

ATTENDANCE**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Leah A. Barrett, President
Scott Gray, Vice President, Administrative Services
Dr. Charlene Widener, Vice President, Educational Services
Amanda Nipp, Vice President, Student Services
David Cone, Chief Information Officer
Mike Walkowiak, Vice President, Human Resources and Organizational Development
Lindsay Spiegel, Director, Institutional Effectiveness
Jerry Guenter, Director, Public Relations
Diane Reikofski, Executive Assistant to the President and Board Recording Secretary
Stacy Dieckman, Director, Financial Aid
Jerrett Mills, Athletic Director
Wendy Swenson, Secretary, Faculty Association secretary
Tee Bush, President, Faculty Association
Allison Lambert, College Engagement Coordinator
Parker Clausen, Student Leadership Association
Jordan Mosel, Student Leadership Association
Kyler Mosel, Student Leadership Association

1. The Northeast Community College Board of Governor met for its regular session Board Meeting on Thursday, October 10, 2024, in Suite 197 of the Lifelong Learning Center, located on the campus of Northeast Community College, 801 East Benjamin Avenue, Norfolk, NE. Chairperson Jeff Scherer convened the regular meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.
2. Chairperson Scherer led the assembly in pledging their allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

3. CLOSED SESSION

At 1:05 p.m., **MOTION** by Del Ames, **SECONDED** by Julie Robinson, to enter into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation which is clearly necessary for the protection of the public's interest and to reconvene to the public meeting upon the conclusion of discussion.

Voting Yes: Ames, Anderson, Davies, Ellis, Petersen, Robinson, Scherer, and Wojcik

Voting No: None

Absent: Nelson, Sedlacek, and Sibbel

MOTION CARRIED

Reconvened to the public meeting at 1:18 p.m.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Donovan Ellis, **SECONDED** by Diane Davies to **APPROVE** the Consent Agenda as follows:

4.1 Adopt Agenda of the October 10, 2024 meeting.

4.2 Approve Minutes of the September 12, 2024 Board of Governors Meeting.

4.3 Approve the SECOND READING of REVISIONS to GP-08.3, Search Committee Charter.

4.4 Approve the SECOND READING for the DELETION of BP-7210, Employee Group Classification.

Voting Yes: Anderson, Davies, Ellis, Petersen, Robinson, Scherer, Wojcik, and Ames

Voting No: None

Absent: Nelson, Sedlacek, and Sibbel

MOTION CARRIED

5. OPEN MEETINGS ACT

Chairperson Scherer advised that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted on the table in the meeting room, along with a copy of the October 10, 2024 Board of Governors Meeting agenda and all printable supporting documents.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

6.1 Monitoring Report: EL-00, General Executive Constraint

The whole of the monitoring reports that have been provided over the past year reflect compliance. The Board assessed the monitoring report and determined that there is evidence of compliance with a reasonable interpretation.

Dr. Barrett requested that the Governance Committee review the monitoring report schedule and consider moving EL-00, General Executive Constraint for review in December rather than October.

6.2 Monitoring Report: EL-02, Access to Education

The importance of access to education at Northeast Community College is articulated throughout the monitoring report and evidenced within the report with results from the CCPE Comprehensive Statewide Plan, multiple administrative assessments, teach out protocols, Nebraska Math Readiness Project (NMRP), Career and Technical Education (CTE) program analysis, etc. In addition, zero complaints have been received related to access to education in 2023-2024.

Dirk Petersen complimented the completeness of the evidence provided for EL-02.

The Board assessed the monitoring report and determined that there is evidence of compliance with a reasonable interpretation.

6.3 President's Monthly update

A complete copy of the President's monthly update can be found within today's Teams site and is also available on the Northeast website.

Highlights included a review and discussion of the Community College Budget Recommendations that will be considered tomorrow by the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE) include increased funding for dual enrollment and the Community College Future Fund (CCFF). Once approved, the CCPE submits the report to the Governor's Office.

An unintended consequence of not receiving general levy funds is that Northeast Community College will no longer receive funds from the Nameplate Capacity Excise Tax. Dr. Barrett is working with Senator DeKay's office to prepare legislation proposing that 5% of the Nameplate Capacity Excise Tax funds be given to the community college area in which the energy is generated. Most of the wind farms in Nebraska are in Northeast's service area. In addition, Northeast provides training for the wind energy industry. The Nameplate Capacity Excise Tax is not a new tax, nor is it taking away from anyone who received it before. The proposed legislation is simply asking that community colleges be able to keep the tax funds.

The Nebraska Statewide Workforce and Educational Reporting System (NSWERS) has been sponsored by Nebraska's community colleges, Nebraska Department of Education, Nebraska State College System, University of Nebraska System, and the Nebraska Department of Labor, and several foundations. Senator Jana Hughes has agreed to sponsor a bill to support the continued production of the NSWERS data. NSWERS data is unique, the only resource in the state that integrates education and workforce data over time, from preschool to grade 12, through college, and into the workforce, creating a holistic view of the learning and earning journey.

The C2A3 Agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has been fully executed to support the expansion of C2A3 to all 50 states. This is an exciting opportunity for community colleges to be a part of the federal funding for education in the agricultural industry. This is the largest federal allocation that Northeast Community College has ever received.

Professional engagements and updates during the past month include attending the C3Converge Conference in Sacramento, CA, hosted Interim UNMC Chancellor Dr. Dele Davies on the Northeast campus, attended the 6 Regions-1 Nebraska Conference, and attended meetings regarding the Nebraska Math Readiness Project and the Norfolk Area Childcare Collaborative.

South Sioux City/Siouxland outreach included the coffee call and ribbon cutting event for Northeast's new CDL and expanded welding facility, meeting with the superintendent of the South Sioux City School District, and hosting the new Briar Cliff President, Dr. Matthew Draud.

Discussion was held regarding meeting dates for 2025 with the updated dates and locations reflected at the end of each monthly agenda.

Advised that Zoom and Teams virtual meetings will be recorded and provided as necessary.

Due to the recent explosion in O'Neill, O'Neill St. Mary's is utilizing some of Northeast's classrooms until their school is again operational. Therefore, the November 12th Board of Governors meeting that was scheduled to be held in O'Neill is canceled. November's Board of Governors meeting will now be held on November 14th on the Northeast Community College campus in Norfolk.

The NCCA Annual Meeting will be held November 3-4 at Northeast Community College. A session regarding dual enrollment will be held on November 4th and will include the community college president's and board members.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 Governance Committee

- The Governance Committee met on September 23, 2024 via Zoom.
- Content review was conducted of EL-08, Communication and Support to the Board. A minor error in item 1.6 will be corrected. As a follow-up from the September Board meeting, discussion took place as to whether item 1.1 should be moved into EL-06, Asset Protection. The Governance Committee determined that this item is appropriately placed within EL-08, Communication and Support to the Board, however, suggested that language in 1.1 be incorporated into item 1.
- Content review was conducted of GP-07, Board Committee Principles. There were no suggestions for revision.
- Board Self-Evaluation of GP-07, Board Committee Principles, was conducted.
- Second reading for the deletion of BP-7210, Employee Group Classification, and submitted for consideration by the Board of Governors.
- Two board agenda worksheets were compared and discussed with suggestions for revision considered. The item was tabled by the Governance Committee for further review and discussion during their October meeting. A draft of the proposed revisions to the worksheet will be presented to the Board of Governors for consideration during their November 14th meeting.

7.2 Ownership Linkage Committee

- The Ownership Linkage Committee met on September 24, 2024 via Zoom.
- Discussed a routine agenda for the Ownership Linkage meeting to be held in O’Neill on November 12th. Note: This activity is now cancelled due to the explosion that occurred in O’Neill last week. Some of Northeast’s classrooms at the O’Neill Extended Campus are being used by O’Neill St. Mary’s School until their school facility is repaired.
- Del Ames requested a time to meet with Dr. Leah Barrett to prepare a recap of activities conducted during 2024 and prepare for 2025.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT on Monitoring or Committee Reports

Chairperson Scherer advised that individuals commenting on Monitoring or Committee Reports are allowed three minutes each. No constituents were in attendance to address the board with a public comment.

9. COLLEGE REPORTS

9.1 Student Leadership Association (SLA) Report

Activities during the past month include:

- Fresh Check Day. This was a mental health promotion event that was hosted by Counseling Services and attended by nearly 275 participants.
- SLA donated 20 tie blankets to Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA) of Northeast Nebraska. These blankets were provided to serve as pick-me-ups, Christmas/birthday gifts, or even be a replacement blanket if lost during transition. Northeast students were happy to contribute once they learned who the blankets were for.
- SLA hosted the voter registration drive. Representatives spoke with more than 112 students with 20 of the students registering to vote!
- September’s monthly forum was focused on emergency telephones. A general estimate for an all-in-one unit with light and announcement capabilities is \$3,524. SLA had conversations about supplementing campus security by having a buddy system on campus, using Resident Assistants or other student workers.
- Upcoming events include Spooktacular on October 30th and Hawk the Vote on November 5th.
- SLA’s next monthly forum will be held on October 28th.
- SLA representatives reached out to board members for ideas on how to provide the Board of Governors with more interaction with students.

Chairperson Scherer commended the SLA officers for their involvement and presentation.

10. BOARD EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

10.1 Student Services Report

10.1.1 College affordability and FAFSA update

An overview was provided of Northeast Community College’s 2023-2024 estimated cost of attendance, along with budget scenarios that are presented to students as examples. The scenarios are provided as an illustration of what their anticipated cost of attendance may resemble when considering living on campus, living off campus, or living with

parents. Additionally, students are provided with scenarios of a typical financial aid award package based on expected family contribution, Pell, or other grants, and subsidized or unsubsidized loans.

The anticipated FAFSA release date for fall 2025 is December 1, 2024. Prior to the simplified FAFSA, it typically was released in October. In addition, Between October 1 and December 1, 2024, the FAFSA will be available to selected individuals by invitation only for beta testing.

10.2 Administrative Services Report

10.2.1 2025-2026 tuition, fees, room, and board rates

Preliminary review was given to peer and regional institutional comparative data regarding tuition, fees, housing, and meal plan rates. Meeting the needs of our students and access to education were also factors that were considered and discussed.

Additional discussion will be held in November, prior to any decision on 2025-2026 rates.

10.2.2 Monthly Financial Report for September 30, 2024

Review was given to the Monthly Financial Report for the period ending August 31, 2024, with detail provided regarding the changes in fund balances.

MOTION by Julie Robinson, **SECONDED** by Dirk Petersen to **APPROVE** the Monthly Financial Report for September 30, 2024.

Voting Yes: Davies, Ellis, Petersen, Robinson, Scherer, Wojcik, Ames, and Anderson

Voting No: None

Absent: Nelson, Sedlacek, and Sibbel **MOTION CARRIED**

10.2.3 Claims paid in September 2024

Review was given to items of significance within the September paid bills report including purchases of equipment purchased for educational programs at the South Sioux City and Norfolk campuses.

MOTION by Steve Anderson, **SECONDED** by Pat Wojcik to **APPROVE** the claims paid in September 2024, abstaining from payment to themselves.

Voting Yes: Ellis, Petersen, Robinson, Scherer, Wojcik, Ames, Anderson, and Davies

Voting No: None

Absent: Nelson, Sedlacek, and Sibbel **MOTION CARRIED**

11. PUBLIC COMMENT on Board Education and Information

Chairperson Scherer advised that individuals commenting on Board Education and Information are allowed three minutes each. No constituents were in attendance to address the board with a public comment.

12. Board of Governors Meeting Self-Evaluation

A self-evaluation of today’s meeting was conducted and is recorded in the October 10th Board of Governors Teams site.

13. OTHER

Chairperson Scherer acknowledged board member birthdays for the month of October. He also extended his appreciation to staff for the preparation of today’s meeting.

14. ADJOURNMENT

At 4:44 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, it was **UNANIMOUSLY PASSED BY VOICE VOTE** to **ADJOURN** the meeting.

Minutes prepared by Diane Reikofski, Recording Secretary.

Jeff Scherer, Chairperson
Northeast Board of Governors

Donovan H. Ellis, Vice-Chairperson
Northeast Board of Governors