

**Northeast**  
community college  
801 East Benjamin Avenue, P.O. Box 469  
Norfolk, Nebraska 68702-0469

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING**

Thursday, June 10, 2021

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

10:00-11:15 a.m.	Student Success Committee Meeting, CWC, 1108B
11:15-11:25 a.m.	Break
11:25-11:30 a.m.	Facilities Committee Meeting, CWC, 1108B
11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.	External Relations Committee Meeting, CWC, 1108B
12:45-1:30 p.m.	Lunch, CWC, 1108B
1:30-2:30 p.m.	Governance Committee Meeting, CWC, 1108B
2:30-2:50 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting, CWC, 1108B
2:50-3:00 p.m.	Break
3:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting, CWC, 1108B

The Board of Governors hereby reserves the right to go into executive/closed session pursuant to  
Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-1410 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

*PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE*

**AGENDA**  
(Regular Meeting)

**ACTION**

**A. ROLL CALL**

Chairperson

**Mission**

Northeast Community College is dedicated to the success of students and the region it serves.

B. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

Chairperson

- C. ADOPT AGENDA for June 10, 2021 Regular Meeting. Official Notice of the Regular Meeting is posted on the Northeast Community College website and was published in the *Norfolk Daily News* on Friday, June 4, 2021.

**MOTION**

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Info

Pursuant to Nebraska Statute Section 84-1412, the public is advised that a copy of today's agenda and all reproducible written material which will be discussed at today's meeting is located on the table at the back of the room and may also be accessed on the Northeast Community College website. Also available on that same table is a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act which is accessible to members of the public. Any member of the public wishing to address the Board of Governors may sign in and comment to the Board at this time.

- E. APPROVE MINUTES of the May 13, 2021 meetings as follows:

**MOTION**

1. Regular Meeting– (attached pgs. 4-9)
2. Student Success Committee Meeting – (attached pgs. 10-14)
3. External Relations Committee Meeting – (attached pgs. 15-17)
4. Facilities Committee Meeting – (attached pg. 18-19)
5. Governance Committee Meeting – (attached pg. 20-22)
6. Finance Committee Meeting– (attached pg. 23)

F. REPORTS – Dr. Leah Barrett

Info

1. President

G. NEBRASKA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION (NCCA) REPORT

Info

- Steve Anderson and Gene Willers, NCCA Board of Directors representatives

H. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Gene Willers, Chairperson

1. Consider the Monthly Financial Report for May 31, 2021 and claims paid in May 2021

**MOTION**

I. STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE

- Donovan Ellis, Chairperson

1. Approve the continuation of the Agriculture programs at Northeast Community College for submission to the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE) – (refer to committee materials)

**MOTION**

J. OTHER

Info

**Mission**

Northeast is dedicated to the success of students and the region it serves.

## K. ADJOURNMENT

## MOTION

***Please Note:*** *It is the intention of the Board of Governors to take up the items on the agenda in sequential order. However, the Board reserves the right to take up matters in a different order to accommodate the schedules of members or presenters or for other reasons.*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

#### **2021**

August 11 – Regular Board meeting – Lifelong Learning Center

September 9 – Regular Board meeting – Lifelong Learning Center

September 23 – Vet Tech ribbon cutting

October 19 – Regular Board Meeting – Lifelong Learning Center (Rescheduled due to Leadership Congress)

November 11 – Regular Board Meeting– Lifelong Learning Center

December 9 – Regular Board Meeting – Lifelong Learning Center

#### **Mission**

Northeast is dedicated to the success of students and the region it serves.



## NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA

### MINUTES of REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Prior to convening the meeting, Chairperson Steve Anderson led the assembly in pledging their allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

12804

Roll call was taken with a quorum present.

#### AREA BOARD

Steve Anderson, Chairperson .....	Present
Arlan Kuehn, Vice-Chairperson .....	Present
Julie Robinson, Secretary .....	Present
Del Ames .....	Present
Donovan Ellis .....	Present
Dr. Terry Nelson .....	Absent-Excused
Dirk Petersen .....	Present
Jeffrey Scherer .....	Present
Nicole Sedlacek .....	Present
Carol Sibbel .....	Present
Gene Willers .....	Present

#### OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Leah A. Barrett, President  
Paul Feilmeier, Vice President, Technology Services  
Scott Gray, Vice President, Administrative Services  
Amanda Nipp, Vice President, Student Services  
Dr. Tracy Kruse, Vice President, Development and External Affairs  
Dr. Michele Gill, Vice President, Educational Services  
Dr. Karen Severson, Interim Associate Vice President, Human Resources  
Jim Curry, Director of Public Relations  
Diane Reikofski, Executive Assistant to the President  
Dr. Michael Cooper, Instructor/Director of Veterinary Technician program  
Pauline Mphwiyo, Criminal Justice student  
Lauren Wagner, *Norfolk Daily News*  
Cody Ronnenfelt, WJAG

12805

Notice of the Regular Meeting is published on the Northeast Community College website and was published in the *Norfolk Daily News* on Friday, May 2, 2021. Chairperson Steve Anderson convened the Regular Meeting at 3:47 p.m. in Suites F & G of the Lifelong Learning Center.

12806

Jeff Scherer MOVED to adopt the Agenda of the May 13, 2021 Regular Meeting. Del Ames SECONDED the motion, noting updated dates in the announcement section of the Agenda.

**Voting Yes:** Ames, Anderson, Ellis, Kuehn, Petersen, Robinson, Scherer, Sedlacek, Sibbel and Willers

**Voting No:** None

**Absent:** Nelson

**MOTION CARRIED**

12807

Chairperson Anderson noted that a copy of the Open Meetings Law is posted on the table at the back of the room. No constituents were in attendance to address the board with a public comment.

12809

Donovan Ellis MOVED, and Julie Robinson SECONDED the motion to approve Minutes of the April 8, 2021 meetings as follows:

1. Regular Meeting
2. Student Success Committee Meeting
3. External Relations Committee Meeting
4. Finance Committee Meeting
5. Facilities Committee Meeting
6. Governance Committee Meeting

**Voting Yes:** Anderson, Ellis, Kuehn, Petersen, Robinson, Scherer, Sedlacek, and Willers

**Voting No:** None

**Abstain:** Ames and Sibbel

**Absent:** Nelson

**MOTION CARRIED**

12810

President Leah Barrett introduced Pauline Mphwiyo, a Northeast Community College student who has been named to the 2021 Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) All-Nebraska Academic Team. Erika Ramirez

has also been named to the PTK All-Nebraska Academic Team but was unable to attend today's meeting.

Typically, the PTK All-Nebraska Team is recognized annually in Lincoln. Due to the pandemic, the event was not held so Pauline was invited to today's board meeting to receive her medallion and certificate. Pauline will receive her associate degree from Northeast Community College next weekend and plans to transfer to Wayne State College, potentially to study pre-law, with a long-term goal of becoming a lawyer.

President Barrett provided the following report:

- Unveiled Northeast's strategic direction, *envision*. **Envision** what we can accomplish when we are all inspired, challenged, and working together.
  - Our Vision: Empower every person in our region to achieve their academic and workforce development goals.
  - Our Strategic Priorities:
    - Student Pathways to Success
    - Excellence and Innovation in Educational Programs
    - Rewarding and Inspirational Place to Work
    - Effective Resource Management
  - Our Values: Basic and fundamental beliefs which describe our motives behind purposeful action.
    - We Champion Student Success. Create an inclusive and welcoming environment that provides multiple pathways and services to meet all students where they are and help them meet their educational goals.
    - We Practice Continuous Improvement. Use data informed approaches to increase effectiveness, efficiency, and satisfaction through assessment of processes, program, and services.
    - We are Mindful Stewards of Resources. Focus on the efficient management of our funds, workforce, facilities, land, and technology.
    - We Build Partnerships and Collaborations. Leverage the skills and knowledge of our students, co-workers, and trusted partners to advance our mission.
    - We aspire to create an inclusive, diverse culture. Foster a culture where every person is heard, engaged, and feels valued. Communicate with transparency, assume positive intent, and be open to different perspectives, and ideas.
- Use of CARES Act/Covid Funds:
  - Northeast Community College will use student aid and most of its institutional allocation from the federal government to ensure that enrolled students have enough resources to attend during the next academic year. Several new financial aid resources are being made available to assist students, grant aid through the American Rescue Plan Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, the newly released College Access scholarship, Nebraska Career Scholarships and free summer tuition. The aid is on top of Pell Grants and other scholarships that students may have already received. More information may be found online at <https://northeast.edu/tuition-relief>.
  - Students who enroll in summer credit classes at Northeast Community College this year will be offered free tuition. Northeast wants to help its students who have been negatively affected by the pandemic and this is one way of helping them stay on track or assist new

students beginning their education. Free tuition is available to anyone who registers for credit classes at Northeast this summer. This includes high school students who want to get ahead, current students or students from other colleges who want to transfer credits.

12811

Steve Anderson, NCCA Board of Directors representative, reported that their quarterly meeting was held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> in Lincoln. He was unable to attend in person so participated via Zoom. The Board of Directors regretfully accepted the resignation of Greg Adams, NCCA Executive Director, effective December 31, 2021. Mr. Anderson stated that Mr. Adams' knowledge of how the legislature works has been valuable; he has been a tremendous ally of the community college system. The search process will begin soon to fill the position.

The NCCA Annual meeting will be held October 3-4, 2021 in Scottsbluff. The next quarterly Board of Directors meeting will be held in August at which time the NCCA budget will officially be approved.

Steve Anderson and Gene Willers serve as Northeast's NCCA representatives. Any Northeast board member interested in participating in the NCCA Board of Directors should reach out to Steve or Gene.

12812

Dirk Petersen MOVED to approve the continuation of the Horticulture and Golf Course Management program at Northeast Community College for submission to the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. Gene Willers SECONDED the motion.

**Voting Yes:** Ellis, Kuehn, Petersen, Robinson, Scherer, Sedlacek, Sibbel, Willers, Anderson, and Ames

**Voting No:** None

**Absent:** Nelson

**MOTION CARRIED**

12813

Donovan Ellis, Chairperson of the Student Success Committee, MOVED to approve the continuation of the Veterinary Technology program at Northeast Community College for submission to the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. Del Ames SECONDED the motion.

**Voting Yes:** Kuehn, Petersen, Robinson, Scherer, Sedlacek, Sibbel, Willers, Anderson, Ames, and Ellis

**Voting No:** None

**Absent:** Nelson

**MOTION CARRIED**

7

8

**NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE**

Thursday, May 13, 2021

**STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE**

Donovan Ellis, Chairperson	PRESENT
Arlan Kuehn	PRESENT @ 10:16 a.m.
Terry Nelson	ABSENT
Nicole Sedlacek	PRESENT
Steve Anderson, ex-officio	ABSENT

**STAFF**

Dr. Leah Barrett	Josh Schlote
Scott Gray	Dr. Karen Weidner
Paul Feilmeier	Heather Claussen
Amanda Nipp	Sarah Fuerhoff
Dr. Michele Gill	Tara Smydra
Dr. Karen Severson	
Dr. Tracy Kruse	
Jim Curry	
Diane Reikofski	
Corinne Morris	
Dr. Trentee Bush	
Dr. Michael Cooper	
Dr. Kassie Wessendorf	

**OTHER BOARD MEMBERS**

Del Ames	PRESENT
Dirk Petersen	PRESENT
Julie Robinson	PRESENT @ 9:37 a.m.
Jeff Scherer	PRESENT
Carol Sibbel	PRESENT
Gene Willers	PRESENT @ 10:09 a.m.

**MINUTES**

1. Donovan Ellis, Chairperson of the Student Success Committee, convened the meeting at 8:40 a.m. in Suites F & G of the Lifelong Learning Center.
2. Recommended approval of the Minutes of the April 8, 2021 meeting as distributed.
3. Amanda Nipp, Vice President of Student Services, advised that staff do not believe that 2020 enrollment numbers provide a true comparison due to the pandemic. 2021 enrollment comparisons shared this morning are compared to 2019. Summer and fall enrollments are down slightly compared to 2019. Based on applications received, staff are very optimistic about the new student enrollment and anticipate that enrollment numbers will be very similar to Fall 2019.

A review of tuition relief programs that are being offered in an effort to boost enrollment for next year was reviewed by Mrs. Nipp:

- Free summer tuition. Tuition will be paid but students are responsible for paying fees and purchasing books.
- Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). Fall tuition relief. If a student has an expected family contribution (EFC) of \$15,000 or less, the student will receive a grant of \$2,500.
- Debt forgiveness program. This opportunity is for degree-seeking students with past due balances from January 2020 or later.

**Mission**

Northeast Community College is dedicated to the success of students and the region it serves.

- College Access Scholarship. Mackenzie Scott's donation was placed in an endowed scholarship and the interest from the investment is used to provide this scholarship opportunity.
- Nebraska Career Scholarship. Funds made available by the State of Nebraska.

Concerns were voiced regarding the equity of the Debt Forgiveness Program and what it's teaching students. Inquiry was also made regarding the financial impact from offering the Program. Suggestions were provided to restructure the unpaid debt, even if it is a \$10 or \$15 monthly payment in an effort to recover the payment delinquency.

Amanda Nipp and Scott Gray reported that these are the questions that were asked while the Program was being developed. Due to the pandemic, this is a one-time opportunity to remove the financial barrier so that students can obtain their education. Students must successfully complete their first semester of classes to have the first half of their debt forgiven and successfully complete their second semester of classes to have the second half of their debt forgiven. Students will be required to pay tuition for their courses, prior to previous debt being forgiven. Mrs. Nipp also advised that students receiving financial aid are required to participate in a financial literacy course.

4. Northeast Community College's 2021 commencement ceremony will be held in multiple sessions on May 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Two board members will participate in each ceremony and will sit on stage. President Barrett and board members will not be shaking the hands of the graduates.

Following the commencement ceremonies, a reception will be held in Union 73. A hospitality room will be available in the Cox Activities Center for individuals who are participating in multiple ceremonies.

5. Vice President of Educational Services, Dr. Michele Gill, introduced Corinne Morris, Dean of Agriculture, Math, and Sciences and Dr. Tee Bush, Horticulture and Golf Course Management instructor. Dr. Gill reported that while the Horticulture and Golf Course Management program does not currently meet the threshold established by the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE) for Student Credit Hour (SCH) of 275 hours and number of degrees awarded in a five year time period, there are new initiatives and a new degree option that will help boost enrollment in the program.

Corinne Morris reported that when former instructor, Kurt Pytleski, retired in December 2020, Dr. Tee Bush was able to step in and assist with the program and make some exciting changes. Dr. Bush has been able to continue with the spring plant sales as well as the poinsettia sales in December, both of which remain popular.

Horticulture is built into and impacts everyone's lives, but it can be cyclical. Horticulture provides food products, aesthetic appeal, and diversified income for people in various industries. People build homes and require landscaping, people move and change landscaping, businesses require landscaping, etc. An Urban Agriculture option enhances the education for those looking for diversified income based on horticulture and value-added products. The option enhances the skills, food production, and income of those living in small, rural, or urban

settings. Northeast recently applied for a grant and found through the application process that we have strong community support. Northeast is working to have an Urban farm on campus within the next five years. This will allow for outdoor learning spaces and experiential learning that is not currently available and also allow for community and other higher education partnerships to grow.

For a while the program attracted students who were golf course minded. The program is about horticulture and turf and the curriculum has been revised so that it will attract students other than the typical 18-year-old and there are numerous careers in horticulture that are related to the changes made in the curriculum. Industry demand couldn't be supplied until the interest was identified.

Northeast's Horticulture and Golf Course Management program is one of very few remaining in the state. Northeast offers the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree with instruction in both horticulture and the turf care and has added a General Horticulture program. The one-year option provides a focus on horticulture and can be stacked toward a two-year AAS degree. An articulation agreement exists with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for a smooth transfer to a four-year institution.

Request was made for the data on the new programs that will bolster the program numbers. It was also suggested that landscaping should possibly be part of the program title.

Board members recognize the growing need for employees in all the varied and diverse areas of horticulture in Nebraska and beyond. A consensus was reached by the members of the Student Success Committee to recommend to the Board of Governors the continuation of the Horticulture and Golf Course Management program at Northeast Community College for submission to the Nebraska CCPE.

6. The Veterinary Technology program review was provided by Dr. Michael Cooper and Dr. Kassie Wessendorf.

Admittance into Northeast's Veterinary Technology program is based on a selective process to best utilize resources, meet accreditation guidelines, and ensure best practice while educating future technicians. The program has maintained high standards and incorporated state-of-the-art equipment into the curriculum and in Fall 2021, the program will be moving into the state-of-the-art facility. This will address facility deficiencies identified by program accreditation reviewers. Opportunities will exist in the new facility to expand the program which will require additional faculty in order to maintain compliance with accreditation standards. This future expansion would assist in meeting the workforce needs of a rapidly growing industry.

The program has a 93% pass rate on the Veterinary Technology National Exam. Northeast is one of two programs within the state of Nebraska. Currently there are no veterinary technology programs in the state of South Dakota. Northeast Community College's location allows it to serve a large portion of eastern South Dakota.

Dr. Cooper reported that as a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) exists between Northeast and three local shelters, Puppy Love, Animal Shelter of Northeast Nebraska, and Furbaby

Rescue, to take physical control of animals to provide services. Chickens will also be added to the curriculum. Faculty hope to provide increased large animal experiences for students and continue discussions with members of their advisory committee and industry to identify ways to foster student interest in the care of large animals.

The employment outlook for veterinary technicians is better than average. Currently, there are more job openings than graduates. Employers struggle to find qualified licensed veterinary technicians because the demand exceeds the supply.

A consensus was reached by the Student Success Committee that the Veterinary Technology program meets the needs in the 20-county service area and beyond and also exceeds the thresholds established by the Nebraska CCPE and will recommend to the Board of Governors to approve the continuation of the Veterinary Technology program at Northeast Community College.

7. The Health Information Management System (HIMS) program review was provided by Dr. Karen Weidner, Interim Dean of Health and Wellness; Heather Claussen, Director of Allied Health; and Sarah Fuerhoff, HIMS instructor. The HIMS program has hired an experienced full-time HIMS director who will begin employment in July 2021.

Initial CCPE approval of the HIMS program was received in Fall 2014 and full accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM) was received on May 24, 2018. The accreditation provides Northeast's students the ability to sit for the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) and the Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) exams and receive this industry credential.

HIMS professionals gather, analyze, and code patient data for reimbursement from insurance companies. Data supports the growth and needs for HIMS professionals locally, regionally, and nationally and Northeast can help to support health care needs of the service area by offering the HIMS program. HIMS professionals are required to maintain accuracy and completeness of patient data for research and analysis as well as for databases and registries. Medical and treatment history of patients must also be accurately maintained by the HIMS professional.

The HIMS program has a growing community relationship with area healthcare facilities including Faith Regional Health Services, Midtown Health Center, Antelope Memorial Hospital, Clarkson College, Davis & Kassmeier Chiropractor, Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health, Norfolk Veteran's Home, Norfolk Medical Group, Columbus Community Hospital, Providence Medical Center, and Franciscan Healthcare.

With healthcare facilities having Electronic Medical Records and Healthcare Informatics still being a huge area of focus, there is a large need for the Northeast's HIMS program graduates. The Bureau of Labor Statistics documents that jobs are expected to grow by 15% from 2014-2024 which is faster than average. This will create many opportunities in Northeast Nebraska.

Heather Claussen and Sarah Fuerhoff advised that discussion continues regarding curriculum revisions to provide opportunities for stackable credentials.

Dr. Michele Gill advised that the HIMS program falls below the CCPE thresholds, it is due, in part, that the program has not had a full-time director for the past two years which has impacted the ability to recruit students.

While the HIMS programs fall short of the established CCPE thresholds, committee members acknowledged that it is meeting a need in the 20-county service area as well as regionally and a plan is in place to increase enrollment and retain students. A consensus was reached by the Student Success Committee to recommend to the Board of Governors to approve the continuation of the HIMS program at Northeast Community College.

8. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

**NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Thursday, May 13, 2021

**EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Nicole Sedlacek, Chairperson	PRESENT
Arlan Kuehn	PRESENT
Julie Robinson	PRESENT
Gene Willers	PRESENT
Steve Anderson, ex-officio	ABSENT

**OTHER BOARD MEMBERS**

Del Ames	PRESENT
Donovan Ellis	PRESENT
Terry Nelson	ABSENT
Dirk Petersen	PRESENT
Jeff Scherer	PRESENT
Carol Sibbel	PRESENT

**STAFF**

Dr. Leah Barrett  
Scott Gray  
Paul Feilmeier  
Amanda Nipp  
Dr. Michele Gill  
Dr. Karen Severson  
Dr. Tracy Kruse  
Jim Curry  
Diane Reikofski

**MINUTES**

1. Nicole Sedlacek, Chairperson of the External Relations Committee, convened the meeting at 10:47 a.m. in Suites F & G of the Lifelong Learning Center.
2. Recommended approval of the Minutes of the April 10, 2021 meeting as distributed.
3. Dr. Tracy Kruse advised that an updated legislative bill grid is available for review in BoardPaq and reported that Northeast continues to track several bills that could have an effect on the institution. Discussion was held on the status of various bills at the state and federal level.
4. President Leah Barrett reported that during the May 3rd NCCA Board of Directors meeting, Greg Adams announced his retirement, effective December 31, 2021. A search committee has been appointment by the NCCA Executive Team and will be chaired by Steve Anderson. The committee will move forward with trying to recruit someone from Nebraska to fill the executive director position. They hope to announce Mr. Adams' replacement during the NCCA Annual Meeting in October.

During the May 3rd meeting the following update was provided regarding redistricting:

August 16th: Raw census data will be received from the Census Bureau.

November 15th: Deadline for county election officials to provide precinct maps to political subdivisions within their jurisdictions.

December 30th: Political subdivisions must provide their boundary lines to county election officials.

**Mission**

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January 15, 2022: Deadline for political subdivisions to certify their 2022 elections. Start of the 2022 candidate filing period.

Entities are being encouraged to use a compatible software for the redistricting process and Nebraska's community colleges are reviewing a list of vendors to contract with to verify their respective redistricting. All of the information will then be fed into one system at the Secretary of State's office.

Senator Flood led recent floor discussion on LB408 and community colleges were used as an example of a political subdivision that has abused tax payers the most with little to no positive comments being made about community colleges in the state of Nebraska. Some Omaha senators did talk about the work being done by Metro Community College. On May 17<sup>th</sup>, Nebraska's community college presidents, along with some community college board members will participate in a Zoom session with Senator Mike Flood to discuss community colleges and his view of community colleges.

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, Nebraska community colleges, Greg Adams, and Walt Radcliff will meet to strategize how to secure additional funds for dual enrollment.

Dr. Tracy Kruse, Vice President, Development and External Affairs, reported that LB 83, the bill amending the Open Meetings Act to allow for virtual meetings, was signed by the Governor.

LB 528 is the Education Committee technical bill. Technical bills are a long list of language changes to current statutes, which typically are not controversial. In LB 528 post-secondary institutions will be required to print a suicide hotline number on student identifications provided by the school. The bill also allows the tribal colleges to access GAP scholarship money. This bill has not yet passed.

5. The quarterly Foundation Board of Directors meeting was held on April 27<sup>th</sup>. When the MacKenzie Scott gift was received it was immediately deposited, doubling the size of the fund and requiring adjustments to be made to the investment policy.

The Northeast Foundation is currently accepting board member nominations.

6. President Leah Barrett reported that Senator Mike Flood sent a letter in late April to NPPD requesting that the electrical poles in front of Northeast Community College be removed at NPPD's expense.

On May 6<sup>th</sup>, President Barrett participated in Norfolk's annual Young Professionals Summit and presented information on diversity and inclusion.

Aksarben's Stakeholders' Meeting was held on May 7<sup>th</sup> in Omaha. President Barrett was on stage with UNL's President, Ted Carter, to talk about higher education initiatives in reducing the gap in higher education. She wanted participants to understand the high school and college gap of people of color versus white people. She spoke about the role in the Nebraska Math

Readiness project and making it more widespread. She also talked about dual enrollment and reported that 85% of students who participate in dual enrollment go to college, adult education and the role community colleges play, and the work Northeast is doing with Tyson on the Upwards to Citizenship opportunity.

The first college president's meeting between the universities, state colleges and community colleges to generate ideas was recently held with a subsequent meeting to occur in the next few months to talk about working together to address some of the issues discussed at the Aksarben Stakeholders' Meeting.

Dirk Petersen and Jeff Scherer are involved with the Four Lanes For Nebraska project and they are excited that the contract has been signed to complete Hwy. 275 between West Point and Scribner. Senator Mike Flood has been an advocate and he has been given a schedule for the remainder of Hwy. 275 to be completed by 2028. They hope to host the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in Norfolk to provide information regarding the project to the public.

7. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned 11:43 a.m.

**NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

Thursday, May 13, 2021

**FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

Jeff Scherer, Chairperson	PRESENT
Del Ames	PRESENT
Dirk Petersen	PRESENT
Carol Sibbel	PRESENT
Steve Anderson, ex-officio	PRESENT

**OTHER BOARD MEMBER**

Donovan Ellis	PRESENT
Arlan Kuehn	PRESENT
Terry Nelson	ABSENT
Julie Robinson	PRESENT
Nicole Sedlacek	PRESENT
Gene Willers	PRESENT

**STAFF**

Dr. Leah Barrett  
Paul Feilmeier  
Scott Gray  
Amanda Nipp  
Dr. Michele Gill  
Dr. Tracy Kruse  
Dr. Karen Severson  
Jim Curry  
Diane Reikofski

**MINUTES**

1. The meeting was convened at 1:20 p.m. by Jeff Scherer, Chairperson of the Facilities Committee in Suites F & G of the Lifelong Learning Center.
2. Recommended approval of the Minutes of the April 8, 2021 meeting as presented.
3. The construction progress report included the following:
  - Staff began moving into Union 73 on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. It will take a few weeks before all departments are operational in their new spaces. There are some punch list corrections to be made and those will be scheduled after graduation and should not interrupt operations.
  - Progress continues on the Farm Operations/Large Animal building and livestock pens. Site paving is underway along with fencing and extending water to livestock shelters. The anticipated completion date is July 2021.
  - Progress continues on the Veterinary Technology building which includes painting of interior walls and installation of ceiling grid and light fixtures. Site paving in underway along with site grading for sprinkler systems. There have been several delays with materials as well as crews being affected by the COVID pandemic. Kingery Construction is working hard with all the subcontractors to complete the project by July. The Vet Tech ribbon cutting event will occur on Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>.
4. In other business, Steve Anderson stated that for years, the Northeast Board of Governors has desired to create a college experience for Northeast's students. The completion of Union 73 is a continuation of that vision. On behalf of the Board of Governors, Mr. Anderson thanked Amanda Nipp and everyone else involved with providing today's tour of Union 73.

**Mission**

Northeast Community College is dedicated to the success of students and the region it serves.

Del Ames suggested that more tours of Union 73 should be provided to students and parents as another 'selling' point for Northeast.

5. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

DRAFT

**NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Thursday, May 13, 2021

**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Dirk Petersen, Chairperson	PRESENT
Terry Nelson	ABSENT
Julie Robinson	PRESENT
Jeff Scherer	PRESENT
Steve Anderson, ex-officio	PRESENT

**OTHER BOARD MEMBERS**

Del Ames	PRESENT
Donovan Ellis	PRESENT
Arlan Kuehn	PRESENT
Nicole Sedlacek	PRESENT
Carol Sibbel	PRESENT
Gene Willers	PRESENT

**STAFF**

Dr. Leah Barrett  
Scott Gray  
Paul Feilmeier  
Amanda Nipp  
Dr. Michele Gill  
Dr. Karen Severson  
Dr. Tracy Kruse  
Jim Curry  
Diane Reikofski

**MINUTES**

1. Dirk Petersen, Chairperson of the Governance Committee, convened the meeting at 1:26 p.m. in Suites F & G of the Lifelong Learning Center.
2. Recommended approval of the Minutes of the April 8, 2021 meeting as presented.
3. Mr. Petersen reported that the workgroup continues their work with Rose Mercier, The Governance Coach, related to the governance process policies. Half of the policies were reviewed during the April 28<sup>th</sup> Zoom meeting and the second half will be reviewed on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

A component of the governance process that the workgroup discussed was a change in the committees. A structure including a committee of the whole would encompass the existing external relations, student success, and facilities committees. Anything that doesn't fit into the committee structure would be discussed under the committee of the whole. This structure would help prepare the vice chairperson to assume the chairperson position the following year.

Del Ames advised that ad hoc committees could be used to dig deeper into a subject and then report back to the board. An ad hoc committee would not be an ongoing committee.

During discussion, the general consensus was that the existing Finance Committee should be continued.

**Mission**

Northeast Community College is dedicated to the success of students and the region it serves.

President Barrett reported that a policy governance environment would change our monthly meetings with an annual schedule of what is discussed, and policy related to statutory obligations.

Also discussed was the ownership linkage committee to ensure that the board is linking with the stakeholders; the connection that the elected officials have with the 20-county service area and assures that there is communication between board members and taxpayers.

Discussion was held regarding the monitoring reports that President Barrett and Scott Gray are working on with Rose Mercier. More information to come.

Steve Anderson reported that in his early years of serving as a member of the Northeast Board of Governors, only committee members attended their respective committee meeting. They soon realized that not all board members were as informed as others. Over the years, committee meeting attendance morphed into all board members attending all of the committee meetings so that they were fully aware of all information. Mr. Anderson stated that the Northeast Board of Governors currently has a good process in place and any changes that are made need to be for the positive.

Additional dialogue regarding the governance process will occur at future meetings.

4. At 2:25 p.m., Julie Robinson MOVED to enter into Closed Session for the purpose of review of the president's contract for 2021-2024 and to reconvene to the Governance Committee after business is discussed. Jeff Scherer SECONDED the motion.

**Voting Yes:** Petersen, Robinson, Scherer, Anderson

**Voting No:** None

**Absent:** Nelson

5. The Governance Committee was reconvened at 2:55 p.m. Mr. Petersen advised that he will address at the public meeting the president's contract for 2021-2024.
6. President Leah Barrett conveyed that the during the public board meeting, she will unveil the strategic direction document, *envision*. This coming summer, work will be done on the key performance indicators (KPIs). A two-day internal administrative assessment will also be conducted this summer to develop department goals that tie to the four goals in the strategic plan. Specifics will be shared with the college community during the fall in-service.
7. A consensus was reached by the Governance Committee to recommend to the Board of Governors to accept the SECOND READING and approve the deletion of BP-5820, Residence and Use of Service and Therapy Animals and Pets. This policy is covered by administrative procedure.
8. Mr. Petersen inquired as to why the board was not reviewing the second reading of BP-5113, Residency. Amanda Nipp conveyed that she learned that state statute exists that the College Board will have a policy that addresses in-state tuition. She is working with Scott Gray to determine if in-state tuition can be addressed by procedure or if it in fact needs to be a policy.

9. Brief discussion was held, and a consensus reached that the July 2021 meeting will be canceled. President Barrett announced that she needs to participate in the 2021 Federal Legislative Summit that is scheduled for August 12<sup>th</sup> which conflicts with the Board of Governors meeting. A consensus was reached that the August meeting will be rescheduled to **Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>**.
10. In other business, Steve Anderson reported that the candidate pool for the ACCT president and CEO position has been narrowed down to four candidates. Interviews will be conducted with the expectation that the candidate will assume the position in October 2021.
11. Also, in other business, President Leah Barrett advised that a nomination has been received for Debb Strate to receive Emeritus classification. Debb has worked at Northeast for 43 years. The Human Resources Office has confirmed her eligibility for this award. President Barrett advised that this status will be awarded to Debb during Friday's Employee Success and Retirement Celebration.
12. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

**NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Thursday, May 13, 2021

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Gene Willers, Chairperson	PRESENT
Del Ames	PRESENT
Donovan Ellis	PRESENT
Carol Sibbel	PRESENT
Steve Anderson, ex-officio	PRESENT

**OTHER BOARD MEMBERS**

Arlan Kuehn	PRESENT
Terry Nelson	ABSENT
Dirk Petersen	PRESENT
Julie Robinson	PRESENT
Jeff Scherer	PRESENT
Nicole Sedlacek	PRESENT

**STAFF**

Dr. Leah Barrett  
Scott Gray  
Paul Feilmeier  
Amanda Nipp  
Dr. Michele Gill  
Dr. Tracy Kruse  
Dr. Karen Severson  
Jim Curry  
Diane Reikofski

**MINUTES**

1. Gene Willers, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, convened the meeting at 3:17 p.m. in Suites F & G of the Lifelong Learning Center.
2. Recommended approval of the Minutes of the April 8, 2021 meeting as distributed.
3. Scott Gray briefly presented the Monthly Financial Report for April 30, 2021 and paid bills for the month of April 2021, explaining some of the larger purchases.

A consensus was reached by the Finance Committee members to recommend to the Board of Governors to approve the Monthly Financial Report for April 30, 2021 and paid bills for the month of April 2021.

4. Mr. Gray provided a breakdown of the funds that are included in the auxiliary budget. This information will be beneficial in assuring that board members remain knowledgeable of the college budgets.
5. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

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