



Board of Governors
Northeast Community College Area
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 8, 2022

ATTENDANCE

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Julie Robinson, Chairperson	Present
Jeffrey Scherer, Vice-Chairperson.....	Present
Donovan Ellis, Secretary	Present
Del Ames	Present
Steve Anderson	Present
Dr. Terry Nelson	Absent-Excused
Dirk Petersen.....	Present
Jeanne Reigle	Present
Nicole Sedlacek	Present
Carol Sibbel	Present
Pat Wojcik.....	Present

OTHERS PRESENT

- Dr. Leah A. Barrett, President
- Paul Feilmeier, Vice President, Technology Services
- Scott Gray, Vice President, Administrative Services
- Dr. Tracy Kruse, Vice President, Development and External Affairs
- Amanda Nipp, Vice President, Student Services
- Jessica Dvorak, Vice President, Human Resources
- Jim Curry, Director of Public Relations
- Lindsay Spiegel, Director of Institutional Effectiveness
- Diane Reikofski, Executive Assistant to the President

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Julie Robinson convened the meeting at 1:28 p.m. and led the assembly in pledging their allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

2. ADOPT AGENDA

MOTION by Pat Wojcik, **SECONDED** by Nicole Sedlacek, to adopt the Agenda of the December 8, 2022 Regular Meeting. Official Notice of the meeting was posted on the Northeast Community College website and published in the *Norfolk Daily News* on Thursday, December 1, 2022.

Voting Yes: Ames, Ellis, Reigle, Robinson, Scherer, Sedlacek, Sibbel, and Wojcik

Voting No: None

Absent: Anderson, Nelson, and Petersen **MOTION CARRIED**

3. OPEN MEETINGS ACT

Chairperson Robinson noted that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted on the table at the back of the meeting room, along with a copy of the December 8th Board of Governors Meeting agenda and all printable supporting documents.

Chairperson Robinson advised that due to the inclement winter weather moving into the region, and in an effort to enable board members to travel home in the daylight, the order of the agenda would be adjusted, delaying non-urgent agenda items to the January 2023 meeting.

4. CLOSED SESSION

At 1:29 p.m., **MOTION** by Julie Robinson, **SECONDED** by Donovan Ellis, to enter into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the status of collective bargaining and to reconvene to the public meetings once business is discussed.

Voting Yes: Ellis, Reigle, Robinson, Scherer, Sedlacek, Sibbel, Wojcik, and Ames

Voting No: None

Absent: Anderson, Nelson, and Petersen

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Petersen arrived at 2:06 p.m.

Reconvened to the public meeting at 2:31 p.m.

5. BOARD EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

5.1 Administrative Services Report

5.1.1 Monthly Financial Report and Paid Bills

Brief review was provided to the Monthly Financial Statement. Items of note within the paid bills report included payment to Lang Diesel for a new Kubota that will be utilized by the Grounds department, payment to JH Hespe for Simon Hall updates, and to Huff Construction for renovations in the Lifelong Learning Center.

5.2 Development/External Relations Report

5.2.2 President's Update

Legislative update:

- Nebraska is the only state that has no match for Perkins (CTE) funding. During the upcoming legislative session, Nebraska's community colleges will request a CTE funding increase of \$8,450,000/year.
- Nebraska has not expended all of its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Community colleges have drafted an additional ARPA funding request.
- Nebraska's community college's will not be requesting an increase in the levy authority, rather, they will request flexibility between the general and capital levy.

- A request will also be submitted for an appropriation's increase of 3.5% for the general fund and 1% for dual enrollment.
- Part of community college's purpose is to make education available to everyone and to provide a setting where every human has an opportunity to learn. Funding restrictions to support Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) efforts will also be a part of the upcoming legislative session.

Discussion included how Northeast can be assured that faculty members allow multiple views to be brought to the table and that instructors remain neutral in their teaching. Dr. Barrett confirmed that processes are in place and can be utilized if a student feels that their view is not being heard.

- U.S. Senator, Deb Fischer, recently participated in an Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee hearing entitled, "Farm Bill 2023: Research Programs." Senator Fischer's remarks during the hearing included how community colleges are playing an important and increasingly growing role in agriculture education and workforce training. As she concluded her remarks, Senator Fischer stated that she would like to host Chavonda Jacobs-Young, undersecretary for research, education, and economics at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, at the University of Nebraska and Northeast Community College in Norfolk to see "the really fabulous things they're doing there with precision agriculture. It is a very exciting time and it's a growing program for them Northeast that reaches out into rural areas of the state and the students that they're able to connect with and in keep agriculture strong."

Professional Development and Networking:

- Dr. Barrett has made presentations to the LEAD Fellows at Wayne State College; Keya Paha, Brown, Rock (KBR) Leadership Program in Bassett; and to Leadership Nebraska on the Norfolk campus. Dr. Barrett also served as the keynote speaker to Leadership Nebraska and the AgCeptional Women's Leadership Conference that was held in November.
- Senator Robert Dover was hosted on the Norfolk campus; he will be on campus again next week.
- Northeast co-hosted the Norfolk Chamber's November Business After Hours.
- Attended the SkillsUSA recognition at the State Capitol Rotunda in Lincoln.

College updates:

- Dr. Charlene Widener assumes the position of Vice President, Educational Services, effective February 1, 2023.
- A draft of the Higher Learning Commission Assurance Argument will be ready by the end of the term.
- Work continues on the compensation study.
- Fundraising activities are underway to support the Innovation Studio and South Sioux City facilities.

College engagement opportunities:

- This fall, President Barrett met with the leadership of the three employee associations.
- Work of the Negotiation's Team continues.

- A very successful Mid-Year Success Celebration was held in early December. It was a great night of fellowship and fun.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Governance Committee

6.1.1 Content Review

The Governance Committee conducted a content review of EL-04, Planning, with no revisions suggested.

6.1.2 Policy content was reviewed on GP-10, Board Code of Conduct. The Governance Committee is suggesting no revisions.

6.1.3 Minor revisions, including reducing the Ownership Linkage plan from four to two years is suggested. First reading consideration will occur later in today's meeting.

6.1.4 Board of Governors Retreat will be held on March 16, 2023 in Norfolk.

6.1.5 Historically, the process for filling Board of Governors officers was based on a rotation schedule with new members starting at the bottom and rotating up the list, enabling them to observe and learn. That process has since changed with the implementation of the new governance process. A discussion was held on if there was value in officers serving a one-year or a two-year term. The governance process has improved and the involvement of the chairperson with the president has increased. It was suggested that officers hold positions for a two-year term to provide continuity. It has taken a few months for everyone to fully grasp the new governance process and having this year's officers serve again in 2023 would help to keep the new governance process moving forward.

Although board policies are fluid, the above process does not fully follow the process outlined in GP-14, Special Rules of Order. The aforementioned policy will be reviewed by the Governance Committee in January, with any revisions being brought forth for consideration by the full board at that time.

6.1.6 Discussion ensued regarding committee chairpersons and membership being a two-year term. At the end of the two-year term, some members of each committee should remain on that respective committee and others rotate to another committee. This process would allow committee continuity as well as provide the opportunity for new members to learn from existing members and gain a full understanding of each of the committees.

Governance Committee membership for 2023 includes: Dirk Petersen, Chairperson and members Donovan Ellis, Carol Sibbel, Jeanne Reigle, and Pat Wojcik. Scott Gray will serve as liaison.

6.1.7 Ownership Linkage Committee membership for 2023 includes: Nicole Sedlacek, Chairperson, and members Del Ames, Steve Anderson, Terry Nelson, and Jeff Scherer. Leah Barrett and Diane Reikofski serve as liaisons.

6.1.8 Board appointments for 2023 were discussed and will be approved later at today's meeting.

6.1.9 Discussion was held regarding the NCCA Board of Directors representatives. Nicole Sedlacek would like to remain on the NCCA board, but Steve Anderson would like to step back to allow other board members the opportunity to learn

more at the state level. Northeast Community College is unique with regard to NCCA representatives as Northeast has the remainder of the board serve as alternates. Should an appointed NCCA board representative be unable to attend a meeting, any of the alternates could attend in their absence affording Northeast the ability to cast two votes at the NCCA Board of Directors meetings.

Decision regarding the NCCA Board of Directors representatives will be TABLED until the January 12, 2023 meeting to allow board members time to consider interest in serving.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Carol Sibbel, **SECONDED** by Nicole Sedlacek to:

- 7.1 Approve the Minutes of the November 10, 2022 Regular Meeting, and
- 7.2 Acknowledge and accept the Monthly Financial Report for November 30, 2022 and claims paid in November 2022.

Voting Yes: Ellis, Petersen, Reigle, Robinson, Scherer, Sedlacek, Sibbel, Wojcik, Ames, and Anderson

Voting No: None

Absent: Nelson

MOTION CARRIED

8. ITEMS FOR DECISION

8.1 **FIRST READING** of revisions to GP-12, Board Linkage with Ownership

8.2 **MOTION** by Steve Anderson, **SECONDED** by Jeanne Reigle to appoint the following as Board of Governors officers for 2023:

Julie Robinson, Chairperson
 Jeff Scherer, Vice-Chairperson
 Donovan Ellis, Secretary

Voting Yes: Petersen, Reigle, Robinson, Scherer, Sedlacek, Sibbel, Wojcik, Ames, Anderson, and Ellis

Voting No: None

Absent: Nelson

MOTION CARRIED

8.3 **MOTION** by Dirk Petersen, **SECONDED** by Pat Wojcik to approve the following Board Appointments for 2023:

- Treasurer: Vice President, Administrative Services
- Recording Secretary: President’s Executive Assistant
- College Architect: Wilkins Architecture Design Planning, LLC
- Primary Depository Bank: Midwest Bank
- Nebraska Community College Insurance Trust representative: Vice President, Administrative Services
- Facilities Corporation Board of Directors: Dr. Robert Cox, Steve Schram, and Larry Poessnecker

Dr. Barrett stated that the Facilities Corporation is not currently functioning but remains intact should it need to be utilized.

Voting Yes: Reigle, Robinson, Scherer, Sedlacek, Sibbel, Wojcik, Ames, Anderson, Ellis, and Petersen

Voting No: None

Absent: Nelson

MOTION CARRIED

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 3:49 p.m., with no further business to discuss, Julie Robinson **MOVED** to **ADJOURN**. **UNANIMOUSLY PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Minutes prepared by Diane Reikofski, Recording Secretary.

Julie Robinson, Chairperson
Northeast Board of Governors

Donovan Ellis, Secretary
Northeast Board of Governors