

**NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Thursday, May 13, 2021

**EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Nicole Sedlacek, Chairperson	PRESENT	Dr. Leah Barrett
Arlan Kuehn	PRESENT	Scott Gray
Julie Robinson	PRESENT	Paul Feilmeier
Gene Willers	PRESENT	Amanda Nipp
Steve Anderson, ex-officio	ABSENT	Dr. Michele Gill
		Dr. Karen Severson

**OTHER BOARD MEMBERS**

Del Ames	PRESENT	Dr. Tracy Kruse
Donovan Ellis	PRESENT	Jim Curry
Terry Nelson	ABSENT	Diane Reikofski
Dirk Petersen	PRESENT	
Jeff Scherer	PRESENT	
Carol Sibbel	PRESENT	

**MINUTES**

1. Nicole Sedlacek, Chairperson of the External Relations Committee, convened the meeting at 10:47 a.m. in Suites F & G of the Lifelong Learning Center.
2. Recommended approval of the Minutes of the April 10, 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. President Leah Barrett reported that during the May 3rd NCCA Board of Directors meeting, Greg Adams announced his retirement, effective December 31, 2021. A search committee has been appointment by the NCCA Executive Team and will be chaired by Steve Anderson. The committee will move forward with trying to recruit someone from Nebraska to fill the executive director position. They hope to announce Mr. Adams' replacement during the NCCA Annual Meeting in October.

During the May 3rd meeting the following update was provided regarding redistricting:

August 16th: Raw census data will be received from the Census Bureau.

November 15th: Deadline for county election officials to provide precinct maps to political subdivisions within their jurisdictions.

December 30th: Political subdivisions must provide their boundary lines to county election officials.

**Mission**

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

January 15, 2022: Deadline for political subdivisions to certify their 2022 elections. Start of the 2022 candidate filing period.

Entities are being encouraged to use a compatible software for the redistricting process and Nebraska's community colleges are reviewing a list of vendors to contract with to verify their respective redistricting. All of the information will then be fed into one system at the Secretary of State's office.

Senator Flood led recent floor discussion on LB408 and community colleges were used as an example of a political subdivision that has abused tax payers the most with little to no positive comments being made about community colleges in the state of Nebraska. Some Omaha senators did talk about the work being done by Metro Community College. On May 17<sup>th</sup>, Nebraska's community college presidents, along with some community college board members will participate in a Zoom session with Senator Mike Flood to discuss community colleges and his view of community colleges.

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, Nebraska community colleges, Greg Adams, and Walt Radcliff will meet to strategize how to secure additional funds for dual enrollment.

Dr. Tracy Kruse, Vice President, Development and External Affairs, reported that LB 83, the bill amending the Open Meetings Act to allow for virtual meetings, was signed by the Governor.

LB 528 is the Education Committee technical bill. Technical bills are a long list of language changes to current statutes, which typically are not controversial. In LB 528 post-secondary institutions will be required to print a suicide hotline number on student identifications provided by the school. The bill also allows the tribal colleges to access GAP scholarship money. This bill has not yet passed.

5. The quarterly Foundation Board of Directors meeting was held on April 27<sup>th</sup>. When the MacKenzie Scott gift was received it was immediately deposited, doubling the size of the fund and requiring adjustments to be made to the investment policy.

The Northeast Foundation is currently accepting board member nominations.

6. President Leah Barrett reported that Senator Mike Flood sent a letter in late April to NPPD requesting that the electrical poles in front of Northeast Community College be removed at NPPD's expense.

On May 6<sup>th</sup>, President Barrett participated in Norfolk's annual Young Professionals Summit and presented information on diversity and inclusion.

Aksarben's Stakeholders' Meeting was held on May 7<sup>th</sup> in Omaha. President Barrett was on stage with UNL's President, Ted Carter, to talk about higher education initiatives in reducing the gap in higher education. She wanted participants to understand the high school and college gap of people of color versus white people. She spoke about the role in the Nebraska Math

Readiness project and making it more widespread. She also talked about dual enrollment and reported that 85% of students who participate in dual enrollment go to college, adult education and the role community colleges play, and the work Northeast is doing with Tyson on the Upwards to Citizenship opportunity.

The first college president's meeting between the universities, state colleges and community colleges to generate ideas was recently held with a subsequent meeting to occur in the next few months to talk about working together to address some of the issues discussed at the Aksarben Stakeholders' Meeting.

Dirk Petersen and Jeff Scherer are involved with the Four Lanes For Nebraska project and they are excited that the contract has been signed to complete Hwy. 275 between West Point and Scribner. Senator Mike Flood has been an advocate and he has been given a schedule for the remainder of Hwy. 275 to be completed by 2028. They hope to host the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in Norfolk to provide information regarding the project to the public.

7. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned 11:43 a.m.