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, November 18, 2009
      d) Claims (Enclosed)
         1) WCCA Unrestricted Fund - $1,746,315.14
         2) WCCA Restricted Fund - $3,812.27
         3) WCCA Federal Fund - $1,653.33
         4) WCCA Agency Fund - $19,757.41
         5) WCCA Loan Fund - $0-
         6) WCCA Plant Fund - $27,940.25
         7) WCCA Auxiliary Fund - $64,022.16
      e) City Planning Commission
      f) Authorization for Board Member Travel
         1) ACCT 2010 Community College National Legislative Summit
            a) Miller, Ostrander, Perkins

REGULAR MEETING

December 16, 2009

12:00 NOON – 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

(Pages 1 – 11)
(Pages 12 – 16)
(Pages 17 – 18)
(Pages 18 – 21)
(Attachment)
E. Consent Calendar – Cont

1) Review Contents of Consent Calendar – Cont
   g) 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

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):
      1) Mr. John D. Corum, Associate Dean Northern Panhandle
      2) Ms. Kathy A. Ault, Assistant to the Vice President of Human Resources

2) Approval of Personnel Consent Calendar

3) Consideration of Items Extracted from Personnel Consent Calendar

H. Western Community College Area Board of Governors – Ms. Wisniewski

1) 2010 Election – WCCA Board Members

2) Informal Meeting
   a) Work Session – Strategic Planning
      1) Date and Time - ???
I. Monitoring Reports

1) Flag Presentation – Ms. Schneider  

2) Special Legislative Session – Dr. Ely, Mr. Knapper
   a) 2009 – 2010 State-Aid Reduction

3) Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education – Dr. Ely, Mr. Knapper
   a) LB 340 – Community College Cost Study

4) Higher Learning Commission – Mr. Alkire
   a) Accreditation Visit Update
      1) February 7-10, 2010
   b) 2010 Self-Study Report

5) Nebraska Community College Association – Dr. Gramberg, Dr. Perkins

6) Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission – Mr. Miller

7) Association of Community College Trustees – Dr. Perkins

J. Executive Session

1) Litigation – Re: Metro Lawsuit

K. Resolution – Re: Indemnity – Dr. Ely, Mr. Knapper

L. Board Member Comments

M. President’s Comments
N. Upcoming Meetings

1) Association of Community College Trustees

   a) 2010 National Legislative Summit
      1) February 8 – 10, 2010
      2) Marriott Wardman Park Hotel
      3) Washington, D.C.
   b) 2010 Annual Leadership Congress
      1) October 20 – 23, 2010
      2) Toronto, Canada

2) Nebraska Community College Association

   a) Regular Meetings
      1) First Quarter Meeting
         A) February 22, 2010
         B) Southeast Community College – Lincoln Campus
      2) Second Quarter Meeting
         A) May 24, 2010
         B) Northeast Community College
      3) Third Quarter Meeting
         A) August 9, 2010
         B) Southeast Community College – Beatrice Campus
      4) Annual Meeting/Legislative Seminar
         A) October 5 and 6, 2010
         B) Host: Western Community College Area

O. Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, January 20, 2010, 1:00 p.m., Boardroom, Western Nebraska Community College, Scottsbluff Campus, 1601 East 27th Street, Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

P. 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 1:04 p.m., on Wednesday,
December 16, 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, December 12, 2009,
with the following members present: Jacqueline M.
Cervantes-Guzman, Timothy H. Daniels, Merlyn L.
Gramberg, L. Paul Leseberg, Jack L. Nelson, Jecca R.
Ostrander, M. Thomas Perkins, Dennis W. Miller, Jr. Absent:
Darrell E. Roberts, Richard G. Stickney, Jane Wisniewski,
Chairperson. Student Representative present: None. Fa-
culty Representatives present: Guy Wylie, Scottsbluff Cam-
pus; Mike Hausmann, Sidney Center. College staff present:
Eileen E. Ely, William D. Knapper, Coral E. Richards, Terry B.
Gaalswyk, David E. Groshans, Todd R. Holcomb, Garry R.
Alkire, Melinda L. Burbach, Valetta L. Schneider, Doyle R.
Wallien. 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
Mr. Miller declared a quorum was present for the transac-
tion of business.

VISITORS
Visitors were: Rick Myers, Scottsbluff; John D. Corum, Austin,
TX.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS
Mr. Miller asked for comments from the community. There
were none.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON
Mr. Miller announced that for public information there is a
COMMENTS
copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act available on the
table at the back of the room.

Mr. Miller reported Mr. Roberts notified the Secretary that he
would be unable to attend the meeting today because of
Personal Business. Mr. Miller reported Mr. Stickney notified
the Secretary he would be unable to attend the meeting
today because of Personal Health. Ms. Wisniewski has also
notified the Secretary that she would be unable to attend
the meeting today because of Personal Health.
Mr. Miller reminded Board members to return their completed Biographical Information to Ms. Richards.

Mr. Miller reviewed the contents of the Consent Calendar which include the following items:

1) Agenda, December 16, 2009
2) Excuse Absent Board Member(s) – Roberts, Stickney, Wisniewski.
3) Minutes
   a) Regular Meeting, November 18, 2009
4) Claims
   a) WCCA Unrestricted Fund - $1,746,315.14
   b) WCCA Restricted Fund - $3,812.27
   c) WCCA Federal Fund - $1,653.33
   d) WCCA Agency Fund - $19,757.41
   e) WCCA Loan Fund - $0-
   f) WCCA Plant Fund - $27,940.25
   g) WCCA Auxiliary Fund - $64,022.16
5) City Planning Commission – Attachment A
6) Authorization for Board Member Travel
   a) ACCT 2010 Community College National Legislative Summit
      1) Miller, Ostrander, Perkins
7) Reports and Proposals
   1) From the Students – Attachment B
   2) From the Faculty – Attachment C – C-1
   3) From the Administration
   4) From the Board

Mr. Miller 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 declared a Conflict of Interest and will abstain from voting on the Consent Calendar.

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

There were no items extracted from the Consent Calendar.

There were no items on the Bid Consent Calendar.

Mr. Miller reviewed the contents of the Personnel Consent Calendar which include the following resignation(s) and appointment(s):

1) Resignation(s): None
2) Appointment(s):
   a) Mr. John D. Corum, Associate Dean Northern Panhandle, effective January 25, 2010, through June 30, 2010, salary to be prorated from an annual salary of $67,500.
   b) Ms. Kathy A. Ault, Assistant to the Vice President of Human Resources, effective January 4, 2010, through June 30, 2010, salary to be prorated from an annual salary of $42,000.

Mr. Miller 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.

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

There were no items extracted from the Personnel Consent Calendar.

Mr. Miller referred Board members to the mailed packet which includes information concerning the 2010 election. Board members whose term will expire in December 2010 are: District One – Merlyn L. Gramberg; District Two – Jack L. Nelson, District Three – L. Paul Leseberg; District Four – Darrell E. Roberts; and District Five – Jacqueline M. Cervantes-Guzman. Mr. Miller encouraged Board members to file for re-election to the Board of Governors.

Mr. Miller reminded Board members of the filing deadlines. The deadline for an incumbent (of any office) is 5:00 p.m., February 16, 2010, and for all others is March 1, 2010. Mr. Miller commented because February 15, 2010 is a legal holiday, the deadline for an incumbent filing is one day later, February 16, 2010. Mr. Miller reminded Board members that
filings must be received by the Secretary of State’s office by the designated deadline. There is no filing fee for the Board of Governors candidates. Filing forms may be obtained from the County Clerk’s office or from the Board Secretary. The Primary Election will be held on May 11, 2010, and the General Election will be held on November 2, 2010.

Mr. Miller remarked that during the two recent Informal meetings, the Board received a large amount of information from the Marketing Assessment Survey completed by Dr. Kathi Swanson of CLARUS Corporation, and from the Review/Analysis of Institutional Statistics conducted by Mr. Dennis Jones of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems. Mr. Miller reported a suggestion has been made for the Board to hold an Informal meeting for the purpose of a Work Session for Strategic Planning, using the data/information presented as a basis for discussion.

Mr. Miller reported Ms. Wisniewski has suggested such a meeting be held in March 2010. She also indicated she was planning to contact the Association of Community College Trustees about a possible facilitator.

Board members discussed possible dates, and agreed there is a sense of enthusiasm, interest and motivation among Board members that be may be lost if the meeting is not held sooner than in March. The Board discussed the possibility of holding the Informal meeting during the morning of the Regular January meeting. It was suggested because of the amount of information presented, the Board should devote a full day to the Informal meeting or possibly a late afternoon and evening meeting after the Regular Board meeting concluding the Informal meeting the following morning. Board members also discussed and recommended that Mr. Dennis Jones be contacted about his availability during the month of January to serve as a facilitator for the Informal meeting.

Mr. Miller reminded Board members of Dr. Swanson’s request that each Board member submit Five Strategic Issues to Ms. Richards as a basis for discussion.

Mr. Miller suggested action on the date and facilitator for the Informal meeting be taken later in the meeting. In the meantime, Mr. Groshans will attempt to contact Mr. Jones concerning his availability. Board members agreed to this suggestion.
Ms. Schneider, Library Director, reported the Scottsbluff Campus Library has received a flag which was flown over Headquarters at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Forces at this base support the Coalition Forces in Iraq. The flag was sent to the Library by Monica Ewing Olson, who had been a student aid from the Fall 1987 Semester through the Spring 1989 Semester.

Ms. Schneider reported Ms. Olson worked for the College Library two years before transferring to Chadron State College where she completed her bachelor’s degree. Ms. Olson then joined the armed services because of educational loans that were coming due and later she decided to make it a lifetime career. Ms. Olson has served two separate terms in Iraq where she worked as an executive secretary to a general. Ms. Olson often sings the National Anthem for programs or exercises on Base.

Ms. Schneider reported Ms. Olson came by the College Library earlier this fall while she and her family were visiting family and friends in the community. Ms. Schneider commented the Library staff was both delighted and surprised that Ms. Olson had remembered the Library with a special flag; however, Ms. Olson was a student aid the Library staff remembered because of her beautiful smile, attention to detail and excellent customer service. Ms. Schneider reported she has sent a thank you to Ms. Olson.

Ms. Schneider presented the flag to Mr. Miller and Dr. Ely, who thanked Ms. Olson for remembering the College Library and Ms. Schneider for the presentation. Dr. Ely remarked the flag will be appropriately displayed in the College Library.

Dr. Ely reported the 101st Legislature convened for the first Special Session on November 4, 2009, and adjourned on November 20, 2009. She reported the Legislature approved and the Governor signed five bills intended to balance the biennium budget in light of declining revenues. The projected shortfall in the state's two-year budget is $334 million. Dr. Ely reported higher education will receive a 1.8 percent reduction in the first year (2009-2010) and a 3.4 percent reduction in the second year of the biennium (2010 - 2011). Dr. Ely asked Mr. Knapper to describe how the reduction in state-aid will affect the Western Area.

Mr. Knapper referred Board members to the handout materials which contains an internal working document he
prepared. The document shows the certified state-aid each community college would receive for Fiscal Year 2010 prior to the Special Legislative Session. The document also shows the percentage of the total appropriation ($88,575,472) each college receives. As is reflected in the approved 2009-2010 Western Area Budget, revenue from state-aid is $12,020,085 which represents 13.5704 percent of the total state-aid appropriation.

Mr. Knapper reported the total 2009-2010 state-aid appropriation was reduced $1,609,217 (an actual 1.82 percent) as a result of the Special Legislative Session. Mr. Knapper reported using the total reduced appropriation ($86,966,256) and current funding formula calculations, the Western Area will receive $81,520 less revenue from state-aid. Mr. Knapper reported when he contacted the Department of Revenue to confirm the amount of the College’s reduced payment, he learned that the Department of Revenue had determined that each community college should share equally in the reduction by using the percentage of the original total appropriation (Western 13.5704) to calculate each community college’s 2009-2010 state-aid revenue. Using this method would result in a $218,378 reduction in state-aid revenue for the Western Area. Upon learning of this decision, Mr. Knapper contacted Dr. Ely and Mr. Douglas, and Senator Harms was also advised of the Department of Revenue’s decision to use a percentage to calculate the reduction.

Mr. Knapper reported on Friday, December 18, 2009, he was advised that the Department of Revenue would follow state statute to distribute the reduced appropriation. Mr. Knapper commented since there are some state officials who believe the community colleges should share equally in the reduction, they have agreed to allow the reduction to be distributed through the formula until the last two payments. There is a possibility legislation will be introduced in the upcoming Legislative Session which could change everyone’s share.

Mr. Knapper reported for Fiscal Year 2011 using the original biennium appropriation and the current formula, the Western Area was projected to receive $13,456,864 in state-aid. Using the deficit appropriation of $86,578,025 and the current formula, the Western Area state-aid is projected to be $13,265,363. Using the calculation determined by the Department of Revenue, the Western Area’s projected state-aid would be reduced to $11,773,449.
Mr. Knapper commented a third suggested method of calculating Fiscal Year 2011 state aid for each college is to multiply each college’s original projected state aid (Western - $13,456,864) by .034. Using this method, the Western Area would be projected to receive $12,999,330.

In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Knapper reported that the Central Area assessed valuation has increased dramatically. He commented the current formula should be allowed to work as intended. The current equalization formula reflects each community college area’s situation taking into account assessed valuation, enrollment, and Reimbursable Education Units for purposes of calculating state aid.

Dr. Ely commented consistency is important. For the sake of all institutions, it is important to be consistent.

Dr. Ely reported on December 4, 2009, the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education issued a draft copy of the Community College Cost Study which was mandated by LB 340. Dr. Ely reported because of scheduling conflicts, the Council of Chief Executive Officers was unable to meet until Friday, December 11, 2009. The purpose of the meeting was to review and make comment on the findings and recommendations resulting from the LB 340 Community College Study prior to final approval of the report by the Coordinating Commission. Unfortunately, the Cost Study was approved by the Coordinating Commission during a meeting held on December 10, 2009, which allowed no opportunity for a community college system response prior to submission to the Legislature’s Education Committee. She reported December 15, 2009, was the deadline for the Coordinating Commission to submit the LB 340 Community College Study to the Education Committee of the Legislature.

Dr. Ely reported that rather than drafting a response to the cost study, the Council of Chief Executive Officers discussed a legislative agenda for presentation to the Board of Directors of the Nebraska Community College Association at a special meeting on January 25, 2010. The Council of Chief Executive Officers also discussed the fact the current formula is working as it was intended to do, and the Council supported the current formula. The Council also commended the late Senator Raikes for his hard work to develop the formula.
Dr. Ely asked Mr. Knapper to present the Coordinating Commission’s findings and the recommendations included in the LB 340 Community College Study.

Mr. Knapper reported the LB 340 Community College Study is an 86 page document. There is also a 12 page Executive Summary of the report.

Mr. Knapper reported the Coordinating Commission considered Nebraska’s Role and Mission statutes to be remarkably clear. The Commission agrees with the statutory priorities of Applied Technology and Occupational Education, Transfer Education and Adult/Continuing Education. The report noted evolving trends of Dual Enrollment/Credit, P-16 Education, and Foundations Education. The summary and recommendations regarding role and mission findings are: 1) The Commission finds Role and Mission Statutes are within national practice, but review is warranted to reflect evolving trends. Mr. Knapper remarked most statutes are 16 years old. 2) The Commission recommends statutory revisions to encourage cooperation with K-12 schools, appropriate Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit with low income focus, and encourage a best practices approach to remedial and foundations education with transparent reporting outcomes. 3) A new direction/role for the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. The verbatim recommendation is: “The Coordinating Commission recommends that appropriate measurements be developed of the colleges’ effectiveness in addressing their role and mission assignments. Particular attention should be given to metrics that directly relate to student success. One way to do that would be to direct the Coordinating Commission, working with the colleges, to create, adopt and report such measurements to the Legislature in the Commission’s 2011 Higher Education Progress Report and annually thereafter.”

Mr. Knapper reported the Coordinating Commission observed that Nebraska community colleges are coordinated by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education through a private association (the Nebraska Community College Association), and that nationally this is a unique arrangement for coordination. The Commission offers that this arrangement focuses on institutional interests, not statewide interests. Private associations typically focus on advocacy/lobbying. The Commission finds the Nebraska Community College Association incomplete and “less than fully effective.” The Commission further finds no evidence private associations can provide effective state
cooperation. The summary and recommendations regarding coordination are: 1) The Coordinating Commission for Post-secondary Education retain existing duties and responsibilities. 2) The following three responsibilities be assigned to a state-level entity: a) Legislatively-intended allocation of state-aid to include clarification of terms and processes, and dispute resolution and enforce data accuracy; b) Effective remedial and foundations education; c) Appropriate measurement of community college performance and student success. 3) The Nebraska Community College Association or successor organization promote cooperation, have voluntary membership, and complete other useful tasks.

Mr. Knapper reported the findings on course weighting are: 1) The current course weightings cannot be substantiated. 2) The current course weightings are not supported by actual costs. 3) The current course weightings are assigned by the Nebraska Community College Association. And 4) the current course weightings are inconsistent with statutory intent or the Association’s own weighting rules. The Coordinating Commission is recommending that weighting be on CIP programs rather than courses. The Coordinating Commission has developed six bands of weight ranges: 1.00, 1.22, 1.48, 1.66, 1.90, and 2.18. The Coordinating Commission is further recommending quadrennial cost studies, and also proposes financial incentives for achieving certain policy goals.

The Coordinating Commission has suggested that one percent of the state-aid allocation be used to fund the responsibilities of a state-level agency. Mr. Douglas pointed out that placing the community colleges under the governance of a state-level agency would be in violation of the Duis Amendment which precludes using property tax for a state-wide purpose.

In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Douglas reported the Nebraska Community College Association is a private entity. The Coordinating Commission for Post-secondary Education is a state agency. In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Douglas replied because it is a private association more authority could be given to the Nebraska Community College Association.

Mr. Miller thanked Mr. Knapper for an informative report.
Mr. Alkire reported on December 4, 2009, a hard copy of the Self-Study written document was mailed to the Visitation Team members. Also mailed to the Team members was a hard copy of the last two financial audits, and a flash drive that contains an electronic copy of the Self-Study report with interactive, and self-contained resource room. Mr. Alkire reported electronic copies included in the resource room information include: financial audits; Student Handbook; College Catalogue; and Full-Time Equivalent Audits. Additionally, a pdf version of the Faculty and Staff Handbook was sent to the Team members by e-mail.

Mr. Alkire reported the notice for Public Invitation for Third-party Commentary was published in eighteen local papers. Documentation Commentary has been provided to the Higher Learning Commission governmental affairs representative.

Mr. Alkire reported he has been in contact with Dr. Sue Darby, Visitation Team Chair. He is sending her information about transportation to Scottsbluff including airline flights, rental car availability. The Visitation Team will arrive on Sunday, February 7, 2010. A tentative meeting time with the Board of Governors is Monday evening, February 8, 2010. The College can schedule meetings with community members at their convenience. Mr. Alkire reported Dr. Darby will be contacting Dr. Ely with additional plans for the on-site visitation.

Mr. Alkire reported arrangements for the on-site visit that are still in progress include: 1) Dr. Ely’s notification to employees about the dates of the visit and the expectation for attendance on campus as well as flexibility in scheduling for meetings or appointments. 2) Reservation of a block of rooms, including a suite with a workroom for the Team Chair. 3) Reservation of cars for team members’ use; and 4) Arrangements for one visit to one campus; the choice of which campus, either Sidney or Alliance, is for the College to decide. Dr. Darby has indicated that she will be the team member to conduct this visit. Dr. Ely commented she will encourage the Visitation Team to visit both campus sites. The Power Line Maintenance Program is a unique program offered at Alliance Campus. Likewise, Aviation and Cosmetology are distinctive programs offered at the Sidney Campus.
Mr. Alkire referred Board members to the handout materials which include a copy of the completed Western Nebraska Community College Self-Study Report - 2010 and the accompanying flash-drive.

Dr. Ely commended Mr. Alkire and Ms. Burbach for their hard work to complete a first-class document.

There was no report from the Nebraska Community College Association.

Mr. Miller reported the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission met on December 3, 2009. He reported the Commission discussed budget reduction strategies.

Mr. Miller reported a cooperative effort with Nebraska Game and Parks Commission is the development of a website known as "Project Beak." The website is an interactive, web-based curriculum about Nebraska birds. While the website is targeted for 5th through 8th students, it contains interesting and unique facts about Nebraska birds for anyone who is interested. Mr. Miller reported, in addition to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, other organizations working cooperatively on the website include the Nebraska Bird Partnership, the Nebraska Environmental Trust, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Mr. Miller reported there is an opportunity for community college students who are interested in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to apply for a National Community College Aerospace Scholars pilot program funded by NASA. The program is administered by NASA Johnson Space Center. Students must complete an online registration, and if accepted pay a one time non-refundable $30 registration fee. The accepted students will participate in an interactive, online learning experience by completing Web-based lessons during the school year and then travel to NASA for a three-day experience working with NASA engineers and scientists. Mr. Miller reported the benefits for the students include an all-expense paid trip to NASA for workshop, network with other community college students from across the nation and discover career opportunities at NASA.
Dr. Perkins reported Mr. Bob Feit, Southeast Community College Board Member, was recently appointed the Western Region Chair on the Association Board of Directors. Mr. Feit will be responsible for coordinating the efforts of the state representatives in ten states from North Dakota to Texas.

Dr. Perkins reported according to the Law E Alert, the Association is helping Representatives Larson and Hinjosa to increase the number of co-sponsors for the Community College Emergency Stabilization Fund Act. The purpose of the Act is to assist community colleges that may have a surge in enrollment and are unable to meet the increased demand. Dr. Perkins commented the problem increased enrollment creates is that it has a negative effect on faculty and staff in those colleges where shortages of personnel exists. The one time allocation of $700 million would provide funds for colleges to help them to retain and increase faculty.

Dr. Perkins reported both the Senate and the House have come to an agreement regarding a $450 billion appropriations bill that would include an increase in Pell grants to $5500 and also $125 million for the Career Pathways Innovation Fund, formerly known as the Community Based Job Training Grant Program.

Dr. Gramberg moved, pursuant to Section 84-1410 of the Reissue of the Revised Statutes of 2006, known as the Nebraska Public Meetings Law that the Board hold a closed session with Dr. Eileen E. Ely, Mr. William D. Knapper, Mr. David E. Groshans, Ms. Coral E. Richards and Mr. Richard A. Douglas, College Attorney, for the purpose of discussion of the following item(s): a) Litigation – Re: Metro Lawsuit. He further moved that this closed session is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual(s), and that strategy sessions with respect to litigation are specifically authorized by the Nebraska Public Meetings Law. Seconded by Dr. Perkins. The vote was, Yes: Gramberg, Leseberg, Nelson, Ostrander, Perkins, Cervantes-Guzman, Daniels, Miller. No: None. Absent: Roberts, Stickney Wisniewski. Motion carried.

Mr. Miller declared a ten minute recess at 2:11 p.m.

Mr. Miller declared the Open meeting in session at 2:23 p.m.
EXECUTIVE SESSION
Litigation – Re:
Metro Lawsuit

Mr. Miller stated the purpose of the Executive Session is discussion of litigation regarding the Metro Lawsuit.

The Board of Governors and those so named in the motion adjourned to an Executive Session at 2:23 p.m.

The Executive Session ended at 2:43 p.m.

OPEN MEETING

Mr. Miller declared the Open meeting in session at 2:43 p.m.

RESOLUTION
Re: Indemnity – Dr. Ely Mr. Knapper

Mr. Nelson moved the Board adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Western Community College Area is a political subdivision of the State of Nebraska, which operates Western Nebraska Community College through its Board of Governors, and

WHEREAS, the undersigned, so hereby move pursuant to Section 85-1510 R.R.S. 1943, that Western Community College Area will indemnify and hold harmless Dr. Eileen E. Ely and William D. Knapper against expenses, including attorney’s fees, judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement, actually and reasonably incurred by them, concerning pending civil litigation filed in the District court of Lancaster County, Nebraska, brought by Metropolitan Community College Area, docketed as Case No.

CI 09 0004553.

The Board finds that indemnification and holding said individuals harmless is proper and necessary under the circumstances, and that such persons acted in good faith and in the manner in which he or she was reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interest of Western Community College Area.

Seconded by Dr. Perkins. The vote was, Yes: Lesseberg, Nelson, Ostrander, Perkins, Cervantes-Guzman, Daniels, Gramberg, Miller. No: None. Absent: Roberts, Stickney, Wisniewski. Motion carried.

WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Informal Meeting
Work Session – Strategic Planning
Date and Time

Mr. Miller reported Mr. Groshans has spoken with Mr. Jones concerning his availability during the month of January. Mr. Jones would be available to come to Scottsbluff on January 7, 8, 21, 22, and 25, 2010. Board members discussed the dates and agreed January 21, 2010, would be the best date. Also discussed was the possibility of some informal discussion during an evening session on January 20, 2010. Ms. Cervantes-Guzman indicated she would be out of town on January 20 and 21, 2010, and would unable to attend the Regular January Board meeting as well as the Informal
meeting. It was agreed the Informal meeting on January 21, 2010, should begin at 8:30 a.m.

Dr. Perkins moved the Board hold an Informal meeting beginning at 8:30 a.m., on Thursday, January 21, 2010. He further moved the purpose of the meeting be a work session for Strategic Planning. Seconded by Dr. Gramberg. The vote was, Yes: Nelson, Ostrander, Perkins, Cervantes-Guzman, Daniels, Gramberg, Leseberg, Miller. No: None. Absent: Roberts, Stickney, Wisniewski. Motion carried.

Dr. Gramberg moved Mr. Dennis Jones, President of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, serve as the facilitator for the Strategic Planning work session. Seconded by Dr. Perkins. The vote was, Yes: Ostrander, Perkins, Cervantes-Guzman, Daniels, Gramberg, Leseberg, Nelson, Miller. No: None. Absent: Roberts, Stickney, Wisniewski. Motion carried.

Once again, Mr. Miller reminded Board members to submit “Five Strategic Issues” to Ms. Richards. The listing of issues will be forwarded to Mr. Jones, and will become the basis for discussion during the Informal meeting.

BoD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Daniels extended a Merry Christmas wish to everyone.

President’s Comments

Dr. Ely reported that she and Mr. Groshans had a very successful trip to Washington DC earlier in December to seek support for a Wind Energy Training Center. She reported they met with members of the Wind Energy Association, Senator Nelson, Senator Johanns, and Representative Smith. Dr. Ely reported they received very positive support for such a project, and she feels comfortable funds will be available to assist the College in development of a Wind Energy Training Center.

Dr. Ely reported the President of the Alliance Campus Student Council, Ms. Caroline Elizabeth Laakso, passed away on November 28, 2010. Dr. Ely asked that the Board members and College staff keep Ms. Laakso’s family in their thoughts. Dr. Ely attended the Memorial Service for Ms. Laakso on December 5, 2009.

Dr. Ely extended Happy Birthday wishes to Mr. Daniels.
Dr. Ely thanked Mr. Douglas for the meat and cheese tray.

Dr. Ely thanked the Board members for a wonderful year, and extended best wishes for a wonderful holiday season.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Mr. Miller called the Board members attention to the following upcoming meetings:

1) The Association of Community College Trustees 2010 National Legislative Summit to be held February 8 – 10, 2010, at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, D.C. Ms. Richards reported she has received confirmation of the Conference registration and room reservation for Mr. Miller, Ms. Ostrander, and Dr. Perkins.

2) The Association of Community College Trustees 2010 Annual Leadership Congress to be held October 20 – 23, 2010, in Toronto, Canada.

3) Nebraska Community College Association
   a) Regular Meetings
      1) First Quarter Meeting
         A) February 22, 2010
         B) Southeast Community College – Lincoln Campus
      2) Second Quarter Meeting
         A) May 24, 2010
         B) Northeast Community College
      3) Third Quarter Meeting
         A) August 9, 2010
         B) Southeast Community College – Beatrice Campus
      4) Annual Meeting/Legislative Seminar
         A) October 5 and 6, 2010
         B) Host: Western Community College Area

Mr. Miller also reminded Board members of the Informal meeting of the Board of Governors that will be held on Thursday, January 21, 2010.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next Regular meeting of the Western Community College Area Board of Governors will be held on Wednesday, January 20, 2010, at 1:00 p.m., in the Boardroom, Western
NEXT REGULAR MEETING
Cont

Nebraska Community College, Scottsbluff Campus, 1601 East 27th Street, Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 2:59 p.m.

Dennis W. Miller, Vice Chairperson

Coral E. Richards, Secretary
1) Consider the following application(s) pending before the City of Gering Planning Commission:

a) A public hearing on December 8, 2009, to determine whether the real estate described should be declared substandard and blighted, pursuant to the Nebraska Community Development Law: 1) Area #15a - Block 1, Barton Subdivision; 2) Area #15b - Treasurer's Tax Deed Instrument 2005-6186; a tract situated in the North Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 6, Township 21 North, Range 54 West of the 6th P.M., Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska; 3) Area #15c – Oregon Trail Park Addition, Block 1, Lots 1 and 2. Additionally, for Area #15b the Commission will consider a redevelopment agreement with the Developer.

b) A public hearing on December 14, 2009, to consider an amended redevelopment plan for the real estate described, pursuant to the Nebraska Community Development Law: Area #12 – Downtown Area Expanded – 10th Street and M Street.

c) The application of Scotts Bluff Housing Authority for preliminary/final plat of Lot 1, Block 1, Gering Valley Estates located in the Northwest Quarter of Section 12, Township 21 North, Range 55 West of the 6th P.M., Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska.
WNCC

Sidney Student Organizations

November 2009

Wax Hands

On November 17th, Sidney campus had a Wax Hand Event in Cosmetology's Dryer Room. Students from all areas of campus enjoyed creating their own unique hand molds. Pictured above, with a little nail polish embellishment, are a couple hand casts from Cosmetology students.

Voc Air Flying Club

Voc Air Flying Club is planning a float for the Winterfest Light Parade on Saturday, December 12th. Lighting the program's helicopter on a float is sure to impress the parade judges and is a unique way to promote WNCC Aviation! Pictured above are Girl Scout aviation guests at the Rocket Science program Saturday, November 7th. Free flights were given by the Young Eagles and the Girl Scouts enjoyed a variety of events.

Cosmetology

Cosmetology Club is having a raffle with prizes from Sidney businesses as a fundraiser for traveling to hair shows. Along with the raffle a Winter Semi-Formal Dance called "Shakin' It In The Snow" will take place on Friday, December 4th in room 115/116. Everyone over the age of 18 is invited to attend! Cosmetology students will be selling hot chocolate at Sidney's Winterfest activities on Saturday, December 12th. Pictured above are some Girl Scouts at the "Fancy Nancy" event on Friday, November 7th.

Phi Theta Kappa

Phi Theta Kappa has joined the Sidney Jaycees to organize the community event "Winterfest" on Saturday, December 12th. Events for the night are: light parade, hay ride, meeting Mr. and Mrs. Claus, crafts, and a Chili Cook Off! This will be a fun event for the college and community. All are welcome to come and help! Congratulations to newly elected PTK officers, President Brenda Garvin and Vice President Sam Dailey. PTK will have "Finals Treats" from Thursday, December 10th until Tuesday, December 15th.

Student Senate

Student Senate held a Thanksgiving Dinner on Monday, November 23rd. WNCC staff, students, faculty and guests enjoyed four turkeys, ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, and stuffing provided by the club. Thank you to everyone who brought the delicious side dishes and desserts! Pictured above are photographs from the Thanksgiving dinner. Student Senate decorated a room at the Sidney Commander Home for Christmas. A Holiday Decorating and Cookies event will take place at the main campus on Wednesday, December 2nd at 3:00.
SCOTTSBLUFF CAMPUS FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE REPORT TO
THE WCCA BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR DECEMBER 2009

Denee Janda, WNCC Speech Instructor, reports that WNCC hosted the Western Trails
Conference One-Act Play Competition in our theater on Tuesday, November 24. She, WNCC
Theater Instructor Pat Ennis, and Roger May of CSC were the judges for the competition. Seven
area schools were in attendance with over 200 high school students and 10 staff members. Both
Denee and Pat provided verbal critiques to each school to help them prepare for the upcoming
District competitions. The competition was organized by Carolyn Campbell fro Bayard High
School. Both Pat and Denee see the competition as an excellent recruiting tool. Having so many
talented and highly motivated high school students here at WNCC was a positive experience for
students, coaches, and judges.

Dr. Nathaniel Johnson, WNCC Instrumental Music Instructor, reports that the Fall Ball
performance drew an audience of one hundred and eighty-five to the Gering Civic Center on
Saturday, November 21. The two and one-half hour performance featured all three of WNCC’s
instrumental ensembles, the Monumental Rock Combo, the Fire in the Pan Swingers, and the
Western Nebraska Winds. The evening also included featured solos and ensemble performances
by students, faculty and community musicians. The event was well received, garnered many very
positive comments and will be repeated next fall.
Dr. Johnson also reports that the Fire in the Pan Swingers performed on Thursday December 3in
Sidney for the tenth anniversary party for the Security Gold Club, which is a social and travel
group that is part of Security First Bank.

Bill Spurgeon, WNCC Information Technology and Astronomy Instructor, reports that he
attended a meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee for the NASA Nebraska Space Grant
in Omaha on Friday, November 20. NASA had just completed a formal review of the
committee’s work for the past twenty years and it was favorable. For the present year, WNCC
has received some funding for Astronomy and IT fellowships/Internships and the telescope and
robot kits reported on earlier. In September the Nebraska office will be hosting the Western
Regional Space Grant Directors Meeting in Omaha. There are tentative plans for a two day
summer conference for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics students and
community college instructors at UNL. Bill reports that we have grant funds to support WNCC’s
participation in the conference.

Linda Mattern-Ritts, WNCC Early Childhood Education Instructor, reports that she and two of
her students made a presentation at the state Head Start conference in Grand Island. As a result,
she was invited to present at the national conference. Linda also had the chance to meet a variety
of people from Head Start centers throughout Nebraska and members of the staff of the Nebraska
Department of Education that she had not yet met.

Criminal Justice Instructor Paul Bowdre and 10 criminal justice students attended the Career
Opportunities and Professions Seminar (COPS) at Northeast Community College in October.
The seminar, sponsored by the Nebraska community college criminal justice programs, exposed
students to a variety of federal law enforcement careers and opportunities.
Criminal Justice Instructor Paul Bowdre and three criminal justice students attended the Recent Legislation and Cases in Criminal Law and Procedures conference at Chadron State College in October. The conference focused on new criminal laws that will have gone into effect in the state during 2009 and legal updates on search and seizure law.

Criminal Justice Instructor Paul Bowdre and Nursing Instructor Sue Reading-Martin took 10 criminal justice and nursing students to the Death Investigations for First Responders training workshop at Exempla Lutheran Medical Center in Wheat Ridge, CO in November. The students, all interested in areas of forensics applicable to their field of study, were exposed to a variety of issues first responders face when arriving at a death scene. After the lecture portion of the workshop the students participated in a 2 1/2 hour session working with a human cadaver.

Criminal Justice Instructor Paul Bowdre has completed a graduate Certificate in Community College Teaching offered by California State University, Dominguez Hills. The program required the completion of courses that focused on the community college and college teaching followed by a community college teaching internship. Dr. Guy Wylie served as Bowdre's internship mentor which allowed for Bowdre to benefit from Dr. Wylie’s past instructional experiences. Bowdre was also admitted into the Certificate in Higher Education Assessment Specialist graduate program at James Madison University (JMU) this fall. He completed the course, Public Policy Related to Assessment in Higher Education, this fall and will be enrolled in Foundations of Measurement and Assessment Design during the spring. Bowdre was approved by Northcentral University (NCU), where he is completing a Ph.D. in education with an emphasis on education technology and e-learning, to transfer the JMU courses into his Ph.D. program and will focus his research at NCU on assessment of distance learning programs.

Criminal Justice Instructor Paul Bowdre complete a book review for the American Correctional Association (ACA) which was recently published in the ACA publication, Correction’s Today. Bowdre just completed another book review for the ACA which is scheduled for publication in February 2010. Additionally, Bowdre and Robin Anderson, Psy. D., Associate Director of the Center for Assessment & Research Studies and Associate Professor of Graduate Psychology at James Madison University, recently had a manuscript accepted for publication by Assessment Update. The manuscript addresses the need for commonly accepted terminology on assessment that can minimize debates that often occur on college campuses when it 1) does not improve the practice of assessment (actually delays implementing assessment) and 2) makes higher education look less credible. The manuscript is scheduled to be published mid-2010.