

**NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Thursday, April 8, 2021

**EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Nicole Sedlacek, Chairperson	PRESENT
Arlan Kuehn	ABSENT
Julie Robinson	PRESENT
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	ABSENT
Donovan Ellis	PRESENT
Terry Nelson	PRESENT
Dirk Petersen	PRESENT
Jeff Scherer	PRESENT
Carol Sibbel	ABSENT

**MINUTES**

1. Nicole Sedlacek, Chairperson of the External Relations Committee, convened the meeting at 2:07 p.m. in Suites F & G of the Lifelong Learning Center.
2. Recommended approval of the Minutes of the March 11, 2021 meeting as distributed.
3. Dr. Tracy Kruse advised that an updated legislative bill grid is available for review in BoardPaq and reported that Northeast continues to track several bills that could have an effect on the institution. Discussion was held on the status of various bills at the state and federal level.
4. Steve Anderson reported his participation in the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Governance Leadership Institute (GLI). The conference is typically attended by new board members, but he found interesting information throughout the conference regarding role and responsibilities of the board and CEO, current trends, diversity, equity, and inclusion, issues facing colleges, etc.

The ACCT Leadership Congress will be held in San Diego, CA, October 13-16, 2021. Mr. Anderson plans to attend the Congress and encourages other board members to consider attendance. Noah Brown, ACCT President and CEO officially retires during the Leadership Congress this fall. Steve has been involved in the selection process for replacing Mr. Brown and it has been an involved and interesting process. Mr. Brown has done an excellent job of leading ACCT.

**Mission**

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

Nebraska Community College Association's (NCCA) quarterly meeting will be held in early May in Lincoln at which time they will discuss the budget. He anticipates that there will be a slight increase in dues this year. The NCCA Annual Meeting will be held in early October and hosted by Western Community College in Scottsbluff.

5. In other business, President Leah Barrett reported that several staff members have been involved in the virtual Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Annual Meeting. Northeast was notified this week that it was selected to participate in the Community College Research Center (CCRC) summer 2021 institute, Guided Pathways at Rural Colleges: Using Data to Launch Large-Scale Reform. Nine staff members will participate in the virtual opportunity from June 14-24, 2021.

On Monday, Mike Boehm, Vice Chancellor, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Tiffany Heng-Moss, Dean, College of Agriculture Sciences and Natural Resources-UNL, were on the Northeast campus to meet with Dr. Leah Barrett and Dr. Tracy Kruse. Discussion was held regarding the statutory definition of applied research at Nebraska's community colleges as well as discussion on ideas where partnering opportunities could occur.

Congressman Don Bacon was also on campus on Monday afternoon to tour the Wind Energy program and discussion on renewable energy policy.

On Tuesday, Michele Gill and Shanelle Grudzinski met in Lexington with representatives of the Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA) to discuss opportunities to realign faculty positions into trainer positions. A professional and positive relationship with NREA is anticipated to continue for decades into the future.

Dirk Petersen inquired to why community colleges aren't set up to be in session for 12 months rather than just nine months, allowing students to complete their education in a shorter period of time. President Barrett explained that the history of community colleges is that they were set up similar to four-year institutions. With Northeast's work with Guided Pathways, consideration will be given to opportunities that exist to improve the student and faculty experiences.

6. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned 2:43 p.m.