

**NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 11, 2021

EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

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

STAFF

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

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

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

MINUTES

1. Nicole Sedlacek, Chairperson of the External Relations Committee, convened the meeting at 2:21 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing.
2. Recommended approval of the Minutes of the January 14, 2021 meeting as distributed.
3. Dr. Tracy Kruse reviewed the bills of interest to Nebraska's community colleges and highlighted the following:
 - LB 60: The bill proposes to eliminate the distinction between general fund and capital fund, keeps current 11.25 lid. President Ryan Purdy and Southeast Community College board member Nancy Seim provided proponent testimony.
 - LB 83: Open Meetings Law to allow Virtual Conferencing.
 - LB 408/LR22CA: Property Tax Request Act. Total spending of a political subdivision cannot exceed 3% over the previous year.
 - LB 133/LR 11CA: EPIC Consumption Tax. Implementation of a 9-10% tax and eliminate all other taxes including property taxes. All monies flow through the state with no decisions left at local level.
4. National Legislative Session (NLS) highlights were provided by participants Steve Anderson, Del Ames, Gene Willers, and Nicole Sedlacek and included the following:
 - Dr. Jill Biden provided an encouraging pep talk to the group. Asked to let the Biden Administration know what is working as well as what is not working.

Mission

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

- Review of challenges from the democratic and republican parties.
- Community colleges will be the work horse for workforce development.
- Pell grant. Currently no plan included for non-traditional Pell grant.
- Lawmakers outlined administration and congressional agendas.
- Movements between the health care crisis, racial crisis, etc.
- Providing additional grant dollars to retention-type programs.
- Broadband in rural America.
- Student loan debt and whether to eliminate or reduce.
- Cyberskills grant. \$10M grant for those who want to enter into Cyberskill education.

Steve Anderson reported that ACCT continues to hang together financially. They are conducting more webinars to get their message out to institutions. He anticipates that future conferences will be a hybrid model. He also advised that the ACCT Leadership Congress will be held this fall in San Diego, CA.

5. President Barrett advised that a strategic decision as a college has been made to begin working with the Community and Technical College (CTC) Consortium. This Consortium will provide us significant access to their services to be well connected in Washington, DC. The CTC Consortium will also be beneficial to our work with C2A3.
6. Jeff Scherer and Dr. Tracy Kruse provided the quarterly Foundation update:
 - A presentation was provided on the Early College program which provides opportunities for high school students to earn college credit through various methods, e.g. dual Credit, Fridays @ Northeast, College Credit-only classes. The presentation was well-received by Foundation board members.
 - Annual Financial presentation was provided by Jared Faltys, Investment Manager.
 - Scholarship Payout Determination was approved for school year 2021-2022 at 4% with a 1% administrative fee. The payout amount for endowed scholarships will be \$318,925, an increase of nearly \$90,000 from prior year. Total scholarships anticipated to be awarded through the Northeast Foundation this year are over \$500,000. The Weller Foundation, a subsidiary of the Northeast Foundation, will award an additional \$300,000.
 - Approved a resolution to endow the donation from MacKenzie Scott by establishing a quasi-endowment to be known as The Student Success Endowment Fund from which the net income will be used to provide funding for student scholarships and student support services annually.
 - Juan Sandoval was officially approved as the newest member of the Foundation Board of Directors.
 - The Foundation Board of Directors are currently at 75% giving with the goal of reaching 100% by end of fiscal year 2020-2021.
 - The scholarship luncheon is scheduled for an April 8, 2021 kickoff with various virtual activities planned for scholarship recipients and donors. The Board of Governors and Foundation Board of Directors members will be invited to attend the activities.

Del Ames inquired about the status of the Nexus campaign with Dr. Tracy Kruse reporting that approximately \$1.5M remains to be raised to complete the funding for the project.

7. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned 3:41 p.m.