

**NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 14, 2021

EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Nicole Sedlacek, Chairperson	PRESENT
Arlan Kuehn	PRESENT
Julie Robinson	PRESENT
Gene Willers	PRESENT
Steve Anderson, ex-officio	PRESENT

STAFF

Dr. Leah Barrett
Scott Gray
Paul Feilmeier
Amanda Nipp
Dr. Karen Severson
Dr. Tracy Kruse
Jim Curry
Diane Reikofski

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

Del Ames	PRESENT
Donovan Ellis	PRESENT
Terry Nelson	PRESENT
Dirk Petersen	PRESENT
Jeff Scherer	PRESENT
Carol Sibbel	PRESENT

MINUTES

1. Nicole Sedlacek, Chairperson of the External Relations Committee, convened the meeting at 12:26 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing.
2. Recommended approval of the Minutes of the December 10, 2020 meeting as distributed.
3. January 20th is the last day which Nebraska senators may introduce a bill. Review was given to the bill grid prepared by Dr. Tracy Kruse. The grid includes bills that have been introduced by senators that are of interest to Nebraska community colleges. The NCCA Board of Directors will meet in January and will review the bill grid, take a position on each, and advise Greg Adams how they wish for him to lobby on behalf of the community colleges.

Steve Anderson, NCCA Board of Directors representative, advised that the NCCA Board has already directed Greg Adams to support the changes to the Open Meetings Act and COVID-19 liability bills that have already been introduced.

Gene Willers is unable to attend the January 22nd NCCA Board of Directors Meeting. Nicole Sedlacek has expressed interest in learning more about the NCCA Board and has agreed to attend the meeting in Gene's absence.

4. Review was given to the schedule of events for the 2021 Community College National Legislative Summit, scheduled to be held virtually, February 8-10, 2021. Dr. Tracy Kruse inquired if Mr. Anderson was aware of how NCCA was proceeding with scheduling

Mission

Northeast Community College is dedicated to the success of students and the region it serves.

congressional visits during the National Legislative Summit. Mr. Anderson indicated that this discussion will be held during the January 22nd NCCA Meeting, but he feels that congressional visits will fall back to individual scheduling by the community colleges. He suggested that it might be better to wait to schedule Northeast's meeting until they have gotten further into the session.

5. Steve Anderson, member of the American Association of Community College (ACCT) Board of Directors, stated that the ACCT Board continues to search to replace Noah Brown, ACCT President and CEO. 71 applications have been received and the board hopes to narrow the applicant field down to ten candidates by the end of the month. Their intent is to have a replacement in place by October 2021.
6. President Barrett reported that she and Dr. Tracy Kruse are exploring opportunities to participate with a new organization, Capital Cities Community College Consortium (C5), led by Tom Downs. Mr. Downs is seeking our engagement regarding the community college as a whole, not just in agriculture. Mr. Downs seems to be well engaged with various departments in Washington, DC and can potentially expand and solidify additional relationships for Northeast.
7. President Leah Barrett and Dr. Tracy Kruse have an opportunity to participate in the weekly Governmental Affairs meeting which is hosted by the Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce and includes Zoom connections with Norfolk Senator, Mike Flood. Senator Flood brought forth a bill, LB293, to expand the Public Service Commission from five members to seven members and is an area where we would likely want to extend our voice and support. Dr. Barrett suggested that Steve Anderson and Nicole Sedlacek may want to discuss this at the NCCA level.

Senator Flood is also trying to facilitate dialogue between the Nebraska Department of Transportation Division and 4 Lanes 4 Nebraska. Senator Flood reminded attendees that Nebraska tax receipts continue to be up.

8. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned 12:49 p.m.