

**NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

**EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

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

**STAFF**

Dr. Leah Barrett  
Scott Gray  
Paul Feilmeier  
Amanda Nipp  
Dr. Michele Gill  
Jessica Dvorak  
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 9:49 a.m. in Suites F & G of the Lifelong Learning Center.
2. Recommended approval of the Minutes of the August 11, 2021 meeting as distributed.
3. NCCA Board of Directors and the community college presidents met on August 30<sup>th</sup> in Lincoln to interview candidates for the NCCA executive director position. Steve Anderson, NCCA board chairperson is currently in negotiations with a candidate and hopes to finalize in the next few days.

Greg Adams' contract runs through the end of the year. The intention is to have the replacement person begin in October and work with Mr. Adams for two months, providing good interaction and time for the replacement to better understand their role and responsibility. The new executive director will be announced during the NCCA Annual Meeting, scheduled to be held in Scottsbluff, NE, October 3-4, 2021.

The focus of the position has changed. Prior to Greg Adams, Dennis Baack served as the NCCA executive director. Both Adams and Baack were former Speakers of the Nebraska Legislature, which provided good access for community colleges. Recently Mr. Adams participated in conference call with state executives of community colleges across the nation. Some community colleges have influence with the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT). Adams realized the value of having a presence in these conversations and

**Mission**

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

the new director will be charged with more involvement with the legislators in Washington, DC so that Nebraska's community colleges have better representation.

4. President Leah Barrett and other administrators and staff have had the recent opportunity to tour Nucor, UNMC in Omaha, as well as a private tour in Wakefield. These tours provide opportunities to explore pathways for education, curriculum development, as well as building relationships for Northeast. President Barrett continues to meet with outside constituents to gather practical ideas to support economic recovery.
5. LR 178 is a resolution for the purpose to solicit input from Nebraskan's on how funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 would be best utilized. Nebraska Unicameral feels that others, besides the governor, should be involved in deciding where the funds should be spent. Nebraska hasn't yet prioritized the use of those funds. Dr. Leah Barrett, Dr. Paul Illich, and Randy Schmailzl will attend the October 5<sup>th</sup> hearing and testify on behalf of Nebraska's community colleges.
6. Jessica Dvorak will testify in Lincoln at the end of October regarding legislation that passed related to work that we do to reduce sexual assault on campuses. Each community college will be asked to report on the work that we are doing. Northeast continues to work diligently on this issue.
7. Initial redistricting information has been received from the University of Nebraska-Omaha, Center for Public Affairs Research. Redistricting work is currently underway in the Unicameral to finalize at the state level. Northeast's work won't begin until the state work has been completed. UN-O will provide three recommendations and the Northeast Board of Governors will vote on redistricting later in the year. More discussion will be held at upcoming meetings.
8. NCCA award nominations from Northeast include Brian Anderson being nominated for the 2021 Faculty Member Award, Dr. Tracy Kruse for the Administrator Award, and Gene Willers for the Governor's Award. The three nominees will be celebrated during the awards ceremony on October 26<sup>th</sup>.
9. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.