WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

PROPOSED AGENDA

A. Call to Order, Ms. Wisniewski

B. Roll Call

C. Introduction of Visitors
   1) Community Comments

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

E. Consent Calendar

   1) Review Contents of Consent Calendar
      a) Agenda
      b) Excuse Absent Board Member(s)
      c) Minutes
         1) Regular Meeting, February 18, 2009
      d) Claims (Enclosure)
         1) WCCA Unrestricted Fund - $1,825,938.14
         2) WCCA Restricted Fund - $5,481.34
         3) WCCA Federal Fund - $10,965.58
         4) WCCA Agency Fund - $17,976.87
         5) WCCA Loan Fund - $0-
         6) WCCA Plant Fund - $49,793.20
         7) WCCA Auxiliary Fund - $109,240.44
      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

REGULAR MEETING

March 18, 2009

12:00 P.M. – LUNCH
John C. Bishop Dining Hall
Pioneer Activity Center
Western Nebraska Community College
Scottsbluff Campus
1409 East 27th Street
Scottsbluff Nebraska

1:00 P.M. – REGULAR MEETING
Boardroom
Western Nebraska Community College
Scottsbluff Campus
1601 East 27th Street
Scottsbluff, Nebraska
E. Consent Calendar – Cont
   2) Approval of Consent Calendar
   3) Consideration of Items Extracted from Consent Calendar

F. 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

G. Personnel Consent Calendar
   1) Review Contents of Personnel Consent Calendar
      a) Resignation(s): - None
      b) Appointment(s): - None
   2) Approval of Personnel Consent Calendar
   3) Consideration of Items Extracted from Personnel Consent Calendar

H. Reports and Recommendations from Budget and Finance Committee – Mr. Nelson,
   Mr. Knapper
   a) Auditing Services Contract

I. Western Nebraska Community College Area Board of Governors – Ms. Wisniewski
   1) Authorized Signatures for WCCA Safe Deposit Boxes
      a) Platte Valley Bank
      b) First State Bank
J. Monitoring Reports

1) Developmental Education Update – Mr. Atkire, Ms. Dickinson

2) Proposed 2009 – 2010 WNCC Student Charges – Mr. Knapper
   a) Tuition
   b) Fees
   c) Room and Board

3) Higher Learning Commission – Ms. Barkeloo, Ms. Dickinson
   a) Accreditation Visit
      1) February 2010

4) 2009 Legislation – Dr. Ely
   a) LB 103 – Change Provisions Relating to postsecondary Educational Institutions’ Capital and Facility Expenditures
   b) LB 232 - Permit Sales of Alcoholic Liquor by Community College Culinary Programs
   c) LB 283 - Change Community College Aid Calculations
   d) LB 340 - Require the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education to Evaluate Community College System
   e) AM 597 – Amendments to LB 340
   f) LB 400 – Change Fiscal Year Provisions for Calculation of Community College Base Revenue Need
   g) LB 655 – Require Community College Compliance with Association Membership Provisions

5) Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission – Mr. Miller

6) Nebraska Community College Association – Dr. Gramberg, Dr. Perkins
   a) First Quarter Board of Directors Meeting
      1) February 23, 2009
      2) Southeast Community College

7) Association of Community College Trustees – Dr. Perkins

K. Board Member Comments

L. President’s Comments
M. Upcoming Meetings

1) Nebraska Community College Association Board of Directors

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

2) Association of Community College Trustees

   a) 2009 Leadership Congress
      1) October 7 – 10, 2009
      2) San Francisco, CA

3) 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

N. Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, April 15, 2009, 1:00 p.m., Boardroom, Western Nebraska Community College, Scottsbluff Campus, 1601 East 27th Street, Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

O. Adjournment
1) Consider the following application(s) pending before the City of Sidney Planning Commission:

a) The application of Sidney Public Schools/John Hakonson for Rezoning Request for Lot 1 and Lot 2, St. Patrick's Church Subdivision, more commonly known as 2350 and 2351 Osage Street, from R-s (Single Family Residential) to C-3 (Heavy Commercial) Zone.
MINUTES OF MEETING  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA

TIME AND PLACE  
ROLL CALL  
NOTICE OF MEETING

A regular meeting of the Western Community College Area Board of Governors was held at 1:03 P.M., on Wednesday, March 18, 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 publicized notice in the Star-Herald, on Saturday, March 14, 2009, with the following members present: Jacqueline M. Cervantes-Guzman, Merlyn L. Gramberg, L. Paul Leseberg, Dennis W. Miller, Jr., Jack L. Nelson, Jecca R. Ostrander, M. Thomas Perkins, Richard G. Stickney, Jane Wisniewski, Chairperson. Absent: Timothy H. Daniels, Darrell E. Roberts. Student Representatives present: Kari Garcia, Alliance Campus. 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, Garry R. Alkire, Paul G. Jacobsen, Royce J. Ammon, Judith L. Amoo, Marilyn Dodge, Susan Dickinson, Mary Barkeloo, Carla Stein, Paulette Yarnall. College Attorney present: Richard A. Douglas. A current agenda was available in the College President’s office and the Board Secretary’s office on the Scottsbluff Campus at the time of the publicized notice.

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 Mr. Daniels notified the Secretary that he would be unable to attend the meeting today because of Personal Business. She reported further Mr. Roberts notified the Secretary that he would be unable to attend the meeting today because of Personal Business.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Review Contents

Ms. Wisniewski reviewed the contents of the Consent Calendar which include the following items:
CONSENT CALENDAR
Review Contents Cont
1) Agenda – March 18, 2009
2) Excuse Absent Board Members – Daniels, Roberts
3) Minutes
   a) Regular Meeting, February 18, 2009
4) Claims
   a) WCCA Unrestricted Fund - $1,825,938.14
   b) WCCA Restricted Fund - $5,481.34
   c) WCCA Agency Fund - $17,976.87
   d) WCCA Loan Fund - $0-
   e) WCCA Plant Fund - $49,493.20
   f) WCCA Auxiliary Fund - $109,240.44
5) City Planning Commission Reports – Attachment A
6) Reports and Proposals
   a) From the Students – Attachment B
   b) From the Faculty – Attachment C
   c) From the Administration
   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. There were none.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR
Consider Items Extracted
There were no items extracted from the Consent Calendar.

BID CONSENT CALENDAR
Review Contents
There were no items on the Bid Consent Calendar.

PERSONNEL CONSENT CALENDAR
Review Contents
There were no items on the Personnel Consent Calendar.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM
BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
Auditing Services
Mr. Nelson reported the Budget and Finance Committee met earlier today to consider a proposal for professional services for auditing of College accounts. He asked Mr. Knapper to present the proposal.

Mr. Knapper reported the audit of College records is performed for the Board by an outside professional firm. He reported the College just ended a three-year contract with Contrynman Associates for professional auditing services.
Mr. Knapper reported that Contrymann Associates has submitted a proposal for professional services for the performance of the audit for the next three years. He commented that it is not necessary to seek bids for professional services.

Mr. Knapper reported the proposed fee to provide audit services is as follows: 1) June 30, 2009 – Facilities Tax Return $750; College Audit - $11,000; FTE - $4,500; Single Audit - $14,600; Foundation Audit - $2,800; Foundation Tax Return - $495; Other Consultations - $90 to $150 per hour; Additional major programs – Negotiated Fee based on program. 2) June 30, 2010 – Facilities Tax Return $750; College Audit - $11,500; FTE - $4,600; Single Audit - $14,800; Foundation Audit - $2,900; Foundation Tax Return - $495; Other Consultations - $90 to $150 per hour; Additional major programs – Negotiated Fee based on program. 3) June 30, 2011 – Facilities Tax Return - $775; College Audit - $12,000; FTE - $4,700; Single Audit - $15,000; Foundation Audit - $3,000; Foundation Tax Return - $515; Other Consultations - $90 to $150 per hour; Additional major programs – Negotiated Fee based on program. Mr. Knapper reported the College Foundation is responsible for payment of the audit of its records and tax return.

Mr. Knapper reported the administration has recommended to the Budget and Finance Committee that the Board retain this firm, and accept the proposal for another three-year contract as submitted.

Dr. Perkins commented that the Sarbanes-Oxley Act recommends that auditors be rotated either by rotating firm or the “lead” auditor within the firm. Dr. Perkins remarked that he had no concern with Contrymann Associates or with retaining the firm for an additional three-year contract so long as the College was in compliance with the requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. Mr. Knapper indicated that he would check the requirements of the Act.

Mr. Nelson reported the Budget and Finance Committee is recommending the Board retain Contrymann Associates and accept the proposal for an additional three-year contract as presented.

Mr. Nelson moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee to retain the firm of Contrymann Associates for an additional three-year contract, and approve the proposal for professional auditing
services for Fiscal Years ending June 30, 2009, 2010, and 2011 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Stickney. The vote was, Yes: Gramberg, Leseberg, Miller, Nelson, Ostrander, Perkins, Stickney, Cervantes-Guzman, Wisniewski. No: None. Absent: Daniels, Roberts. Motion carried.

Ms. Wisniewski reported that with personnel changes it is necessary for the Board to update the individuals who are authorized to enter for the College’s safe deposit boxes.

Ms. Wisniewski suggested the following individuals be authorized to enter the Safe Deposit Box at Platte Valley Bank: Eileen E. Ely, William D. Knapper, Coral E. Richards, and Susan L. Verbeck.

Mr. Nelson moved the Board authorize the following individuals to enter the Safe Deposit Box at Platte Valley Bank: Eileen E. Ely, William D. Knapper, Coral E. Richards, and Susan L. Verbeck. Seconded by Ms. Ostrander. The vote was, Yes: Leseberg, Miller, Nelson, Ostrander, Perkins, Stickney, Cervantes-Guzman, Gramberg, Wisniewski. No: None. Absent: Daniels, Roberts. Motion carried.

Ms. Wisniewski suggested that Eileen E. Ely, William D. Knapper and Coral E. Richards should be authorized to enter the Safe Deposit Box at First State Bank. She further suggested entrance into the box require two signatures.

Mr. Miller moved the Board authorize the following individuals to enter the Safe Deposit Box at First State Bank: Eileen E. Ely, William D. Knapper, and Coral E. Richards. He further moved that entrance into the Safe Deposit Box require two signatures. Seconded by Mr. Leseberg. The vote was, Yes: Miller, Nelson, Ostrander, Perkins, Stickney, Cervantes-Guzman, Gramberg, Leseberg, Wisniewski. No: None. Absent: Daniels, Roberts. Motion carried.

Mr. Alkire reported that since the early 1990’s Developmental level education courses have been offered at the College. There was a subdivision of courses into more specialized offerings following student need. He reported that until last year (2008), the developmental education courses were within the discipline-aligned divisional structure. In 2008 a separate division known as the Division of Academic Enrichment was formed. Ms. Susan Dickinson is the Division Chair. Mr. Alkire reported there were 1,161 students enrolled in 87 sections of developmental-level courses which
include self-paced Independent Learning and Assessment Center courses. He reported in the fall of 2008, mandatory lab sections for each Basic Math class were created. This was done after attempting a pre-session math (JumpState Math) review during the summer which did not attract students. The lab section curriculum consists of a one-hour per week group session with the course instructor. One half of the time the instructor presents study skills for math and the other half the instructor engages in one-on-one tutoring. Mr. Alkire reported that the math common final exam taken at the end of the fall 2008 term reflects a 91 percent pass rate of test takers. Additionally, an overall progression rate (based upon a Pass score on the test) that is the highest one achieved by students (83.8 percent) in ten consecutive regular semesters.

Mr. Alkire reported that reading and writing achievement levels have also increased. He reported that students who are enrolled in developmental English are required to attend a weekly one hour lab in the Writing Center for reinforcement of concepts or skills covered in class. He reported that Reading students have a separate Reading Lab which they access at their convenience to complete mandatory computer-enhanced exercises.

Mr. Alkire reported there are additional costs associated with delivering high-quality developmental education amounting to approximately $130 per student above the standard student expense per Full-Time Equivalent enrollment. Mr. Alkire commented the costs for developmental education are difficult to calculate since the total expenditures for the entire institution are found in overall operational categories within the budget. Further complicating cost calculations is the fact that there is not a specific budget assigned to developmental education as it did not exist as a separate budget category previously. Mr. Alkire commented that a specific budget will be developed for the 2009 – 2010 fiscal year that will tied to Full-Time Equivalent enrollment and associated expenses for that area.

Mr. Alkire reported College representatives are sent to the National Association of Developmental Education conference at least every other year. He remarked the College will seek certification through that organization as a best practices institution after the Higher Learning Commission Self-Study and Site Visit are completed. Mr. Alkire reported that one class per semester has been targeted for systematic and focused analysis, based on the improvements
MONITORING REPORTS
Developmental Education Update Cont

seen from restructuring and data gathering in the classes so far. He commented it is the intent of the College to increase retention and student success in all courses. He commented further that the attrition rate is an area the College intends to investigate thoroughly and address.

Ms. Dickinson reported the Stanford Diagnostic Reading Test has been administered at the College for several years; this is the first year that scores have been aggregated across sections and scores totaled. She reported the 6.6 percent gain evidenced by students equates to roughly a 1.5 grade equivalency gain in reading skills. She commented that completion of the Test is a requirement for the course; however, it does not calculate into the student’s grade. Vocabulary was a relative weakness across all sections.

Ms. Dickinson reported the implications for instruction are: 1) To increase the overall gain of students, the course’s study skills component will be compacted so that more time can be devoted to the direct reading skills of active reading strategies, understanding paragraphs, recognizing patterns of development, making inferences and interpreting graphics. She reported the goal is to increase the rate of gain so that student’s will gain two grade equivalencies in one semester of instruction. 2) To investigate methods to increase vocabulary scores, possibly by including literature into the course. 3) Instructors will record scores for inferential ready ability on the Test so that comparisons can be made. The sub test scores are available and should be recorded to assess the work students do as part of a laboratory component that provides practice in drawing accurate conclusions from written material.

Ms. Dickinson referred Board members to a sample of the assessment analysis performed for the fall semester which reflects a gain of 24 points of advancement on a standardized test for Basic Writing. She reported the Fall 2008 semester was the first semester that the eCompass test was used as both a pre-and post-measure in Basic Writing. She commented the pre- and post-testing represents one measure of student learning. Students in the Basic Writing class are evaluated primarily on the actual writing they produce.

A new on-line class in Developmental Writing will be offered during the Summer Semester 2009. Ms. Dickinson will be the instructor.
There was considerable discussion about the reasons why so many students do not have the appropriate educational background to be successful in college-level classes. The question was raised about the age range of students in developmental level classes, and how many were non-traditional students. Board members commented that assessing the numbers is easy, what is not so easy to determine is what other factors play into the drop-out rate. Board members commented how great it would be if there were no need for the College to offer Developmental Courses. Board members also questioned whether it is possible to share information with the high schools to advise them of how their students perform on placement tests for admission.

Board members commented that the drop out student is more costly to society than the cost of providing developmental education to help them become successful students as well as contributing members of society. The Association of Community College Trustees has stressed the need for community colleges to take students from where they are and help them to more forward to be successful. Additionally, it was pointed out that, by Nebraska Statute, the role and mission of community colleges is to provide foundations education.

Ms. Wisniewski thanked Mr. Alkire and Ms. Dickinson for their informative report.

Mr. Knapper referred Board members to the mailed packet which includes the proposed 2009 – 2010 Student Charges. Mr. Knapper reported the proposed resident tuition rate is $68.00 per credit hour, and the proposed non-resident tuition rate is $80.00 per credit hour. He reported the proposed rate for both resident and non-resident students is a $2.00 per credit hour increase which is a three percent increase. Mr. Knapper reported that the fees per credit hour are proposed to remain at $13.00. The proposed total per credit hour cost for resident students is $81.00 and for non-resident students is $93.00. Mr. Knapper reported the proposed tuition increase for the High School Partnership will increase $1.00 for both resident and non-resident students. This proposed increase will keep the High School Partnership tuition rate one-half of the standard rates. The High School Partnership per credit hour fees will remain at $6.50.

Mr. Knapper reported that all other fees are proposed to remain the same with the exception of the GED Testing
Fee. A $25.00 increase to $75.00 is proposed for the GED Testing Fee. This increase is a result of increased costs for testing and to build up a reserve for required software upgrades.

Mr. Knapper reported the proposed increase in the 14 and the 19 meal plans is $75.00 per semester. The proposed increase is necessary to cover the anticipated food and personnel costs. He reported further the proposed increase for rooms at Pioneer Hall is $50.00 per semester, and the proposed increase for rooms at Conestoga Hall is $75.00 per semester. Mr. Knapper reported the flat increase for the room rates equates to approximately five percent.

Mr. Knapper reported the proposed 2009 – 2010 Student Charges are being presented today for Board member information and review. Action on the proposed charges will occur at the April meeting.

Ms. Barkeloo reported the 114th Annual Meeting of the Higher Learning Commission will be held in Chicago on April 17 through April 21, 2009. She reported there will be a smaller group attending the meeting this year, and room reservations have been made.

Ms. Barkeloo reported that March 16, 2009, was the deadline for the Criterion Co-Chairs to submit their information to their consultant. Ms. Barkeloo reported that Criterion One met the deadline on March 9; Criterion Two met the deadline on March 13; Criterion Three requested an extension; Criterion Four met the deadline on March 16; and Criterion Five had completed the core component; but still need to complete the strengths, areas for improvement and plan of improvement which should be done by the end of the week.

Ms. Barkeloo reported the core component information was to be submitted as one document, and the criterion chapter should sound as one voice and be submitted in the template format. The completed document was to be submitted in electronic format to the criterion consultant by the specified deadline. On March 11, 2009, a celebration, Pie Day, was held to acknowledge the hard work everyone has done for the self-study.

Dr. Ely commented that she is very proud of the College staff and the job they are doing to complete the self-study. She commented that Board members will also be involved.
when the Visitation Team from the Higher Learning Commission conducts the Site Visit in February 2010.

Dr. Wylie remarked that the Self Study Chairs and the Steering Committee got everyone at the College involved and has kept them involved for a year. The task at hand now is to take the five different pieces (the Five Criterion Chapters) and merge them into one document.

Ms. Amoo remarked the self-study process has been an experience of differences that was bridged by the realization that the College is one institution. The process has brought everyone together. She commented it has been a learning process for the entire institution.

On behalf of the Board, Ms. Wisniewski extended a thank you to everyone for their hard work to complete the self-study. She remarked that preparing the self-study is stressful work that consumes a great amount of time. The self-study does provide the opportunity for College employees to gain a deeper understanding of each other as well as the institution.

Dr. Ely reported that Mr. Colin Croft will read the Self-Study document for any lacking information, and Mr. Loren Bell will also read the document to ensure that the narrative is grammatically correct.

Ms. Wisniewski declared a five minute recess at 2:07 p.m.

Ms. Wisniewski declared the Open meeting in session at 2:19 p.m.

Dr. Ely referred Board members to the handout materials which include a spreadsheet of 2009 Nebraska’s Community Colleges Legislative Bills. The spreadsheet lists the number of the bill, who sponsored it, the subject line, and the current status of each bill. It also includes the Nebraska Community College Association’s position on each bill. (A copy of the spreadsheet is attached in the official minute book.)

Dr. Ely reported that, at the last meeting of the Council of Chief Executive Officers, Senator Adams, Chairman of the Legislative Education Committee met with the group to present an amendment to LB 340. The amendment, drafted by Senator Adams, would have the Coordinating Commission facilitate a study limited to: 1) the need for
changes to the statutory role and mission of community colleges; 2) changes in the weighting of courses that may be necessary for reimbursable educational units to properly reflect the role and mission; 3) powers, duties, and mission of the Nebraska Community College Association; 4) consequences for failing to satisfy current community college association membership required by statute; 5) state coordination of community colleges in the absence of a community college association or membership therein. Additionally, the Commission shall include and facilitate a discussion among the state’s community colleges in the completion of such study. The amendment further requires each community college shall participate in good faith with the conduct of the study.

Dr. Ely reported that Senator Adams has worked with Senator Cook, who introduced LB 340. Senator Cook has agreed to make LB 340 with the amendment her priority bill. This will allow the bill to be brought out of committee for debate by the Legislature. All other bills which have been introduced with regard to the Metro situation (LB 283, LB 400, and LB 655) will be held in the Education Committee. Senator Adams indicated to the Council of Chief Executive Officers there was no room for discussion regarding his amendment to LB 340. He indicated LB 340 with the amendment attached may be the only solution to resolving the disagreement between the Metro Community College and the Nebraska Community College Association.

Dr. Ely reported further that prior to the Council of Chief Executive Officers meeting, Senator Flood, Speaker of the Legislature, met with each of the College Presidents to gain a better understanding of the history of the funding formula, and to gain insight and knowledge about each of the community colleges. Senator Flood also inquired whether or not the Presidents deem reconciliation is possible between the Metro Area and the other five community colleges. Dr. Ely commented that both Senator Adams and Senator Flood are friends of the community colleges.

Mr. Miller reported there was no report from the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission. He remarked the Commission will be meeting next week.
MONITORING REPORTS
Nebraska Community
College Association
First Quarter Board
Meeting

Dr. Gramberg reported that he and Dr. Perkins attended the First Quarter meeting of the Nebraska Community College Association Board of Directors. The meeting was held on February 23, 2009, at Southeast Community College, in Lincoln. He reported all members were present. Dr. Gramberg reported there was a 10 to 2 vote to remove the Metro Area from the membership for nonpayment of dues. Dr. Perkins reported that with the expulsion of the Metro Area there are a number of questions and tasks remaining for the Association and its members. One concern is that the remaining community colleges will need to find ways to support the work of the Association. Dr. Perkins reported that he, Mr. Baack, and Mr. Schluckebier have had conversations regarding this concern. Dr. Perkins reported that Mr. Baack and his Administrative Assistant, Melanie Williams, are reviewing the Association budget to determine what can be eliminated. Mr. Baack will have adjusted budget recommendations for the Board of Directors to consider during the Second Quarter meeting to be held in May.

Dr. Perkins reported Mr. Neal Stenberg, Association Attorney, will review the Association policies and by-laws and make recommendations to the By-Laws Committee. Dr. Perkins suggested that there is a new energy among the Association members and it would be valuable to tap into that energy. He further suggested the By-Laws Committee be a working committee to engage in a review and discussion of the policies and by-laws. Dr. Perkins reported that Mr. Baack has requested a meeting of Association By-Laws Committee on April 9, 2009, at 9:00 a.m., in Kearney. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the policies and by-laws, and Mr. Stenberg’s recommendations thereto. The Committee will then propose changes and additions to them.

Dr. Perkins reported with regard to his testimony before the Legislative Education Committee, he offered support for LB 655 (To penalize Community Colleges that are not members of an Association) and opposed LB 400 (To freeze the funding formula at its present level). Dr. Perkins commented that LB 400 is a conflict over Nebraska Tax policy. In his opinion, the Metro Area is challenging the right and responsibility of the State to collect income and sales taxes and to distribute them as it sees fit, e.g. in part, for state-aid to community colleges. He commented that Metro is also challenging the right of the State to set limits on property tax levies. Under the guise of local control, the Metro Board of Governors wants community college boards to have the
Dr. Perkins commented the purpose of a property tax levy lid and state aid for community colleges is to ensure there will be an equalization of property taxes across the State, and also to provide all Nebraska residents equal access to quality community college education. Dr. Perkins suggested, to get a better understanding of the seriousness of the impact that property tax has on rural Nebraska, that Board members read "Digging Deeper in Shallow Pockets II: Examining Property Tax Burden Disparity among Nebraska Residents" by the Center for Rural Affairs. Dr. Perkins reported for example property tax as a percentage of income is 24 percent in one county in rural Nebraska while in Douglas County it is three percent.

Dr. Perkins commended the Star-Herald's editorial "Metro Music" which was a good summary of some of the issues that the five community colleges have had to deal with in regard to the conflict with Metro. He thanked the editorial staff for the succinct and accurate data about cost included in the editorial.

Ms. Wisniewski remarked that being a representative to the Nebraska Community College Association Board of Directors has required additional time and effort from Dr. Gramberg and Dr. Perkins. They have had to spend time doing research on many issues and often times be the lone voice in a crowd. She commented that the Western Area is very fortunate to have them serving in this capacity.

On behalf of the faculty, Dr. Wylie thanked the all the Board members for their dedication to higher education, for their intelligence, and for their commitment to work together to guide issues toward a positive outcome.

Dr. Perkins reported there is good news in the latest news release from the Association of Community College Trustees on President Obama's recent budget message. The release emphasized the possible impact the federal budget could have on community colleges.

Dr. Perkins reported the $3.55 trillion budget includes $46.7 billion for the Department of Education. One of the greatest changes in the budget from previous budgets was to move the Pell Grant program from the discretionary section to a mandatory status. This takes the Pell Grant out of the annual appropriations discussion and enables it to be
funded continuously. Beginning in 2010, the Pell Grant will have mandatory status and will be indexed to the consumer price index plus one percent which will keep pace with inflation. At the present time, it appears as though the Pell Grant will be approximately $5,350.

Dr. Perkins reported that additionally the President is asking for $2.5 billion over five years. These funds will be used as grants to encourage a Federal, State and Local partnership to "improve graduation rates, particularly among low-income students."

Dr. Perkins commented that with the recent college retention initiative from the Gates Foundation and now the proposed retention program from the Federal Government, the College will want to continue to focus its attention on helping students remain in college until they have completed their degree program. Dr. Perkins referred Board members to Neal Raisman's book "The Power of Retention" for an enlightening discussion on college retention strategies.

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

Ms. Wisniewski asked for President's Comments.

Dr. Ely reported that she received an e-mail from Dr. Janie Parks, President of Chadron State College, regarding closing their Interactive Television sites at the Sidney and Alliance Campuses. The Sidney Campus will close in May 2009, and the Alliance Campus as of December 2009. Chadron State College has determined that "it is not cost effective to keep the sites open" based on the fact that students are choosing online courses over Interactive Television courses. Dr. Ely reported further Chadron State College is planning to have an office in Alliance that will be staffed two days a week by their Scottsbluff Campus personnel for advising and recruiting purposes. There will be no need for classroom space. Dr. Ely reported the Interactive Television site at the Scottsbluff Campus and the Mid-Plains Campus will remain operational for service to Education Program students who use the Interactive Television system.

Dr. Ely reported that Mr. Groshans and Mr. Knapper are still attempting to locate available stimulus package funding, including the availability of "interest-free bonds via the Build American bonds." It is not known whether the College will
receive any funding or tax credits, but all possibilities are being explored.

Dr. Ely reported that she and Mr. Groshans met with Senator Ben Nelson's new regional representative, Ms. Jennifer Rogers. They discussed the College's value to the service region and also the special needs of the College.

Dr. Ely reported the Search Committee for the position of Foundation Director will be meeting soon to begin the process of reviewing applicants. She reported that Mr. Knapper will be meeting with the Foundation Investment Committee to review the investments and to identify the available scholarship dollars. The Investment Committee is planning to meet prior to the March Foundation Board of Directors meeting.

Dr. Ely reported the Search Committee for the position of Vice President of Educational Services met last week to review the applications. From a pool of 38 applicants the Committee identified four candidates to interview and three back-up candidates. The interview process will begin the week of March 23, 2009, and will span a two-week period. Dr. Ely commented whether is a sign of the times or the time of the year, the candidate pool of 38 individuals was significant.

Dr. Ely reported the College has had several outstanding events recently including the Music Department's "A Gala Evening", and the Theatre Department's production of "Tartuffe." The College also hosted the Region IX Tournament. On Saturday, April 11 2009, the University of Nebraska Volleyball Team will be playing Wichita State in Cougar Palace. The Health Fair will be held on Friday, March 20, 2009.

In response to a question from the Board, Dr. Ely reported that any requests for funding from the stimulus package are based on the priorities presented to the Board at the last meeting.

Dr. Wylie remarked that Ms. Winn and the Women's Softball Team are to be commended for the work that they have done on Volunteer Field. Volunteer Field is located behind Cleveland Field and shows what a dedicated group of young women can accomplish.
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) Second Quarter Meeting, May 4, 2009, Southeast Community College.
   b) 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 Leadership Congress to be held on October 7 through 10, 2009, in San Francisco, CA.

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. Ms. Wisniewski commented that she had recently received a phone call business from the Coordinating Commission unrelated to College business. During the phone conversation, Ms. Wisniewski indicated that the College was looking forward to hosting the August meeting of the Commission. The Commission staff member indicated that the Commission wants to meet in Scottsbluff; however, budget limitations may not allow for the additional travel expense.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next Regular meeting of the Western Community College Area Board of Governors will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2009, at 1:00 p.m., in the Boardroom, Western Nebraska community College, Scottsbluff Campus, 1601 East 27th Street, Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 2:55 p.m.

Jane Wisniewski, Chairperson

Coral E. Richards, Secretary
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION REPORTS

1) Consider the following application(s) pending before the City of Sidney Planning Commission:

a) The application of Sidney Public Schools/John Hakonson for Rezoning Request for Lot 1 and Lot 2, St. Patrick’s Church Subdivision, more commonly known as 2350 and 2351 Osage Street, from R-s (Single Family Residential) to C-3 (Heavy Commercial) Zone.

March 18, 2009
Student Organizations
Sidney Campus

Phil Theta Kappa

Phi Theta Kappa hosted a Coffee/Theatre Night on Sunday, Feb. 22nd along with Student Senate. Students were encouraged to attend the community play production by Way Out West Theatre, and free drinks were offered at The Coffee Corner afterwards. The first session of the four part PTK Honors Seminar Series took place on Feb. 26th. “Paradox of Affluence” was shown to the community and students. Coming up in March will be the new member induction ceremony.

Student Senate

Student Senate donated juice and cookies to the Blood Drive on Wednesday, Feb. 4th and helped PTK with the Coffee/Theatre event on Sunday, Feb. 22nd. The group will be providing labor by planting trees for Earth Day/Arbor Day activities coming up in April. Plans are being made for the End of the Year Party; the group will be teaming up with the Voc-Air-Flying Club.

Cosmetology Club

Cosmetology Club attended the Student Organization Night at the basketball games in Scottsbluff on Saturday, Feb. 21st. At the game they had a face painting booth and sold raffle tickets for a St. Patrick’s Day “Split the Pot” fundraiser. A Valentine’s Day raffle was also held this month with winners receiving free hair products. Lunch for the Student Organization meeting was provided by the club on Wednesday, February 25th.

Voc-Air Flying Club

The Voc-Air Flying Club has been busy planning their Fall Fundraiser. The students are teaming up with Student Senate to incorporate the fundraiser with the End of the Year Party by having a community BBQ and a “Hangar Party” at the airport that evening on April 24th. Fundraising continues to be a top priority as they are in the works of purchasing a larger, updated airplane. The field trip to Lincoln and Omaha is planned for April 8th and 9th. They will be touring the Air Guard, the SAC Air Museum, Eply Airfield and Duncan Aviation.

Blood Drive

On Wednesday, Feb. 4th, WNCC at Sidney hosted a successful Blood Drive for United Blood Services from Cheyenne. Our goal was met in donations; a big THANKS to all the HEROES!

A special thanks to those who donated TIME to help sign in donors and to the Student Senate for providing juice and cookies.

Trio Y.E.S.

Leadership Conference

Three students from Sidney participated in the TRIO Y.E.S. Leadership Conference in Kearney on Feb. 20th and 21st. Teresa Johnson, Charlene Kepler, and J’son Jeppson reported enjoying the conference and recommend attending to other students in the future. The event was a great opportunity for our students to learn more about leadership and to bring back these skills to our campus. Congratulations to J’son Jeppson for winning an iPod at the Conference drawing!
SCOTTSBLUFF CAMPUS FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE REPORT TO THE WCCA BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR MARCH 2009

Shawn Benton, Business Instructor from the Alliance campus, has been asked to serve on the Executive Committee of the Alliance Chamber of Commerce. In addition, he will sit on both the Economic Development and Planning and Zoning Committees for the City of Alliance. This gives WNCC excellent representation within the community.

Nathaniel Johnson, Instrumental Music Instructor, has been named the Reserve-Component Junior NCO (Non-Commissioned-Officer) of the year for all US Army Bands worldwide. There will be an award ceremony at the Navy School of Music in Little Creek, VA in late April.

Aldo Hall, Electronics Instructor, has completed and passed the Resistance, Inductance, Capacitance (RLC) Circuit Design test. This means that he is now certified in series and parallel RLC electronic circuit analysis. WNCC Information Technology students are using classroom ATB 301 to learn how to install and use Sun Microsystem’s OpenOffice 3.0. This is a free software package which is compatible with Microsoft Office and includes word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, graphics, database, and math equation editor. The WNCC Wireless LAN class has designed and built a WLAN antenna system for a laptop. A laptop located in the Williams building can video conference with a laptop in the HATC even though the laptops are over eight hundred feet apart.

Hallie Feil, Psychology and Anthropology Instructor, and Yvonne Schlaman, Sidney Campus Science Instructor, are both recipients of the 2009 NISOD Excellence Award and will receive their awards at the annual NISOD conference in Austin, Texas in May.

Paul Bowdre, Criminal Justice Program Coordinator, attended the New Mexico Higher Education and Retention Conference in Albuquerque February 26 and 27. His presentation on the 27th was titled: One Community College’s Experience: Criminal Justice program Assessment and the Academy of Criminal Justice Science’s Quality Standards. Paul has also completed the course “The Community College” from California State University-Dominguez Hills in February. It is the first course in a three course sequence which leads to a Graduate Certificate in Community College Teaching.

Linda Mattern Ritts, Early Childhood Education Program Coordinator, reports that Brandee Lengel, TEACH Scholarship Coordinator for the state of Nebraska, will travel to child care sites in our service area to promote awareness of these scholarships. The scholarships pay for education for early childhood care providers. Linda also conducted the first Director’s Group meeting March 5 in the Cougar Den at noon. A dozen directors and workers from local childcare facilities attended. This will become a monthly meeting to promote childcare education, training, and advocacy. Linda continues to collaborate with Dr. Kim Madsen, Chadron State College Early Childhood Educator to facilitate transfer for our students and to promote quality child care provision throughout the panhandle.