

**NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 8, 2018

EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Julie Robinson, Chairperson	PRESENT
Del Ames	PRESENT
Jeff Scherer	PRESENT
Carol Sibbel	PRESENT
Dirk Petersen, ex-officio	PRESENT

STAFF

Dr. Michael Chipps
John Blaylock
Lyle Kathol
Lynne Koski
Derek Bierman
Amanda Nipp
Eric Johnson
Dr. Tracy Kruse
Craig Garrett
Jim Curry
Diane Reikofski
Brenda Sock
Stacy Dieckman

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

Steve Anderson	PRESENT
Keith Harvey	PRESENT
Arlan Kuehn	PRESENT
Terry Nelson	PRESENT @ 9:53 a.m.
Jeffrey M. Scherer	PRESENT
Gene L. Willers	PRESENT @ 10:00 a.m.

MINUTES

1. Julie Robinson, Chairperson of the External Relations Committee, convened the meeting at 9:34 a.m. in Room 1108B of the College Welcome Center.
2. Recommended approval of the Minutes of the January 17, 2018 meeting.
3. Review was given to the bills of interest or concern to Nebraska's community colleges that Dr. Tracy Kruse continues to monitor.

On February 1st, board members, Steve Anderson and Shirley Petsche, along with Dr. Michael Chipps, Dr. Tracy Kruse, and Derek Bierman attended the Legislative Day in Lincoln. This was Greg Adams' first attempt in organizing a day to provide community college leaders with access to senators to begin building relationships. Mr. Adams has already indicated that he looks forward to expanding this activity in future years. Since Northeast Community College continues to struggle to get senators to visit campus, Steve Anderson encouraged all board members to attend in the future.

4. The Community College National Legislative Summit (NLS) will be held in Washington, DC, February 11-15, 2018. Dr. Tracy Kruse provided a synopsis of the event, and reported that they will also have the opportunity to advocate on Capitol Hill regarding topics of particular interest to Northeast Community College. NLS attendees are registered to attend the Nebraska Breakfast on Wednesday morning, followed by a meeting with Senator Deb Fischer. Lunch is scheduled with respective senators and congressmen, providing Nebraska community college representatives an opportunity to share information and have dialogue

with the legislators. While in Washington, other potential visits include meeting with the Malawi Ambassador to the United States and an official of the Department of State.

Mr. Anderson again voiced his support for and value of these events, encouraging board members to consider participating in future years.

5. Stacy Dieckman, Director of Financial Aid, provided 2016-2017 Northeast Financial Aid statistics, reporting that Northeast awarded \$15,068,128 in federal, state, institutional, and private aid, with 77% of Northeast's student population receiving some type of financial aid during that year. Northeast also disbursed \$4,539,750 in Pell funds this past academic year. Ms. Dieckman also provided information on the Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), Nebraska Opportunity Grant, Federal Work-Study, student loans, and student loan default rates.

The information provided by Ms. Dieckman is valuable to those attending the NLS and meeting with senators and congressmen.

6. In other business, discussion was held regarding a recent article in the *Norfolk Daily News* regarding athletics at Northeast.

Also in other business, Dirk Petersen reported that Bryan Slone has been selected to serve as president of the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Mr. Slone has good knowledge, background, and connections across the state. Mr. Petersen anticipates that Mr. Slone will push the Chamber to find a balance between rural and urban areas. Mr. Petersen suggested that, once Mr. Slone is settled in his position, that he be invited to Norfolk and to possibly speak to the Northeast Community College Board of Governors.

7. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned 11:16 a.m.