

**NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 16, 2020

STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE

Carol Sibbel, Chairperson	PRESENT
Donovan Ellis	PRESENT
Terry Nelson	PRESENT
Nicole Sedlacek	PRESENT@10:34 a.m.
Steve Anderson, ex-officio	PRESENT@10:25 a.m.

STAFF

Dr. Leah Barrett
Amanda Nipp
Dr. Michele Gill
Dr. Karen Severson
Jim Curry
Diane Reikofski

GUESTS

Paul Feilmeier

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

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

MINUTES

1. Carol Sibbel, Chairperson of the Student Success Committee, convened the meeting at 9:53 a.m. in Suites F & G of the Lifelong Learning Center
2. Recommended approval of the Minutes of the June 11, 2020 meeting as distributed.
3. Northeast Community College is participating in the state's Workforce Retraining Initiative (WRI), funded by federal stimulus dollars made available through the governor's office. The focus of the program is to provide training to individuals who have found themselves unemployed or underemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Training is designed to provide these individuals new skill sets that will qualify them for, or create a pathway to, better paying jobs in high-demand careers. In an effort to quickly help individuals and provide a boost to the region's economy, the entire program has been on a fast track. The retraining program will begin in August and Dr. Cyndi Hanson is coordinating and leading the effort. Northeast has identified 18 training programs that will be part of the WRI training opportunity.

Based on a formula agreed to by all of the state's community colleges, Northeast is scheduled to receive \$1,096,180. \$931,700 will be used for scholarships averaging \$1,100 each to 47 individuals. The scholarships will cover tuition and examination fees for eligible students. Those who drop or withdraw will be required to repay funds. Students will have the services of a career coach to assist them with the scholarship application process and follow-up work. Remaining funds will be used for administrative costs, including cost of instruction and marketing.

Mission

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

Northeast will be required to monitor and survey scholarship recipient's past-training to determine how well the WRI program succeeded in its goal of providing better employment opportunities.

Students may obtain more information on the WRI opportunity by contacting Dr. Cyndi Hanson or email her at GetNebraskaGrowing@northeast.edu.

4. Northeast Community College is required to report information regarding the awarding and disbursement of CARES Act funds to students. Northeast was awarded \$1,729,296 from the CARES Act and at least \$864,603 must be disbursed directly to students. As of July 7, 2020, a total of \$369,506 has been distributed to 399 students. Planning work is underway to award an additional \$500,000 in CARES funds as a mass award to 1,000-1,200 students, moving us closer to the \$1,000,000 mark. This will leave some funds available that could be used for students this fall or the institution could use for COVID expenses. Of the students who requested assistance, the main request was for financial assistance.

Amanda Nipp reported that initially after the CARES ACT funds were received, the Financial Aid office received hundreds of requests, but the request have slowed to very few being received.

5. The enrollment update revealed that the Summer 2020 enrollment is down 11% in headcount and 6% in credit hours compared to a year ago. Early College enrollment reveals a 30% increase in headcount and a 47% increase in credit hours compared to Summer 2019.

Fall 2020 credit hour enrollment reveals an 11% decrease in headcount and a 15% decrease in credit hours compared to Fall 2019. Early College enrollment reflected a 10% increase in headcount and a 14% increase in credit hours. New student enrollment reveals a 19% decrease in headcount and a 23% decrease in credit hours compared to Fall 2019.

Amanda Nipp indicated that in an effort to increase Fall 2020 enrollments, a communication plan is being implemented for all Fall 2020 enrolled students to keep them engaged. Postcards are being sent to students who withdrew applications for Fall 2020 and who have been nonresponsive to calls and emails.

6. Planning priorities used when making decisions for summer and fall classes included providing a quality education for students, safety of students, faculty, and staff, and budget considerations.

In order to be proactive and transparent, the decision to offer courses online, in hybrid format, or face-to-face was made by June 1st. This was done to provide faculty time to prepare for course delivery and to be transparent with students when they registered so that they were aware of how their classes would be delivered during the fall semester. Faculty were engaged in the decisions and they did not want to pivot the method of course deliver mid-semester.

Evolving factors include the NJCAA announcing on July 13th that they have moved all fall sports to the spring, the need for Early College options, many P-12 schools have yet to

announce their plans, flexible scheduling and telecommuting necessities, low unemployment, and providing students increased winter and summer term course options.

Northeast takes pride in providing a quality product and making an early decision on course delivery has afforded instructors time to prepare to provide a quality education.

7. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.