



NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA

MINUTES of REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, January 14, 2021

12750

Roll call was taken with a quorum present.

AREA BOARD

Steve Anderson, Chairperson.....Present
Arlan Kuehn, Vice-Chairperson Present @ 3:25 p.m.
Julie Robinson, Secretary.....Present
Del Ames Present @ 3:12 p.m.
Donovan Ellis.....Present
Dr. Terry NelsonPresent
Dirk Petersen.....Present
Jeffrey SchererPresent
Nicole SedlacekPresent
Carol SibbelPresent
Gene WillersPresent

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. Karen Severson, Interim Associate Vice President, Human Resources
Jim Curry, Director of Public Relations
Diane Reikofski, Executive Assistant to the President
Lauren Wagner, *Norfolk Daily News*
Cody Ronnenfelt, WJAG

12751

Notice of the Regular Meeting is published on the Northeast Community College website and was published in the *Norfolk Daily News* on Friday, January 8, 2021. Chairperson Steve Anderson convened the Regular Meeting at 3:08 p.m.

12752

Donovan Ellis MOVED, and Jeff Scherer SECONDED the motion to adopt the Agenda of the January 14, 2021 Regular Meeting as distributed.

Voting Yes: Anderson, Ellis, Nelson, Petersen, Robinson, Scherer, Sedlacek, Sibbel, Willers

Voting No: None

Absent: Ames and Kuehn

MOTION CARRIED

12753

Due to the coronavirus and Pursuant to Governor Ricketts’ executive order No. 20-36, today’s meeting is being conducted via Zoom videoconferencing. Pursuant to Nebraska State 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’ meeting may be accessed on the Northeast Community College website.

No constituents were in attendance or were participating in the Zoom videoconference to address the board with a public comment.

12754

Chairperson Steve Anderson administered the Oath of Office to Northeast Community College Board of Governors members elected in November 2020 as follows:

- Donovan Ellis, District I
- Nicole Sedlacek, District II
- Gene Willers, District IV
- Dirk Petersen, District V
- Jeff Scherer, At-Large

12755

Carol Sibbel MOVED, and Del Ames SECONDED the motion to approve the following Board appointments for 2021:

- | | |
|--|---|
| College Architect: | Wilkins Architecture Design Planning, LLC |
| Primary Depository Bank: | First National Bank, Norfolk |
| Nebraska Community College | |
| Insurance Trust: | Vice President of Administrative Services |
| Facilities Corporation Board of Directors: | Dr. Robert Cox, Steve Schram, and Larry Poessnecker |
| Treasurer: | Vice President of Administrative Services |

Recording Secretary: Diane Reikofski

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

Voting No: None

Absent: Kuehn

MOTION CARRIED

12756

Julie Robinson MOVED, and Nicole Sedlacek SECONDED the motion to approve Minutes of the December 10, 2020 meetings as follows:

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

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

Voting No: None

Absent: Kuehn

MOTION CARRIED

12757

President Leah Barrett provided the following report:

- Tyson Foods has forwarded Northeast Community College's Upwards Pathways Round 1 Pilot for formal award approval by the company. The workforce education program at Tyson's fresh meats beef plant in Dakota City and coordinated by Northeast's Adult Education Department focuses on reducing the social impact of social challenges for its front-line team members by providing free and accessible classes in English as a Second Language (ESL), high school equivalency, U.S. citizenship and other essential life and workplace skills such as digital and financial literacy.
- Construction of new agriculture facilities at Northeast is currently on schedule, despite some COVID-19-related and material shortage delays. Overall, the project is still on target for completion for the fall 2021 semester. The project includes a new veterinary technology clinic and classroom, as well as a combined farm operations building and large animal handling facility, commodity storage, small livestock shelter, and a feedlot and lagoon on the Acklie Family College Farm.
- A farm cooperative that serves customers in a 30-county region of northeast Nebraska has pledged its support to the improvements in Northeast's ag facilities. Farmers Pride, headquartered in Battle Creek, has pledged \$50,000 to the Nexus project. According to Farmers Pride General Manager Dean Thernes, many of their employees and customers have

graduated from Northeast. He said, “Having young people trained in the technology and science needed to farm successfully is vital to the success of our co-op.”

- The Institutional Research and Analytics (IR/A) Department now has a dedicated website at www.northeast.edu/about-us/institutional-research. The site includes Fast Facts on enrollment and faculty/staff numbers as well a dashboard on enrollment and completion trends with comparisons to the other Nebraska community colleges. In addition, the most recent Graduate Report and COVID-19 dashboard research for northeast Nebraska, which is updated four times a week, are now on this page.
- Retirements – R.J. Bichlmeier, Electrical Construction and Control Instructor; John Blaylock, Executive Vice President; Kathleen Donnelly, Psychology/Sociology Instructor; Kurt Pytleski, Horticulture/Golf Course Management Instructor and Golf Coach; Wendell Rohde, Custodial Supervisor.
- Northeast’s wind energy instructors, John Liewer and Nate Simpson, were featured during a panel discussion hosted by the New Power Nebraska coalition that examined the growing role that renewable energy is playing in rural and urban development and growth opportunities in both the wind and solar energy industries. The virtual event also featured local and industry leaders and Congressman Don Bacon who discussed the growth of wind and solar in Nebraska and some of the policies and initiatives that will help renewables advance even further.
- Similar to many other events this year, Northeast Community College’s annual holiday concert was held in a virtual format. The College/Community Concert Band, Northeast Jazz Machine and Northeast Concert Choir took the stage in performances that were filmed on the Northeast campus in Norfolk. Northeast music instructors teamed with the College’s audio recording technology program to produce this year’s program.
- A Northeast Community College Media Arts-Broadcasting student is one of five college students in Nebraska to receive a scholarship from the Nebraska Broadcasters Association Foundation (NBAF). Leonard Schaecher, of O’Neill, was selected for an NBA Foundation Scholarship and has been awarded \$2,500 for demonstrating his significant interest in becoming a future broadcaster. He was the only two-year college student to be awarded the scholarship. The NBAF offers scholarships to assist students enrolled in radio and/or television broadcasting-journalism education programs at designated colleges, universities or community colleges in Nebraska.
- Northeast’s TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) program has named Jared Bessmer, of Osmond, as the TRIO Student of the Month for November. Once Bessmer completes his Associate Degree in Nursing from Northeast, he plans to earn a bachelor’s degree in the field. After nursing school, he has set his sights higher as he plans to come back to Northeast to earn a paramedic degree in order to achieve his goal of becoming a flight nurse. Each month, a participating TRIO student is selected for the award based upon their work in TRIO and in other activities on campus or in the community.
- A total of 97 individual student tours scheduled for the month of December, with 87 actual tours given. Ten tours were canceled due to COVID-19 and/or the weather. There are currently 70 visits scheduled for January and into February.
- Athletics will begin at Northeast Community College on January 20th. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced the athletic department to make some changes prior to the start of competition. To begin the season, the Iowa Community College Athletic Association (ICCAC) has announced that no spectators will be allowed at any indoor athletic event. Allowing spectators at outdoor events will be up to the host institution. ICCAC institutions will continue

to evaluate COVID-19 and may review allowing spectators in the future. Fans may watch all Northeast home and away contests by clicking on the ‘tv’ icon next to each game under the respective schedule tab for each team on the athletics website at www.northeasthawks.com.

- ICCAC has announced that 88 Northeast student-athletes earned Academic All-Region status. First Team performers have a grade point average of 3.5 or above while Second Team members have earned a GPA of 3.0-3.49. This is outstanding! The number represents 70% of Northeast’s student-athletes during a very challenging fall semester due to COVID-19 restrictions on our athletic teams and with changes to traditional course delivery methods.
- Author and philanthropist MacKenzie Scott donated \$15 million to Northeast Community College, making it the largest single donor contribution in the institution’s history. Scott said organizations, such as Northeast, have dedicated their lives to helping others serving “real people” face-to-face, day-after-day to alleviate suffering of those hardest hit by the effects of COVID-19. The donation is in alignment with the College’s efforts to create pathways for anyone in the 20-county service area to earn a certificate or degree. It will allow Northeast to more effectively engage with underrepresented students by providing scholarships and student success initiatives in perpetuity. Her donation will support the evolution Northeast Community College to serve a broader base of students.

12758

Steve Anderson and Gene Willers, NCCA Board of Directors representatives, reported that the NCCA Board of Directors will meet on January 22, 2020. During the meeting they will review bills of interest to Nebraska’s community college, take a position on each, and instruct Greg Adams how to lobby on their behalf. Gene Willers is unavailable to attend next week’s meeting, but Nicole Sedlacek, as Chairperson of the External Relations Committee, will participate on Gene’s behalf and will be able to vote.

12759

Scott Gray advised that discussion was held during the Finance Committee Meeting on updating and adding to reports that are reviewed by the Board of Governors. Regarding paid bills for the month of December, he pointed out a payment that is not typical in the report, payment to the City of Norfolk for a water line assessment and extension.

Arlan Kuehn MOVED, and Gene Willers SECONDED the motion to acknowledge and accept the Monthly Financial Report for December 31, 2020 and claims paid in December 2020 as follows:

General Funds.....	\$ 1,093,135.03
Auxiliary Funds	\$ 5,814,202.82
Grants and Contracts	\$ 994,692.78
Scholarships and Financial Aid	\$ 8,423.00
Student Loans	\$ 0.00
Student Clubs.....	\$ 2,039.25
Other Agencies	\$ 11,235.73
Capital Improvement	\$ 174,090.83
Restricted Plant.....	\$ 2,454,847.41
Debt Service	\$ 6,000.00

Payroll Fund	\$ 2,916,482.53
TOTAL CLAIMS PAID.....	\$ 12,575,149.38

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

Voting No: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

12760

Dirk Petersen, Chairperson of the Governance Committee, advised that the FIRST READING was heard of policies that are being recommended for deletion. All of the policies are covered by Administrative Procedure. Deletion of the policies eliminates duplication.

BP-5140, Student Privacy and Release of Information

BP-5711, Vaccination Policy

BP-5810, Resident Housing Regulations Policy

12761

Jeff Scherer, Chairperson of the Facilities Committee, MOVED to approve the Temporary Easement with the City of Norfolk for a bike trail. Dirk Petersen SECONDED the motion.

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

Voting No: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

12762

Jeff Scherer MOVED, and Donovan Ellis SECONDED the motion to approve the Public Access Easement with the City of Norfolk for use of a bike trail.

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

Voting No: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

12763

Gene Willers, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, MOVED to approve the agreement for settlement of claim related to an employment discrimination. Dirk Petersen SECONDED the motion.

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

Voting No: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

12764

Chairperson Steve Anderson administered the Oath of Office to Northeast Community College Board of Governors member Arlan Kuehn, District III, as elected in November 2020.

12765

Chairperson Anderson acknowledged board and staff member birthdays for the month of January.

12766

At 3:38 p.m., with no further business to discuss, it was UNANIMOUSLY PASSED BY VOICE VOTE to ADJOURN the meeting.

Minutes prepared by Diane Reikofski, Recording Secretary.

Steve Anderson, Chairperson
Northeast Board of Governors

Julie Robinson, Secretary
Northeast Board of Governors