

**NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE

Carol Sibbel, Chairperson	PRESENT
Donovan Ellis	PRESENT
Terry Nelson	PRESENT
Nicole Sedlacek	PRESENT via Zoom
Steve Anderson, ex-officio	PRESENT

STAFF

Dr. Leah Barrett
John Blaylock via Zoom
Jim Curry via Zoom
Diane Reikofski
Dr. Michele Gill via Zoom
Amanda Nipp via Zoom
Faye Kilday via Zoom

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

Del Ames	PRESENT
Arlan Kuehn	PRESENT
Dirk Petersen	PRESENT
Julie Robinson	PRESENT via Zoom
Jeff Scherer	PRESENT
Gene Willers	PRESENT via Zoom

MINUTES

1. Carol Sibbel, Chairperson of the Student Success Committee, convened the meeting at 1:40 p.m. in Suites C & D of the Lifelong Learning Center.
2. Recommended approval of the Minutes of the February 18, 2020 meeting as distributed.
3. Steve Anderson extended his appreciation to everyone involved with arranging this meeting and making sure that the meeting is compliant with Governor Ricketts' directive of meetings of 10 and social distancing as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

President Leah Barrett requested a remote update from the Northeast response team who is gathered in the President's Conference Room. A high level of anxiety currently exists among faculty and staff, but everyone is working together to provide educational opportunities to students through online learning. Faculty members familiar with online teaching are assisting other faculty members to learn the academic platform and they are working together in being creative and putting materials in a format to help students meet their academic dream.

President Barrett stated that she is trying to keep in people's minds that this is an unprecedented time and we may make some missteps along the way as we try to provide students the best learning experience. She continues to remind faculty, staff, and students to be kind and compassionate if we do misstep as we try to keep the College operating.

Mission

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

John Blaylock introduced Brian Paulsen, Director of Emergency Preparedness. John stated that up until this point, our main task has been to minimize the risk for students, employees, and the communities we serve. Winter break was extended as the first measure to mitigate the risk while giving us time to make additional decisions based on the recommendations from the Center for Disease Control, Elkhorn Logan Valley Health Department, and the World Health Organization.

Brian Paulsen talked about the initial meeting of the incident command team, response of extending the winter break, and subsequent communications. During the initial meeting, operations teams were formed and tasked with providing advice on specific areas. The information received from the operations teams was shared this afternoon with the incident command/leadership team.

President Barrett has sent six college-wide messages to date, and one message directly to students. A COVID-19 link has been attached to the Northeast website. In an attempt to get ahead of some questions, a FAQ section has been included on the website. A new email address, COVID-19@northeast.edu has been created to provide a venue for people to reach out to us.

John Blaylock emphasized the COVID-19 information that is available on the website and encouraged board members to review the FAQs as this information may address some of the questions that constituents are asking of them.

Bandwidth continues to be a concern as schools and colleges move courses to online. Being a community college, we have a lot of technical programs, but it is difficult to create an online lab class. This is a fluid situation and we will continue to be flexible and accommodating. Some employers have contacted the College requesting that certain classes not be canceled because they need the students in the workforce.

Some students have returned to the residence halls because they are bored. Staff are awaiting a response from the Elkhorn Logan Valley Health Department to determine if students should remain in housing or not.

NJCAA has announced that all spring sports have been canceled for the season. Athletes will have one additional year of eligibility.

Terry Nelson reported that the West Point hospital is following CDC guidelines and will begin checking employee temperatures and determine if they meet certain criteria; he inquired if any screening is being conducted as Northeast employees come to work. Mr. Paulsen stated that this will be a part of the discussions that are held over the next 24-48 hours.

Additional discussions will be held regarding dormitory and tuition refunds, employee sick leave, etc. Dr. Karen Severson reported that several types of leave options can be viewed on the FAQ list on the website. Dr. Barrett stated that it will be valuable to track the different types of leaves that are used during this time because of how the federal government may

respond down the road. A link to the College's insurance provider, BCBS, is also provided on the website.

Terry Nelson reported that the West Point hospital is creating a registry of people who can babysit that could care for children of health care workers. The hospital is not employing the day care providers, just providing the registry list. He encouraged Northeast to consider doing the same type of thing if students are returning to their hometowns.

Mr. Nelson also encouraged Brian and John to keep good notes of the meetings held and decisions made so that it can be used as a reference in the future or for other groups or organizations. Mr. Blaylock reported that the group is documenting everything that they do, and the decision-making evidence is being placed in a SharePoint site for future reference.

Dr. Barrett extended a huge note of appreciation to the incident command team for creating the protocols and recommendations and providing support of faculty as we move forward with this monumental task. The incident command team has remained focused on the mission of the College and she is proud to be a part of Northeast.

Del Ames inquired as to how students who don't have internet at home will be handled and what type of technical support will be provided if students run into issues. John reported that this is part of the conversation that will occur over the next 24-48 hours; the question of accessibility and bandwidth will be a major conversation. With regard to technical support, Northeast currently has Service Center staff who will be available to assist students and troubleshoot problems on the teaching platform.

President Barrett indicated that institutions across the nation are tasked with making many of the same decisions that Northeast is faced with. Northeast will continue to discuss alternative methods of providing lab instruction. Faculty are talking to peers at other institutions for alternatives in offering lab classes. Many companies across the United States have opened up access to products like Adobe to allow faculty to have tools to assist them in the teaching environment.

Dr. Barrett reported that because our energies need to be focused on the current coronavirus situation, the interviews of the Vice President of Technology Services and Vice President of Administrative Services are being postponed. Administering the PACE Climate survey will also be postponed.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, Steve Anderson expressed sincere appreciation to Leah and John for leading the institution through this event.

4. Dr. Michele Gill and Faye Kilday presented documentation in support of a new Drug and Alcohol Counseling certificate program. The new certificate program combines a group of existing courses and then awards students a credential in counseling.

Northeast Community College currently offers coursework to meet the 270 clock hours of education required for initial licensure of alcohol and drug counselors in Nebraska.

Northeast proposes that this new certificate in Drug and Alcohol Counseling will provide students with an additional credential that will enhance workforce employability.

These credit courses can also be applied to an Associate of Arts Degree with a concentration in Human Services. The Drug and Alcohol Counseling Certificate provides educational options for students seeking entry-level career training, occupational education, transfer programs, and/or adult continuing education or job-upgrading.

Northeast Community College already has the necessary faculty on staff to deliver the Drug and Alcohol Counseling certificate program due to the existing Associate of Arts Human Services concentration. The credential will allow students to specialize in drug and alcohol counseling. The addition of the certificate will enable students to ladder into an Associate of Arts degree should the student wish to pursue a degree.

Northeast has been offering these classes since the fall and the students have been working through the courses, hoping to achieve the credential, even though we currently didn't offer the credential. The certificate program has been designed for online course delivery and does not require classrooms or other facilities. Northeast has the necessary technology infrastructure to deliver the program entirely online.

During discussion members recognized that this certificate program would help to fill a gap that currently exists in our region and beyond. A consensus was reached by the Student Success Committee to recommend to the Board of Governors to approve the new Drug and Alcohol Counseling certificate program at Northeast Community College for submission to the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.

5. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2:19 p.m.