a) Regular Meeting, December 17, 2008  
4) Claims  
   a) WCCA Unrestricted Fund - $1,858,182.38  
   b) WCCA Restricted Fund - $42,526.78  
   c) WCCA Federal Fund - $1,676.13  
   d) WCCA Agency Fund - $15,883.10  
   e) WCCA Loan Fund - $0-  
   f) WCCA Plant Fund - $972,002.78  
   g) WCCA Auxiliary Fund - $60,761.44  
5) City Planning Commission Reports – None  
6) Reports and Proposals  
   a) From the Students – Attachment A  
   b) From the Faculty – Attachment B – B-3  
   c) From the Administration – Attachment C – C-1  
   d) From the Board

Ms. Wisniewski inquired if there were any item(s) on the Consent Calendar which any Board member wished to have removed for separate consideration.

Mr. Miller requested Item 6(d) Reports and Proposals From the Board be extracted.

Mr. Daniels declared a Conflict of Interest and will abstain from voting on the Consent Calendar.
CONSENT CALENDAR Approval

Dr. Gramberg moved the Consent Calendar be approved as amended. Seconded by Mr. Stickney. The vote was, Yes: Gramberg, Leseberg, Miller, Nelson, Perkins, Roberts, Stickney, Wisniewski. No: None. Abstain: Daniels. Absent: Cervantes-Guzman, Ostrander. Motion carried.

CONSENT CALENDAR Consider Items Extracted

Mr. Miller reported he requested Item 6(d) - Reports and Proposals from the Board be extracted so that he could publicly thank Dr. Shirley and the three members of her staff for attending a meeting of the Economic Development Group for Garden County. Mr. Miller commented that he was unable to attend the meeting because of another commitment. Mr. Miller remarked he has heard many positive comments about their participation in the meeting, and suggestions about what the College could do to assist the group. Mr. Miller thanked Dr. Shirley and her staff for their attendance and participation in the meeting.

Dr. Perkins moved the Board approve Item 6(d) - Reports and Proposals from the Board as presented by Mr. Miller. Seconded by Mr. Nelson. The vote was, Yes: Perkins, Roberts, Stickney, Daniels, Gramberg, Leseberg, Miller, Nelson, Wisniewski. No: None. Absent: Cervantes-Guzman, Ostrander. Motion carried.

BID CONSENT CALENDAR Review Contents

There were no items on the Bid Consent Calendar.

PERSONNEL CONSENT CALENDAR Review Contents

Ms. Wisniewski reviewed the contents of the Personnel Consent Calendar which include the following resignation(s) and appointment(s), and amendment to contract(s):

1) Resignation(s):
   a) Mr. John J. Berge, Foundation Executive Director for Western Nebraska Community College, effective January 5, 2009.
   b) Mr. J. D. Deloney, Assistant Men’s Basketball Coach, effective January 5, 2009.

2) Appointment(s): None

3) Agreement to Amend Contract(s):
   a) Ms. Kathleen M. Potter, Nursing Instructor, from 230 days to 175 days effective for the 2009 – 2010 academic year.
   b) Ms. Susan M. Reading-Martin, Interim Nursing Instructor, from 230 days to 175 days effective for the 2009 – 2010 academic year.
Ms. Wisniewski inquired if there were any item(s) on the Personnel Consent Calendar which any Board member wished to have removed for separate consideration. There were none.

Mr. Daniels moved the Personnel Consent Calendar be approved as submitted. Seconded by Dr. Gramberg. The vote was, Yes: Roberts, Stickney, Daniels, Gramberg, Leseberg, Miller, Nelson, Perkins, Wisniewski. No: None. Absent: Cervantes-Guzman, Ostrander. Motion carried.

There were no items extracted from the Personnel Consent Calendar.

Ms. Wisniewski reported that when she, Ms. Cervantes-Guzman, and Dr. Ely met to continue work on the best way to proceed on meeting the diverse needs of the constituents of the Western Area, it became apparent that one of the missing components is current data from the entire area. She reported it has been over ten years since the College has completed a needs assessment of the area constituents. She remarked that the area and the needs of the constituency have changed over the past ten years.

Ms. Wisniewski reported that a recommendation is being brought forward to retain the CLARUS Corporation to conduct an Area-wide needs analysis. She reported CLARUS Corporation has conducted surveys for the College in the past. She reported such an analysis will provide good data that will help to guide the Board. Ms. Wisniewski remarked that developing a plan to meet the needs of a diverse area is a huge undertaking.

Board members discussed the need for a comprehensive analysis with a broad focus. Board members also suggested that Board members be included in the interviews. Also, it was pointed out that regarding the issues of diversity, the analysis must broaden the context to be inclusive so as to follow the law.

Dr. Ely commented that having CLARUS Corporation conduct an analysis will be a two for one opportunity that will also help with strategic planning. She remarked with decreasing dollars, the Board and the administration need to be sure the planning decisions that are made will maximize the available funds to meet constituent needs.
WESTERN COMMUNITY
COLLEGE AREA BOARD
OF GOVERNORS
Improvement of Services
To Area Constituents
Cont

In response to a question from the Board, Ms. Wisniewski reported that Dr. Swanson, President of CLARUS Corporation, will meet with Dr. Ely, and Ms. Wisniewski to present and discuss proposals for the scope of the survey. The proposal will then be presented to the Executive Committee for review and recommendation to the Board of Governors.

Mr. Nelson moved the Board retain the CLARUS Corporation to conduct an Area-wide needs analysis to assist the Board and administration in meeting the diverse needs of the Western Area constituents. Seconded by Mr. Stickney. The vote was, Yes: Stickney, Daniels, Gramberg, Leseberg, Miller, Nelson, Perkins, Roberts, Wisniewski. No: None. Absent: Cervantes-Guzman, Ostrander. Motion carried.

Ms. Wisniewski reported the administration has received a request for an Administrative Sabbatical Leave. She reported a Sabbatical Leave Committee will be appointed to consider the request and forward a recommendation to the Board at the February Board of Governors meeting. In accordance with Board Policy, the Committee membership includes a Board member. Ms. Wisniewski reported because of travel and time considerations, she asked Mr. Daniels if he would be willing to serve as Board representative. He indicated he would accept the appointment.

Mr. Miller moved Mr. Daniels be appointed as Board member representative to the Sabbatical Leave Committee. Seconded by Mr. Leseberg. The vote was, Yes: Gramberg, Leseberg, Miller, Nelson, Perkins, Roberts, Stickney, Wisniewski. No: None. Abstain: Daniels. Absent: Cervantes-Guzman, Ostrander. Motion carried.

REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS FROM
EDUCATIONAL AND
STUDENT SERVICES
COMMITTEE
Proposal to Add Men’s
and Women’s Golf
Program

Dr. Gramberg commented that in August 2008, the Committee agreed to place on hold a recommendation to add a Men’s and Women’s Golf Program beginning in 2009-2010.

Dr. Gramberg reported the Educational and Student Services Committee met earlier today to once again consider a revised proposal to add a Men’s and Women’s Golf Program beginning in the 2009 – 2010 academic year. He reported that since he was the only member in attendance at the committee meeting, there is no recommendation from the Committee. Dr. Gramberg asked Dr. Kinney to present the proposal.
Dr. Kinney reported last August when the Educational and Student Service Committee considered a proposal to add a Golf program for Men and Women, the proposal included tuition and fee scholarships for sixteen student athletes. The proposal being presented today includes four tuition and fee scholarships; two for Men’s Golf, and two for Women’s Golf. Dr. Kinney reported the proposal to add the Golf Program has been approved by the College’s Student Services Committee and the College Council.

Dr. Kinney reviewed the estimated budget for the proposed golf program. He reported there will be no need to hire additional staff to fill the position of the Golf Coach; the position would be filled through reassignment of Physical Education faculty and some adjustment of coaching responsibilities in the Athletic Department. He reported the anticipated salary for a coach is $11,800, the cost of four scholarships (tuition and fees) based on the 2008 – 2009 approved student charges is $10,290. The proposal estimates golf course fees to be $3,500; using both the Scottsbluff Country Club and Monument Shadows. Dr. Kinney reported that golf students usually will have their own equipment, so the $8,000 cost of educational materials would be expended for such items as golf bags, team shirts with College logo, rainsuit/cold weather gear and golf balls. Dr. Kinney reported student travel, including green fees is estimated to be $10,000. The travel would include participation in four tournaments each fall and spring semester. Additionally, the College would host a tournament each semester. The total proposed budget to offer a Men’s and Women’s Golf Program is $44,220. Dr. Kinney reported the projected revenue derived from adding the Golf Program is projected to be $80,000 from additional state aid. This projection is made assuming the program would attract at least 16 students, and the projected Reimbursable Education Unit value. He reported there is the possibility of additional revenue through bookstore sales, food service, and the possibility that some students would live in the residence halls.

In response to a question from the Board, Dr. Kinney responded that it might be possible for the College to host a tournament within the service area other than in Scottsbluff and Gering. Dr. Kinney remarked that the golf program should be attractive to students from throughout the Western Area. He commented that many of the local high schools now have both men’s and women’s golf programs. He commented that several local families have contacted
him to express interest in supporting a College Golf Program.

Ms. Wisniewski commented that the recruitment of golf students must be inclusive of the entire service region and not just the Scottsbluff/Gering communities.

Dr. Ely remarked that adding this program is a mechanism to increase enrollment while keeping students in the panhandle for an additional two additional years. It was also pointed out that participation in athletics, musical events, etc. also helps to develop the leadership skills of those participating. Board members mentioned that programs such as golf provide opportunities for students to participate in an activity they enjoy while continuing their education.

Dr. Perkins moved the Board approve the addition of a Men’s and Women’s Golf Program beginning with the 2009–2010 academic year. Seconded by Mr. Roberts.

Discussion followed concerning a review of tuition remissions that was completed during the summer of 2008, and the fact that the number of remissions have increased over the years. The review revealed that in comparison with the other Nebraska Community Colleges the Western Area is giving away tuition dollars in a larger percentage than any of the other community colleges. It was pointed out that that the number of remissions could be viewed as out-of-control which is something that is easily targeted. It was suggested that it may not be in the best interests of the College to increase the amount of remissions. There was also discussion that, with the current economic situation, now may not be the best time to spend dollars on new programs.

Board members discussed the fact that athletics, the arts and humanities are all important parts of a well rounded education. The Board discussed that a more collegiate atmosphere was one of the needs addressed in feedback previously received from the constituents.

Board members indicated they would like to have a better understanding of the remissions issue, and inquired if the matter could be tabled until more information is available to the Board about remissions.

Ms. Wisniewski reported there is a motion on the floor.
There was discussion regarding the fact the residents of communities outside of Scottsbluff and Gering do not always know about athletic events, nor do they know the participants. These residents have also indicated there is a need for more local participants. The fact that some years back the College added two sports programs with the stated purpose to increase enrollment by offering athletic programs of special interest to local students was brought up. The programs are being offered; however, the number of local participants is less than was projected. While golf is a popular sport in western Nebraska, offering a golf program may attract participants from other regions in addition to local students.

Dr. Perkins withdrew his motion to add a Men’s and Women’s Golf Program beginning with the 2009 – 2010 academic year.

Board members requested that information regarding the number of tuition remissions and the dollar value of them be available when the proposal is brought forward again. Board members also requested that the report should include how the Western Area remissions compare with remissions of the other Nebraska Community Colleges.

There was no action taken on the proposal to add a Men’s and Women’s Golf Program for the 2009 – 2010 academic year.

Dr. Ely commented that it is not always academics that will draw students to a particular institution. A broad collegiate experience is also a determining factor. A college also benefits a community by providing social, cultural, and athletic events, and in turn the college will receive good publicity from sponsoring these events.

Dr. Ely reported that as directed by the Board of Governors at the October 2008 Board meeting, she has implemented the Reduction-In-Force Policy for review and possible elimination of specific program areas. In an effort to solicit input from the faculty and pertinent administrators of the College, she appointed an Advisory Committee to study the programs in question and provide recommendations to her. The Committee has finalized and submitted its recommendations to her and she has carefully reviewed them and has incorporated many of the Committee’s recommendations in her final recommendations to the Board.
Dr. Ely referred Board members to the “Final Recommendation of the WNCC President for Amendment of Contracts and Reduction of Staff Members for the 2009 – 2010 Academic Year” which was enclosed with the mailed packet of information.

Dr. Ely reported that she concurs with the Advisory Committee in the course of action for the Health Information Management Service program. Specifically, she concurs and requests that the following strategies be developed and implemented to increase enrollment. She reported that additionally, changes made as a result of the 2006 review should be examined and evaluated to identify the results, and further the refinement and enhancement of strategies for future enrollment growth.

Dr. Ely reviewed the following summary of activities:  a) Further develop and refine recruitment activities, utilizing the admissions and HIMIS staff; b) Ensure the creation and regular meetings with a program advisory board; c) Examine the ongoing development and refinement of curriculum for accelerated delivery (online, etc.); d) Continue to examine program staffing for the possibility of improvement including the practice of “stacking” classes; e) Align the College program with other college programs across the country to include renaming the program to Health Information Technology; f) Continue to develop and implement a retraining program for professionals in the field that is in line with the American Health Information Management Association; and g) Increase involvement of employers of Health Information Technology professionals from within the district to advance the career standards and the need for securing the credentials for their Health Information Technology employees.

Dr. Ely reported that in addition to the activities she has summarized, she concurs with the Committee’s recommendations for the Health Information Management Services program identified in the General Recommendation section of the mailed report on the specific responsibilities, requirements, and material development.

Dr. Ely submitted her recommendation concerning the Health Information Management Systems program to the
Board of Governors for review and consideration of possible acceptance.

Mr. Leseberg moved the Board accept the Final Recommendation of the President for Amendment of Contracts and Reduction of Staff Members for the 2009 - 2010 Year as it pertains to the Health Information Management Services program as presented. Seconded by Dr. Gramberg. The vote was, Yes: Gramberg, Leseberg, Miller, Nelson, Roberts, Stickney, Daniels, Wisniewski. No: None. Not voting: Perkins. Absent: Cervantes-Guzman, Ostrander. Motion carried.

Dr. Ely reported that she concurs with the Committee's course of action for the Art Program. She specifically concurs and requests that strategies delineated within the report be developed and implemented to increase enrollment. She reported that additionally, follow-up analyses be performed in order to further refine and enhance marketing/recruitment, curriculum revision, and offering of courses.

Dr. Ely reviewed the following summary of activities: a) Improve communication with area public schools with consideration of sharing activities; b) Remodel and dedicate display space that appropriately displays the work of student and area artists; c) Provide facility space and equipment for the development of sculpting and other three-dimensional art; d) Remodel the current art facility to incorporate technology and improve aesthetics; e) Continue to develop and refine the curriculum to attract students with personal, avocational, or general interest, as well as, the student wishing to major in art; f) Provide a rotation of Art courses to all College campuses as the demand arises; g) Increase the performance grant support level to one commensurate with other areas within the Division of Language and Arts; and h) Improve recruitment materials and their dissemination to district schools.

Dr. Ely reported that in addition to the activities she has summarized, she concurs with the Committee's recommendations for Art program identified in the General Recommendation section of the mailed report on the specific responsibilities, requirements, and material development.

Dr. Ely submitted her recommendation concerning the Art program to the Board of Governors for review and consideration of possible acceptance.
Dr. Perkins moved the Board accept the Final Recommendation of the President for Amendment of Contracts and Reduction of Staff Members for the 2009 - 2010 Year as it pertain to the Art Program - Scottsbluff and Sidney Campuses as presented. Seconded by Mr. Miller. The vote was, Yes: Leseberg, Miller, Nelson, Perkins, Roberts, Stickney Daniels, Gramberg, Wisniewski. No: None. Absent: Cervantes-Guzman, Ostrander. Motion carried.

Ms. Wisniewski declared a ten minute recess at 2:19 p.m.

Ms. Wisniewski declared the Open meeting in session as 2:29 p.m.

Mr. Hovey referred Board members to the handout material which includes a Preliminary Enrollment Report for the Spring 2009 semester.

Mr. Hovey reported that the Spring 2009 semester, the institution-wide headcount of full and part-time students is 208 higher than at the same time for the Spring 2008 semester. He reported all-sites reflected an increase as well as the online enrollment. He reported further the Full-time Equivalent Enrollment is eleven percent higher. Mr. Hovey commented that the increase reflects better retention from the fall to spring semester than the previous year.

In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Hovey reported there was positive enrollment growth during the Fall 2008 semester, based on the Full-time Equivalent projections for the full year.

Mr. Hovey reported that next month he will present the Final Fall 2008 Enrollment Report and the Ten-Day Enrollment Report for Spring 2009.

Mr. Daniels was excused from the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Dr. Ely reported that as of yesterday, the Metro Area has not paid its 2009 dues. The Association had given the Metro Area a deadline of January 19, 2009, to pay the dues. She reported Mr. Baack is planning to meet with the Association attorney today to discuss state statutes regarding non-payment of dues and the penalty of expulsion. She reported that Mr. Baack has been invited to attend the
January 27, 2009 meeting of the Metro Area Board of Governors.

Dr. Ely reported that the three bills have been introduced for the Metro Area.

Dr. Ely reported that LB 283, Change Community College Calculations, was introduced by Senator Cornett on January 14, 2009. This bill addresses the issue of Reimbursable Education Unit weighting for academic transfer courses and development education courses that use not only specialized equipment, facilities or instruction methods, but also software. On January 16, 2009, the bill was referred to the Education Committee. The Education Committee will hold a hearing for this bill on January 27, 2009.

Dr. Ely reported that LB 340, Require the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education to Evaluate Community College System, was introduced on January 15, 2009, by Senator Cook. This bill requests that on or before December 31, 2010, that the Coordinating Commission evaluate Nebraska’s community college system to determine how to effectively and fairly fund the community colleges and recommend ways to promote a more effective and efficient community college system that promotes effective education and local control. This bill was referred to the Education Committee on January 20, 2009, and the Education Committee will hold a hearing for this bill on January 27, 2009.

Dr. Ely reported she just learned that a third bill, LB 400, Change Fiscal Year Provisions for Calculation of Community College Base Revenue Need, was introduced by Senator Lautenbaugh. This bill would freeze the funding formula at the current year’s distribution. Since this bill was introduced later, she does not know if the bill has been forwarded to committee.

There was discussion regarding the fact that the Metro Area is receiving approximately 94 percent and if the formula is frozen the Metro Area could continue to receive the largest state-aid payment. It was pointed out that, if the current formula is allowed to work as it was designed, the Southeast Area would receive an increase and the Metro Area would receive a decrease for the 2009 – 2010 year, and two years into the future the payments would balance out.
Dr. Ely reported in early January, an e-mail was received from Dr. George Boggs, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Association of Community Colleges, outlining the Economic Stimulus legislation, especially as it related to community colleges. In his e-mail, Dr. Boggs requested that all Association members speak up in support of the carefully identified priorities by contacting our United States Senators. Since the legislation has already moved through the House, there is no need at this time to contact Representative Adrian Smith.

Dr. Ely reported items included in the Stimulus legislation include: 1) $39 billion to local school districts and public colleges and universities distributed through existing state and federal formulas; 2) $15.6 billion to increase the Pell maximum grant by $500 for a total of $5,350 for 2009 – 2010; and 3) $6 billion for higher education improvement which includes renovation and modernization, including technology upgrades and energy efficiency improvements. Dr. Ely remarked that funding for improvement to aging facilities would be very beneficial for the Western Area.

Dr. Ely reported possible additional funding in the Stimulus legislation includes: 1) $1 billion for grants to institutional entities for emergency sustainability and efficiency recovery; 2) $490 million for College Work Study; 3) $750 million for a new program of competitive grants for worker training, of which $500 million is designated to prepare workers for careers in energy and renewable industries.

Board members discussed the importance of investigating ways to make the Western Area facilities more energy efficient. Mr. Knapper remarked that the Nebraska Energy Office has grant funds available for engineering studies regarding energy efficiency of facilities. He remarked that he is excited about potential legislation from the new administration that may help with energy conservation. Dr. Ely complimented Mr. Knapper, who is looking at ways to reduce expenses.

Ms. Barkeloo remarked that it is just over a year before the Accreditation Visit by the Higher Learning Commission; time is going fast.

Ms. Barkeloo reported the Steering Committee met with Dr. Ely on December 9, 2008, to review the Self-Study progress. It was agreed that the Spring In-Service day scheduled for January 7, 2009 would be used for self-study committee
work. The Steering Committee met with Dr. Ely again on December 16, 2008, to finalize the schedule for the Spring-In Service day. Since the In-Service day will be held on the Sidney Campus, the schedule needs to include travel time.

On December 19, 2009, the Steering Committee met with the Criterion Co-chairs to discuss the In-Service day. Also on that date, Mr. Alkire sent out a notification to all faculty and staff regarding the Spring 2009 In-Service, and the schedule for the Higher Learning Commission Self-Study workday.

Ms. Barkeloo reported on January 7, 2009, the buses departed from Scottsbluff at 8:00 a.m., and traveled to the Aviation facility for a tour, the College President’s address and general assembly. The Workday activities began at 10:30 a.m., at the Sidney Campus. She reported the self-study workday activities varied by Criterion need, but basically, the Core components shared their work within the Criterion, assessed each others’ work utilizing the reading guide which Mr. Alkire had prepared, shared ideas, and made plans to re-work the core components to include suggestions made by the Criterions Co-Chairs, Consultant, and other core components members. A new deadline was established for the core components to have revisions completed and the document re-submitted to the Criterion-chairs. The criterion Co-chair deadline for information to be submitted to the Steering Committee is Spring Break.

Ms. Barkeloo reported the Core Component Committee work continues to progress. All of the committees have submitted their core component work and are busy revising or polishing their document before re-submitting it to the Criterion Co-Chairs. She reported evidence information continues to gather electronically in a central location. She reported the Steering Committee is meeting regularly.

Dr. Ely remarked that the Spring 2009 In-Service Day was very successful and time well spent. Since the day’s schedule was dedicated to working on the Self-Study report, it provided an opportunity for everyone to get together without time conflicts of other activities.

Dr. Wylie commented that the faculty members were very appreciative of a full day to work on the self-study.
Mr. Miller reported the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission was not met. He remarked that the digital television signal may be weak at this time, but viewers should see an improvement after February 17, 2009.

Dr. Perkins reported that the editorial which appeared in the Omaha World Herald about Metro Community College and its problems with the five remaining Nebraska Community Colleges has done nothing to bring about a change in the Metro Area's position with regard to the funding formula and its relationship with the Nebraska Community College Association.

As was reported earlier, the Metro Area has not paid its 2009 Association dues. Dr. Perkins reported the Association Board will meet on February 23, 2009, and if there has not been a change in the Metro Area's position, the Board will initiate a hearing to determine whether to expel the Metro Area Board. The hearing will afford Metro the opportunity to make its case for paying only a small portion of its dues. Dr. Perkins reported the Association Board will follow due process guidelines making sure that the hearing will be fair and based on fact. This will include giving Metro notice about the hearing, in a timely manner. He reported that Metro may choose to be represented by counsel.

Dr. Perkins remarked that this will not be an easy experience, but it is a necessary one. He commented that it is time to bring to closure the unfortunate rancor the Association has experienced over the last several months so that attention can be turned to other issues and concerns affecting Community Colleges in Nebraska, e.g., the economy and the potential role that community colleges can play in President Obama's plans for higher education and community colleges.

In response to a question from the Board, Dr. Perkins replied that the due process does include an appeal right. He commented that there is a question whether it is possible for the Association to expel a member for non-payment of dues. Nebraska Statutes require coordination of the community colleges by the Coordinating Commission be conducted through an association of the boards and that all of the community college boards shall be part of and shall be represented by to such association.

Dr. Perkins reported that Mr. Baack, Executive Director of the Association will testify against LB 283 and LB340 during
the Education Committee hearings that will take place on January 27, 2009. Dr. Perkins commented that he is planning to go to Lincoln for the hearings.

Dr. Perkins reported that since the January 2009 meeting, there has been a flurry of activity in Washington, DC, most of which has been connected with Congress developing an economic stimulus plan and the transition to a new President and Cabinet.

Dr. Perkins reported that Noah Brown, Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Community College Trustees, and George Boggs, American Association of Community Colleges Chief Executive Officer, sent a letter to then President-elect Obama giving him an overview of the Community College success story, which included the number of community colleges, enrollment and their mission. They also outlined the need to invest in community colleges by offering a $13 billion proposal for infrastructure improvements, increases in the Pell Grant and enhancing workforce training programs. The letter was sent on December 11, 2008. On December 18, 2008, Noah Brown and Jee Hang Li met with the Obama Educational Transition Teach to review and discuss the proposals. They were asked to provide documentation supporting the Associations' request, which they did.

Dr. Perkins reported that during the Regional Chair teleconference with Noah Brown held on January 15, 2009, Dr. Brown expressed amazement in that he had just received a copy of the proposed Congressional Stimulus Plan. Included in the plan were key proposals affecting Community Colleges, the details were presented by Dr. Ely in the 2009 Legislation report earlier in the meeting. Dr. Perkins remarked that it would appear as though the efforts in developing Community College Caucuses in the Senate and House have had their impact.

Dr. Perkins commented that he expects more information about the Stimulus Plan will be presented during the National Legislative Summit which get him to a concern that he has had for sometime. He commented that there is no doubt that should any of the Stimulus Plan for community colleges pass; it will be on a fast track. The question is to what extent is the Western Area Board willing and able to give time to our College President to help her to sort out what is important for the future of this College? There are
some policy decisions that the Board will need to help her with, such as, “Does the College really want to take part in any Stimulus Plan for Community Colleges?” “Can the College afford to participate?” Dr. Perkins commented there will be costs to develop and sustain any new program. Dr. Perkins inquired, “When does the Board help the College President to set any goals related to the economy and the Stimulus Plan?”

Dr. Perkins reported that Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, has been invited to attend and present at the National Legislative Summit. If he attends and speaks, Dr. Perkins expects that he will echo a similar call to action and service which the President has given over the last six weeks.

Dr. Perkins reported that the Board policy of the Association of Community College Trustees allows members to serve only two three year terms. Dr. Perkins reported that he will be at the end of his tenure in October 2009. He commented that he may apply to be an Associate Committee member.

Dr. Perkins reported that for the past year he has been visiting with Mr. Robert Feit, a member of the Southeast Community College Area Board, about the possibility of running for the position that Dr. Perkins will be vacating. Dr. Perkins reported that Mr. Feit has agreed to do so, and has been nominated by the Southeast Community College Board.

Dr. Perkins reported that during Mr. Feit’s recent visit to Scottsbluff, they spent some time outlining some of his community college activities, as well as, his involvement in his community.

Dr. Perkins reported Mr. Feit began his educational career at Fairbury Junior College, graduating in 1964. After one and one-half years at the University of Nebraska, he served in the U.S. Navy. Following his service, he returned to higher education, attending the University of Nebraska where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting, with majors in accounting, mathematics, and chemistry. Following graduation, Mr. Feit entered the manufacturing area and subsequently founded his own business. Later he worked for the City of Beatrice (Nebraska) Board of Public Works and eventually was promoted to the Director of Administrative Services, serving in that position until his retirement. Throughout his professional career, Mr. Feit has been
able to effectively balance work, family responsibilities and community interests. He has devoted time to his church, fine arts and educational institutions. He enjoys spending time with his family. Mr. Feit was named Outstanding Alumnus of Southeast Community College because of his deep interest in community college work, and his support of the fine arts in his community.

Mr. Feit served as a member of his local Board of Education. In 1997, he was elected as a member of the Southeast Community College Board of Governors and was most recently re-elected in 2008 to serve for four more years. Prior to his first election to the Board of Governors, he served on the Southeast Community College Business Education Advisory Board. Mr. Feit has held a variety of positions at Southeast Community College and has provided valuable consultation to both the Board and the College administration. He helped to develop and coordinate Professional Board Development for a state-wide conference involving all of the Nebraska Community Colleges. As Chairperson of the Finance and Facilities team, Mr. Feit has provided valuable expertise by reviewing and recommending plans and bids for all of Southeast Community College building projects in a fifteen county area. He actively mentors new Board members and assists them in understanding their roles and responsibilities.

Mr. Feit’s interest in community colleges extends beyond his Board work. For the past 20 years he has provided opportunities to students to practice their interviewing skills through simulated job interviews. He promotes Southeast Community College through speaking engagements with local service organizations, news articles, and participating in other community functions. The Southeast Community College Board of Governors appointed him as one of two representatives to the Nebraska Community College Association Board of Directors. He has served in that capacity for ten years. Additionally, for the past seven years, Mr. Feit has served as the ACCT State Coordinator in the Western Region.

Dr. Perkins recommended the Western Area Board submit a letter to the Association Nominating Committee in support of Mr. Feit’s candidacy.

Dr. Perkins moved the Western Area Board support the nomination of Mr. Robert Feit to the Board of Directors for the Association of Community College Trustees. He further
moved the Board direct the Secretary and the Chair to submit a letter to the Association Nominating Committee in support of Mr. Feit’s nomination. Seconded by Dr. Gramberg. The vote was, Yes: Miller, Nelson, Perkins, Roberts, Stickney, Gramberg, Leseberg, Wisniewski. No: None. Absent: Cervantes-Guzman, Daniels, Ostrander. Motion carried.

Dr. Shirley reported this will be the last construction update for the WNCC/ESU #13 Technology Center as the construction is complete and students and staff are enjoying the new facility.

Dr. Shirley reported there are two items on the punch list which are being completed: 1) Monitoring the air flow of the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning system; and 2) Sealing the block in the high and low bays. She reported that the architect, Mr. Gary Moranville, representatives from the College and Educational Service Unit #13, and the contractor are conducting the final walk-through of the building today.

Dr. Shirley reminded Board members of the Open House/Ribbon Cutting ceremony that will be held following the February Board of Governors meeting, February 18, 2009, at 4:00 p.m.

Board members thanked Dr. Shirley for her efforts as College representative during the construction of the new facility.

Ms. Wisniewski asked for Board Member Comments. There were none.

Ms. Wisniewski asked for President’s Comments.

Dr. Ely commended everyone in the institution for the quality service they give to students. She commented the positive part-time and full-time enrollment at all sites for the Spring 2009 semester reflects the efforts of the admissions and advising staff and also is a result of the quality customer service the entire College staff gives to students.

Dr. Ely reported Mr. Knapper has been visiting with the President’s Cabinet about the upcoming budget process. Currently, he is in the process of developing the individual cost center budget worksheets which will be distributed in
the next few weeks. Dr. Ely commented that budget planning is extremely difficult, so the President’s Cabinet is moving forward assuming minimal increases in state aid based on the Governor’s budget recommendation. The Governor is recommending a one percent increase in state funds for each year of the 2009 – 2011 biennium to the Community College Aid formula. This will add $872,665 in Fiscal Year 2009 – 2010 and an additional $881,391 in Fiscal Year 2010 – 2011. Dr. Ely reported that in Fiscal Year 2008 – 2009 the community colleges received $3.2 million in state-aid appropriations. Of this amount, the Metro Area received $3,069,000 or 94 percent of the funds when calculated through the aid formula.

She reported Mr. Knapper will be attending Datatel training in early February to gain the skills necessary to utilize the Datatel budget model.

The President’s Cabinet has been discussing the proposed student charges for the 2009 – 2010 year. She reported a proposal will be brought forward for the Board to review at the February meeting.

Dr. Ely reported an announcement seeking applications for the position of Foundation Executive Director for Western Nebraska Community College went out yesterday (January 20, 2009). She reported applications will be accepted for four weeks. The Executive Committee of the Foundation will screen the applications and do reference checks. The Foundation Board of Directors anticipates having the position filled by March 1, 2009.

Dr. Ely commented the College and the Foundation take pride in what Mr. Berge accomplished during his short tenure as Executive Director of the Foundation. She extended best wishes to Mr. Berge in his new position with President Obama’s Administration as the White House Liaison to the U.D. Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Ely reported the College will be sponsoring emergency response training for interested faculty and staff to form a College Emergency Response Team to respond to campus emergencies. Dr. Ely reported further this training session will be the start of campus emergency preparedness and will be one of the first teams called into action when something happens on the campus until first responders arrive, then the team will work with those agencies. The session will be held on Friday, March 27, 2009 from 6:00 until 10:00
p.m., and on Saturday, March 28, 2009, from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. Board members are invited to participate. She reported the program is done through Homeland Security, and will cover a wide variety of topics concluding with a drill on Saturday night. The training is free of charge and includes meals and snacks.

On behalf of the College, Dr. Ely thanked Dr. Royce J. Ammon for his hard work and dedication to the Alliance Campus for the past five years. Dr. Ely announced that Dr. Ammon has made the decision to leave his current position, and return to teaching. Dr. Ely remarked that the College is fortunate to welcome him back to the faculty where he can continue to share his gifts of knowledge with students.

Dr. Ely thanked Ms. Volkmer and the Sidney Campus faculty and staff for their warm and welcoming hospitality during the 2009 Spring in-service and day-long work session.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Ms. Wisniewski reminded Board members of the following upcoming meetings:

1) The Nebraska Community College Association Board of Directors Regular meetings to be held as follows:

   a) First Quarter Meeting, February 23, 2009, at Southeast Community College.
   b) Second Quarter Meeting, May 4, 2009, Southeast Community College.
   c) Third Quarter meeting, August 10, 2009, Mid-Plains Community College, McCook Campus.

2) The Nebraska Community College Association Annual meeting to be held November 3 and 4, 2009, at the Embassy Suites, Lincoln, NE. The host is Southeast Community College.

3) The Association of Community College Trustees 2009 National Legislative Summit to be held on February 9 through 11, 2009, at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, D.C.

4) The Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education Regular meeting to be held on August 20, 2009, at 9:30 a.m., in The Plex, Harms Advanced Technology Center, Scottsbluff, NE.
NEXT REGULAR MEETING  The next Regular meeting of the Western Community College Area Board of Governors will be held on Wednesday, February 18, 2009, at 1:00 p.m., in the Boardroom, Western Nebraska Community College, Scottsbluff Campus, 1601 East 27th Street, Scottsbluff, NE.

ADJOURNMENT  The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 3:22 p.m.

Jane Wisniewski, Chairperson  Coral E. Richards, Secretary
Student Organizations
Sidney Campus

Phi Theta Kappa

Phi Theta Kappa held WINTERFEST with the Sidney Jaycees on Saturday, December 6th. WINTERFEST activities included: a light parade downtown, hayrack rides, pictures with Santa, stories read by Mrs. Claus, Ornament Decorating, Toys for Tots, and a Chili Cook Off! The event was a success and a great way for the community and the college to celebrate the holidays together. There were fourteen floats and six chili participants with Chamber bucks prizes given to the top recipients.

Voc-Air Flying Club

Voc-Air continued planning their trip to Omaha and Lincoln in January to SAC Air Museum, Duncan Aviation, Eply Airfield and the Air Guard. Many aviation students attended Casino Game Night and received prizes from area businesses. Congratulations to aviation student Matthew Meyerhoffer for his second place win for the most chips at the end of the evening!

Finals Week Chair Massages

Terry Hanson of Sidney provided her services as a massage therapist to our students during finals week. Chair Massages were given in the student lounge and out at aviation on Monday and Tuesday, morning and afternoons. Special Student Funds sponsored this activity for our students to relax from exam stress.

Student Senate

Student Senate held a Christmas Decorating Event on Wednesday, December 3rd with plenty of treats and tinsel! The main campus hallways and student lounge were decorated.

Cosmetology Club

Cosmetology Club had a “Santa’s sleigh” themed float in the WINTERFEST parade. Fundraisers continued for the holidays with dry good jars for sale, in preparation for a trip to Denver this coming semester. Many cosmetology students attended Casino Game Night, with Madison Kistler winning the grand prize of the 32” television!
SCOTTSBLUFF CAMPUS FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE REPORT TO THE WCCA BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR JANUARY 2009

Yelena Khanevskaya won honorable mention for her acrylic painting “Silver Moon” in the juried art show currently being exhibited at the West Nebraska Art Center. She was also selected to create the artwork which became the basis for the promotional poster for the Midwest Theater Film Festival. Ben Darling, WNCC adjunct art instructor at the Sidney campus, won the second honorable mention for his oil painting in the current show.

Tom Robinson recently took the exam to upgrade his Microsoft Certified System Engineer certification to Windows Server 2008. Last year he upgraded to Windows Vista. Next year he plans to upgrade to Windows 7, a system that he is a beta tester for at the present time.

Nathaniel Johnson reports that about two hundred people attended the “Jump Jive and Swing” dance performed by the WNCC Instrumental Music program at the Elks Club in December. The plans for spring semester include another dance in April. Also planned is the first annual WNCC Jazz Festival. Area high school jazz bands will be invited to compete and perform. An encore performance of last spring’s Monumental Rock Combo’s appearance at Pellini’s Jazz/Comedy Club is tentatively planned for May. The Spring Band Concert with guest artist Bradford Behn is scheduled for April 26.

Paula Zikmund is attending training this month in Lincoln to become a Certified Dementia Practitioner. Paula is the WNCC BNA and Medical Terminology Instructor.

Aldo Hall successfully completed the Certified Wireless Network Administrator exam. This certifies him to manage, deploy, secure, and troubleshoot wireless networks.

Bill Spurgeon and Tom Robinson attended a meeting for IT curriculum alignment sponsored by Future Force Nebraska/Partnerships for Innovation and held at Metro CC in Omaha on November 20. Several community college areas and high schools attended. Some of the curriculum line up well with industry. Other areas are quite broad with different institutions teaching quite different curriculum.
SIDNEY CENTER MIDYEAR REPORT, Fall 2008 FOR THE WCCA BOARD OF GOVERNORS FROM THE SIDNEY FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE

Rich Cecava, Business Instructor
The fall semester again provided me an opportunity to teach my classes using all three educational instructional delivery systems available at the College. I offered one class online (Personal Finance), one class on the ITV (DLS) to Alliance (Business Law I) and three classes in a traditional classroom (Principles of Accounting 1, Principles of Accounting 2, Principles of Management). In addition, I taught the first College Success Seminar on the Sidney Campus. In addition to my courses, I worked with our accreditation team as the Sub Committee Chair for Criteria 1d.

Al Combs, Math Instructor
The Summer Calculus I class had 11 students complete the course. Enrollment for the Fall classes have also increased, especially the Introductory Algebra class with 30 students. This is the largest class I have experienced since I joined the staff in the fall of 2000.

The mathematics dual credit enrollment has also grown with the addition of the Garden County High School Seniors from Oshkosh.

Over all the Math Program at Sidney has seen a continued growth pattern over the last few years; hope it continues.

Michael Hausmann, Business Instructor
During the fall semester 2008, I taught an ITV (DSL) class to Alliance. I made a point to divide my time between Alliance and Sidney. Roughly half of the class was taught from Sidney to Alliance and the other time from Alliance to Sidney so students in both locations had roughly the same amount of time with me in the classroom. To increase the use of technology in the classroom I introduced the Microcomputer Applications class to the “Flip” video camcorder. I also served as the chairperson for the Criterion 4 Core Component 4c subcommittee of our self study.

Jon Leever, Aviation Maintenance Instructor
Before I start with happenings of this fall, I want to share a few items that took place over the summer. The installation of new cabinets in the break area completed the first phase of our three year facility improvement plan for Aviation. In June I attended a turbine engine class at Turbomeca USA in Grand Prairie, Texas. The cost of the tuition was provided by Rodger’s Helicopters of Kearney Nebraska.

The highlight of this semester would have to be the annual flying-in breakfast. After several years of poor weather we finally had a good day. Airplanes on the ramp were parked wingtip to wingtip and the line for breakfast stretched to the front doors.

New enrollments for this fall were double that of last year. Despite the current economic down turn, jobs in aviation maintenance are still on the rise. The opportunities for
employment far out number our graduating classes. Our efforts to increase enrollments continue with recruiting trips to college fairs in Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming and South Dakota.

**Keith Miller, Instructor in the Aviation Department**

With the implementation of a short course to prepare students for the FAA written test, our students are testing in the high 90’s. This will put our school’s standings above other schools in the national testing norm. Four students graduated and the job placement is excellent. We are seeing more foreign students; the spring semester consists of four students enrolled from Korea. An instrument system tester was purchased to further enhance student training. Each year the equipment that we purchase is the latest to give our students the best training possible.

**Jeff Pippitt and Alice Macht, Cosmetology Instructors**

Fall of 2007, the freshman class is on the lab floor and ready to start building their clientele. Our January class looks to have six new students. We are anxiously waiting to have the remodeling of the facial and the pedicure rooms to be completed to start building a new customer base. The freshman classroom is to be set-up for power point presentation. Alice is excited to start teaching with this technology.

In mid September we took the students to Rapid City to the Peel's Hair Seminar. It was a pleasure to be able to take the Cougar bus. Jeff is organizing a time to take the students to view the mortuary so they feel comfortable working on their clients that have passed on. I feel this is very rewarding to be able to do this service for the family.

We are bringing in a color technology class which will be very exciting for the students to stretch their minds to another level in the color field. We have held these classes in the past and invited surrounding salons to attend. Jeff will be doing a lot of recruiting this spring to keep our classrooms with students. The nail curriculum is finished and is being reviewed. We anticipate starting with a ten week session during the summer of 2009. Both of us have been involved with the criterions and assessments.

**Yvonne Schlaman, Science Instructor**

Last summer I attended a Human Anatomy & Physiology Society (HAPS) Conference in New Orleans. From this, I learned many new concepts and gained new ideas that I have been applying in my Anatomy courses. Many of these techniques are aimed at hands-on, kinesthetic learners that do not learn easily from traditional book learning. This diversification of methodology is intended to improve the success of students of all learning types.

I have been introduced to Turning Point, an interactive learning software and with the help from Patrick McKay to develop learning activities, we will use this system in my labs this coming semester.
Julie Slagle, Practical Nursing Instructor

The practical nursing program on the Sidney campus continues to grow. Currently, fall semester enrollment is 10 students, with an additional 16 students completing their prerequisites for admission into the 2009 fall program. Though the current forecast predicts a nursing shortage of 700,000 nurses by year 2010, we continue to impact this deficit by preparing qualified individuals for this profession.

The nursing program continues to work closely with Memorial Health Center for clinical experiences. Our students are graciously allowed into all areas of the health center to obtain experience critical for their profession. To assist with accuracy of patient medical record charting, Memorial Health Center IT Department has installed their electronic charting program in our computer lab. This significantly impacts the student’s ability to learn accurate and appropriate charting in the classroom prior to clinical experience.

The skills laboratory is essential to both the nursing program as well as the Basic Nursing Assistant program that is offered through community education. This hands-on area allows all nursing students the opportunity to practice clinical skills until competency is obtained. In conjunction with Von Schlaman, the Science and Nursing department have again written for various grants that will allow us to update both equipment and supplies, as necessary. A new skeleton model is currently being sought. Both Memorial Health Center in Sidney and Garden County Health Services in Oshkosh continue to donate all expired disposable supplies to our program for student’s educational benefit.

On a personal note, I continue to work towards my Master’s of Science in nursing degree through the accelerated program. I anticipate my completion and graduation on December 19, 2009.
Reports and Proposals
From The Administration – Mr. Knapper
January 21, 2009

The basement mechanical room of Pioneer Hall was flooded due to a broken water main sometime overnight December 25.

The fire department was notified by an alarm that occurred due to a loss of power which triggered the college’s alarm system.

Fortunately no one was in residence at Pioneer Hall at the time. Repairs began immediately on the morning of the 26th by college personnel and local contractors. Full heat and electrical was restored to the building shortly after repairs began. Domestic hot water was restored before students returned for second semester.

The mechanical room is under manual operations as most of the electronic controls have not been replaced. Students, however, may regulate the temperature within their individual dorm rooms to their preference. The air conditioning equipment has not been addressed at this time.

The loss has been reported to our insurer and a local adjusting company has been assigned to the claim and they have been on campus to review progress and file reports.