

**NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 9, 2020

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Terry Nelson, Chairperson	PRESENT @ 1:02 p.m.
Julie Robinson	PRESENT
Jeff Scherer	PRESENT
Gene Willers	PRESENT
Steve Anderson, ex-officio	PRESENT

STAFF

Dr. Leah Barrett
John Blaylock
Jim Curry
Diane Reikofski

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

Del Ames	PRESENT
Donovan Ellis	PRESENT
Arlan Kuehn	PRESENT
Dirk Petersen	PRESENT
Nicole Sedlacek	PRESENT
Carol Sibbel	PRESENT

MINUTES

1. Julie Robinson, member of the Governance Committee, convened the meeting at 12:54 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing. The meeting was held via Zoom video conferencing pursuant to the Executive Order issued on March 17, 2020 by Nebraska Governor, Pete Ricketts.
2. Recommended approval of the Minutes of the February 18, 2020 as printed.
3. President Leah Barrett and Steve Anderson have both had the opportunity to participate in webinars or read print material from AACC and ACCT to receive updates on the federal stimulus package. President Barrett stated that she feels good about the decisions that have been made and how Northeast's policies and procedures were utilized to complement what the federal government is providing to us.

The next step is the recovery piece and making decisions that are in the best interest of the institution. President Barrett has participated in numerous webinars, has listened to other campus presidents who have worked through difficult situations and is learning from these discussions. Northeast will need to make decisions for the campus, while knowing that the future is unknown.

Discussions are being held by the President's Cabinet to consider different programs such as voluntary separations or retirements to aid in the budget discussions. Technology Services staff have been amazing as we have learned about how we can work remotely. Faculty and staff have also learned that we can do things differently with regard to equipment that will

Mission

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

also be cost-saving measures. Recovery plan weekly meetings will soon begin and there are currently 13 items that will be discussed as we begin to plan for the fall and the next year.

As part of the board governance, Dr. Barrett and Steve Anderson will participate in a Zoom meeting with the Carver Policy Governance Institute to continue that dialogue. Further discussions will be held with the Board of Governors to determine the direction for board governance.

President Barrett reported that the administration of the climate survey has been postponed until the fall. Due to events with COVID-19, we feel that we won't obtain a good sample. Julie Robinson agreed with holding off on the climate survey as she questions if credible results would be received at this time and there is no need to waste valuable resources.

Dr. Leah Barrett reported that she has provided a weekly communication to the campus community and has received lots of positive comments. She continues to hold meetings with staff and faculty while utilizing Zoom video conferencing. These sessions provide opportunities to get to know staff, provide an avenue for faculty and staff to vent, talk about their kids, and learn about Northeast. In recent weeks, Northeast staff have shown their resiliency and the time they are spending with students has been amazing; Dr. Barrett is proud to work with all of the Northeast faculty and staff.

The trend across the country has been to move from a letter grade to a pass/no pass grade. This morning, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln announced that they are providing the pass/no pass grade for their students and President Barrett is hopeful that these institutions will give Northeast's students the same grace when they transfer to their institutions. Del Ames inquired if the pass/no pass grade would affect only Spring 2020 grades and Dr. Barrett confirmed that this was correct.

In an effort to keep morale up and make people aware that the Board of Governors are aware of all of their efforts, Steve Anderson indicated that it might be good for a message to come from the Board.

Northeast is currently receiving bids from agencies to process refinancing for three outstanding bonds on the residence life facilities and the cafeteria. Preliminary estimates reflect that Northeast may save \$1.8 to \$2M over the life of the bonds by refinancing. A proposal will be presented to the Board of Governors in May.

There is angst about the possibility of not being able to bring students back to campus by this fall. Recent discussions have been held regarding Northeast ability, if necessary, to use capital dollars to retire debt. If Northeast is in a situation that students are unable to return to campus this fall due to COVID-19, we may need to look at construction projects that we can postpone for a few years. Terry Nelson suggested that financial scenarios and assessments be considered in case we are only allowed to fill a portion of the dormitories if social distancing strategies are still in place this fall. If social distancing strategies are loosened, consideration would be given to using residence halls for interns, etc.

Greg Adams has advised that the only thing the Nebraska Legislature must do constitutionally between now and the end of June is to pass the budget. Mr. Adams continues

to monitor community college state aid and is optimistic that community college funding will remain intact.

Coleen Bressler advised that continued research will be done to determine if some of the funds from President Trump's legislation will compensate institutions for room and board refunds.

4. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.