



NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA

MINUTES of REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, April 8, 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.

12791

Roll call was taken with a quorum present.

AREA BOARD

Steve Anderson, Chairperson.....	Present
Arlan Kuehn, Vice-Chairperson	Absent-Excused
Julie Robinson, Secretary.....	Present
Del Ames	Absent-Excused
Donovan Ellis.....	Present
Dr. Terry Nelson	Present
Dirk Petersen.....	Present
Jeffrey Scherer	Present
Nicole Sedlacek	Present
Carol Sibbel	Absent-Excused
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
Carissa Kollath, Director of Student Activities
Paul Muncy, History/Geography instructor
Carlos Villareal, Student Leadership Association president
Rose Graham, Student Leadership Association secretary

Lauren Wagner, *Norfolk Daily News*
Cody Ronnenfelt, WJAG

12792

Notice of the Regular Meeting is published on the Northeast Community College website and was published in the *Norfolk Daily News* on Friday, April 2, 2021. Chairperson Steve Anderson convened the Regular Meeting at 4:17 p.m. in Suites F & G of the Lifelong Learning Center.

12793

Dirk Petersen MOVED, and Nicole Sedlacek SECONDED the motion to adopt the Agenda of the April 8, 2021 Regular Meeting as distributed.

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

Voting No: None

Absent: Ames, Kuehn, and Sibbel

MOTION CARRIED

12794

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.

12795

Donovan Ellis MOVED, and Gene Willers SECONDED the motion to approve Minutes of the March 11, 2021 meetings as follows:

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

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

Voting No: None

Absent: Ames, Kuehn, and Sibbel

MOTION CARRIED

12796

President Leah Barrett provided the following report:

- The Gardner Foundation of Wakefield is contributing \$50,000 to the Nexus Project to build new agriculture facilities at Northeast Community College. In addition, a five generation, multi-state business headquartered in Norfolk has made a financial investment in Nexus. APPEARA will contribute \$25,000 to the project. Northeast is grateful for these financial gifts.
- Northeast Community College, in collaboration with the City of Norfolk, the Mayor's Diversity Council and the Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department, hosted a COVID-19 vaccine information and registration event in the Lifelong Learning Center on Wednesday, April 7th. Volunteers were on-site to assist students and members of the public who may have experienced barriers in accessing the online vaccine registration portal.
- Approximately 100 Latino high school students from across the region came together to be motivated and learn more about higher education opportunities in Norfolk and South Sioux City. Northeast Community College and the Nebraska Public Power District hosted the 4th Latino Youth Summit, which was held virtually this year. The summit provided an opportunity for the students to hear from people with similar backgrounds who have overcome barriers and achieved their dreams. Ten students who participated were selected to each receive \$1,000 Northeast scholarships, which comes from MacKenzie Scott funds.
- Each spring, Northeast Community College celebrates the generosity of all of its benefactors who invest in the institution's students through their contributions. The annual Scholarship Luncheon is a time for donors and students to personally meet and share their experiences with one another. The COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of the event in 2020; however, this year's celebration was held earlier today in a virtual format which included private Zoom sessions between the contributors and students in lieu of the luncheon event.
- The 12th annual AG-ceptional Women's Conference was a day-long event that originated from the Lifelong Learning Center with opportunities to attend off-campus as well. Northeast graduate Lisa Kruger, a cattle buyer for Cargill in Columbus, was named the 2020 AG-ceptional Woman of the year.
- Tom Broekemeier, employed with Northeast since August 1997, has retired from his position of Systems Administrator.
- Northeast Community College held its 36th annual Class C & D High School Scholastic Contest and Quiz Bowl. This year's Scholastic Contest was held virtually, with students competing from each of their schools rather than traveling to Norfolk. A quiz bowl competition was held in person on Northeast's Norfolk campus with social distancing protocols in place. Approximately 1,130 students from 46 Class C and Class D schools participated in both competitions.
- Over 40 students participated in Northeast's Young Musician's Competition. The virtual event attracted students from ten Nebraska high schools as far west as Arthur County. The contest was designed to allow students to choose their own literature, limited each performance to six minutes, and was administered free of charge. Northeast music faculty members developed the event to give high school students an alternative performance venue should they be unable to compete in district music contests.
- The Northeast Health & Wellness Division observed National Nutrition Month in March. Amy Ries, health & physical education instructor, provided interviews recognizing the observance as a way to get people interested in nutrition and to have it front of mind to get them to think differently about how they eat, where they get their food, as well as experimenting with different foods.

- The cute and cuddly dogs and cats that routinely visit Northeast’s Veterinary Technology program lab have some new competition vying for student’s attention. A 66-year-old tortoise and two, small ornate box turtles have taken up residence on the College Farm providing students with an opportunity to learn more about reptiles that will serve them well once they become employed in professional clinics. Instructor Dr. Kassie Wessendorf obtained “George,” a 36-lbs. tortoise, and the turtles “Stevie & “Peggy” from an animal rescue operation in Colorado that had to close due to the owners’ declining health.
- The Northeast Career Services Office hosted its annual Spring Career Fair in the Cox Activities Center. The event gave students and alumni the opportunity to have a personal conversation with prospective employers. A wide variety of business and industry was represented at the event, including agriculture, manufacturing, retail, criminal justice, and technical, among others.
- Morgan Haner, of Sterling, is a recent recipient of the TRIO program’s Student of the Month recognition. She is an active and involved member of TRIO, a former member of the Northeast volleyball team and a current member of the College’s softball team. Morgan will graduate in May with an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Accounting and will utilize her degree in the payroll department at McMill CPAs and Advisors, where she is currently employed.
- There were 113 personal campus tours and 28 students who received tours as part of high school visits in March. A virtual Agriculture, Math, and Science Career Day was held on March 31, with 36 students participating.
- Three Northeast Community College Volleyball team members have been recognized with all-conference honors by the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference (ICCAC). The ICCAC has named Carly Hirsch, of Norfolk, to its All-Conference-Second Team. Jamie Bonifas, of Blue Hill, and Elizabeth Christensen, of Stanton, have each been named to the All-Conference-Honorable Mention team. In addition to the ICCAC honors, Hirsch earned All-Region XI-B-First Team and Region XI-B-All-Tournament Team honors. Bonifas received All-Region XI-B-Second Team accolades.
- Former University of Nebraska-Kearney head men’s golf coach Wes Bernt has been named the new head men’s golf coach at Northeast following the retirement of Kurt Pytleski. Days after his start with the program, Bernt accompanied the golf team to open its spring season, successfully bringing home a second-place finish at the Bethany College Spring Invitational in McPherson, Kan. On April 5th, the golf team took first place at the Central Community College Triangular in Columbus and on Tuesday, the Hawks finished fourth at the Midland University Spring Invitational in Fremont.

Carlos Villareal, Student Leadership Association (SLA) president, addressed the Board of Governors, reporting the following:

- A Proclamation in support having daylight savings time year-round was prepared by SLA and sent to all senators of Northeast’s service area. A response was received from Senator Mike Flood.
- Diversity mural project is being finalized.
- SLA members are being recruited for next year.
- Student Leadership Development Series banquet is scheduled for April 20th and members of the Student Leadership Association will participate.

12797

Steve Anderson and Gene Willers, NCCA Board of Directors representatives, reported that their next quarterly meeting will be held in May. Greg Adams has reported that he anticipates that the legislative session will conclude by Memorial Day. All of Nebraska’s community colleges will share a \$1M increase for dual credit courses.

The NCCA Annual Meeting will be hosted by Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff. The agenda will include discussion on equity and diversity.

12798

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

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

Voting No: None

Absent: Ames, Kuehn, and Sibbel

MOTION CARRIED

12799

Donovan Ellis MOVED to approve the continuation of the Wind Energy program at Northeast Community College for submission to the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. Nicole Sedlacek SECONDED the motion.

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

Voting No: None

Absent: Ames, Kuehn, and Sibbel

MOTION CARRIED

12800

Gene Willers MOVED, and Donovan Ellis SECONDED the motion to acknowledge and accept the Monthly Financial Report for March 31, 2021 and claims paid in March 2021 as follows:

General Funds.....	\$ 1,004,385.07
Auxiliary Funds.....	\$ 294,630.34
Grants and Contracts	\$ 73,039.85
Scholarships and Financial Aid.....	\$ 6,973.00
Student Loans	\$ 0.00
Student Clubs.....	\$ 2,082.80
Other Agencies	\$ 9,907.52
Capital Improvement.....	\$ 0.00

Restricted Plant.....	\$ 1,489,921.98
Debt Service	\$ 0.00
Payroll Fund	\$ <u>3,074,189.22</u>
TOTAL CLAIMS PAID.....	\$ 5,955,129.78

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

Voting No: None

Absent: Ames, Kuehn, and Sibbel

MOTION CARRIED

12801

Dirk Petersen, Chairperson of the Governance Committee, advised that the FIRST READING was held for the deletion of the following:

- BP-5113, Residency, and
- BP-5820, Residence and Use of Service and Therapy Animals and Pets.

12802

Chairperson Anderson recognized staff member birthdays for the month of April.

12803

At 4:38 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