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# MINUTES

## COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

January 25, 2018

Apothecary Building, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, North Loft  
Lincoln, Nebraska

### *Public notice of meeting*

Public notice of this meeting was given by posting notice on the Commission's website; posting notice on the State of Nebraska's online public meeting calendar; e-mailing news media; and keeping a current copy of the agenda in the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education's office, listing the date, time, and location of the meeting.

### **NOTICE OF MEETING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION WILL HOLD A MEETING ON JANUARY 25, 2018. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 8:30 A.M. AND ADJOURN AT APPROXIMATELY 11:15 A.M.

AN AGENDA IS MAINTAINED IN THE COMMISSION OFFICE, 140 N. 8<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SUITE 300, LINCOLN, NEBRASKA.

W. SCOTT WILSON, CHAIR

### *Meeting called to order at 8:31 a.m.*

### **CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair W. Scott Wilson called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. and asked for introductions.

### **Commissioners Present**

Colleen Adam  
Gwenn Aspen  
Dr. John Bernthal  
Dr. Deborah Frison

Dr. Ron Hunter  
Dwayne Probyn  
Dr. Paul Von Behren  
W. Scott Wilson

### **Commissioners Absent**

Mary Lauritzen  
Dr. Joyce Simmons

### **Commission Staff Present**

Dr. Michael Baumgartner  
Dr. Kathleen Fimple  
Kadi Lukesh  
J. Ritchie Morrow

Helen Pope  
Gary Timm  
Mike Wemhoff

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*Minutes of December 1, 2017,  
Commission Meeting approved*

## **MINUTES OF DECEMBER 1, 2017, COMMISSION MEETING**

**Commissioner Probyn moved that the December 1, 2017, minutes be approved. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioners Aspen and Hunter abstained. The remaining six Commissioners voted yes. The motion carried.**

*Chair Wilson stated name tags will be available at future meetings*

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Wilson noted that going forward, name tags will be available for visitors and guests at the Commission meetings.

*Chair Wilson gave update on Commissioner Lauritzen*

Chair Wilson stated the Commissioners and staff are thinking about Commissioner Lauritzen, as her son recently had an unfortunate medical event. Well wishes are with her and her family at this time.

*Chair Wilson congratulated recently reappointed Commissioners*

Chair Wilson congratulated Commissioners Simmons, Frison, and Bernthal for their recent reappointment to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education by Governor Ricketts. Their terms will continue until January 1, 2024.

*Chair Wilson announced Commissioner Frison's appointment to MHEC*

Chair Wilson announced that Commissioner Frison has been appointed by Governor Ricketts as Nebraska's representative to the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), replacing former Commissioner Carol Zink. Her term begins January 22, 2018 and continues until January 1, 2019.

*Statement of financial interest forms due*

Chair Wilson reminded Commissioners that their statement of financial interest forms are due March 1.

*Dr. Baumgartner reports on out-of-service area authorizations*

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dr. Michael Baumgartner, Executive Director, reported the following out-of-service area applications have been authorized:

1. Offered by Central Community College  
Interactive two-way video originated at CCC  
Delivered to Pope John High School in Elgin, NE
  - SPCH 1110 Public Speaking (3 cr.)  
1/8/18-5/3/18
2. Offered by Central Community College  
Interactive two-way video originated at CCC  
Delivered to Pope John High School in Elgin, NE
  - SOCI 1010 Introduction to Sociology (3 cr.)  
1/8/18-5/3/18
3. Offered by Central Community College  
Interactive two-way video originated at CCC  
Delivered to Madison High School in Madison, NE
  - SPCH 1110 Public Speaking (3 cr.)  
1/8/18-5/3/18

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*Out-of-service area authorizations  
continued*

4. Offered by Central Community College  
Interactive two-way video originated at CCC  
Delivered to Deshler High School in Deshler, NE
  - MATH 2060 Calculus II (5 cr.)  
1/8/18-5/3/18
5. Offered by Central Community College  
Interactive two-way video originated at CCC  
Delivered to Madison High School in Madison, NE
  - ENGL 1020 Writing & Research (3 cr.)  
1/8/18-5/3/18
6. Offered by Central Community College  
Interactive two-way video originated at St. Paul High School  
in St. Paul, NE  
Delivered to Stanton High School in Stanton, NE
  - MATH 2020 Applied Statistics (3 cr.)  
1/8/18-5/11/18
7. Offered by Mid-Plains Community College  
Interactive two-way video originated at MPCC  
Delivered to Alma High School in Alma, NE
  - MATH 1200 Elements of Statistics (3 cr.)  
1/15/18-5/10/18
8. Offered by Mid-Plains Community College  
Interactive two-way video originated at MPCC  
Delivered to Garden County High School in Oshkosh, NE
  - MATH 2600 Differential Equations (3 cr.)  
1/15/18-5/10/18
9. Offered by Mid-Plains Community College  
Interactive two-way video originated at MPCC  
Delivered to Garden County High School in Oshkosh, NE
  - ENGR 1020 Programming & Problem Solving (3 cr.)  
1/17/18-5/10/18

*Kadi Lukesh presented the second  
quarter budget*

Dr. Baumgartner called on Kadi Lukesh, Office Manager/Budget Coordinator, to present the Second Quarter Budget report. Ms. Lukesh commented that being 50% through the year, 50% of funds have been spent. She addressed conference registration fees and noted that there is a credit in staff travel. Occasionally staff members are asked to attend a conference, we pay for it, and then they are reimbursed. Often this crosses fiscal years and that is why there currently is a credit. Commission travel expenses are down, and we will move some dollars from that to another category. Ms. Lukesh noted the data processing category looks high, however, purchases were made last fiscal year so \$13,000 is encumbered and came into this year. Ms. Lukesh reviewed the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Program (NOG) stating more has been spent out of the cash fund instead of the General Fund and that is at the

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request of the state budget office to keep the interest accruing to the General Fund. Ms. Lukesh gave a brief summary of the Improving Teacher Quality (ITQ) Grant, the Community College Gap Program, and the Access College Early Scholarship (ACE).

*Dr. Baumgartner discussed Legislative bills of interest*

Dr. Baumgartner briefed the Commissioners on Legislative bills of interest. He provided a handout of bills the CCPE is tracking and of the Unicameral process. There are 400 bills carried over from last year and 469 new bills were introduced this year. Staff are following 15 bills, of which four are carryover and 11 new. Dr. Baumgartner gave a brief description of each of those bills and mentioned that LB 917 would directly affect the CCPE. He answered questions from the Commissioners.

*Dr. Baumgartner attended reception and dinner of the Nebraska Grocery Industry Association*

Dr. Baumgartner and J. Ritchie Morrow, Financial Aid Officer, were invited by Brian Rockey, Director of the Nebraska Lottery, to attend the Nebraska Grocery Industry Association annual legislative reception and dinner on January 18. Dr. Baumgartner attended and spoke with several senators about the Nebraska Opportunity Grant and Community College Gap programs, which receive lottery dollars.

*Dr. Baumgartner attended Urban Institute meeting*

Dr. Baumgartner commented that in October 2017 he attended a meeting at the Urban Institute in DC concerning college performance metrics with colleagues from Virginia, North Carolina, and Maryland. The Urban Institute is moving forward with a plan to work with Connecticut, Virginia, and Nebraska on their project. He has visited with their staff about whom they want to contact in Nebraska to convene a meeting. They also spoke to Dr. Dean Folkers and the Nebraska Department of Education about the state's longitudinal data system.

*Dr. Baumgartner attended meeting regarding dual credit project with ECS*

Dr. Baumgartner recently met with Commissioner Matt Blomstedt and Ryan Foor from the Nebraska Department of Education, Cheryl Wolfe from the governor's office, and Western Nebraska Community College Vice President of Academic Affairs, Kim Dale, via videoconference to address the next steps in a dual credit project recently started with the Education Commission of the States at the end of November.

*Dr. Baumgartner thanked staff*

Dr. Baumgartner expressed his appreciation to the CCPE staff for stepping up to cover the responsibilities from vacant positions.

*Public Hearing on Matters of General Concern*

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON MATTERS OF GENERAL CONCERN**

There was no testimony on Matters of General Concern.

**Chair Wilson closed the public hearing on Matters of General Concern.**

*Public Hearing on Academic Programs Committee Items*

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE ITEMS**

Dr. David Jackson, Vice Provost from the University of Nebraska, came forward to state that representatives from the University of Nebraska were present to testify in support of the items on the agenda. Secondly, Dr. Jackson addressed the Existing Program Review agenda item, stating that

*Dr. David Jackson, University of Nebraska*

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*Dr. Jackson, continued*

he sent a letter to the Commission on January 4, indicating the University's intent per state statute to go forward with an in-depth review of two programs that do not meet Commission threshold. Those are the University of Nebraska at Kearney BA in Philosophy and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln MA and PhD in Geography.

**Chair Wilson closed the public hearing on Academic Programs Committee Items.**

*Commissioner Bernthal*

**ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Bernthal, Committee Chair, introduced Dr. Kathleen Fimple, Academic Programs Officer, to discuss the program proposals.

*Crown College*

**Crown College – Application to Modify a Previously Approved Recurrent Authorization to Operate**

*Dr. Fimple presented the proposal*

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal, noting that Crown College was approved last July by the Commission to offer four courses at Christ Community Church in Omaha that lead to a Master's degree. Christ Community Church has since expressed interest in offering six more programs. Grace University in Omaha offers similar programs but will be closing in May 2018. Grace University is discussing a teach-out agreement with Crown College for existing students, so the church ministry opportunity would remain available in Omaha.

*Dr. Scott Moats, Crown College*

Dr. Scott Moats, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs at Crown College, spoke on the initiative and the partnership of the college and a local church, blurring the lines between field practice and classroom instruction. This allows the student to do their internship while they are taking courses at a significant cost savings. He answered questions from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Bernthal read the committee recommendation.

**Committee Recommendation:** Approve the modification to the recurrent authorization to operate for Crown College to include programs at the baccalaureate and graduate level, limited to BS degrees in Biblical Studies, Christian Ministry, and Psychology Counseling, and MA degrees in Christian Studies, Counseling, and Global Leadership (in addition to the MA in Christian Leadership, whose courses were previously approved).

**Stipulation:** Verification is provided to the Coordinating Commission that the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Service requirements are met for the MA in counseling.

**Reporting Requirements:** Crown College has an annual reporting requirement in place. These programs would be included in that report which is due August 15, 2018.

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*Crown College's Application to Modify a Previously Approved Recurrent Authorization to Operate approved*

**Commissioner Bernthal, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve Crown College's Application to Modify a Previously Approved Recurrent Authorization to Operate. A roll call vote was taken. All eight Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

*Dr. Fimple presented the proposal*

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln – Proposal for a new Organizational Unit - Clayton Yeutter Institute of International Trade and Finance**

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal, mentioning that in 2015 the Governor's budget bill included \$1,250,000 general funds for 2015-16 and 2016-17 for the Yeutter Institute for International Trade and Finance. The funding was contingent on the University raising matching funds from private sources, which they have done. The Board of Regents was instructed through this legislation to invest the funds and use the interest to support endowed chairs. This proposal's intention is to facilitate faculty research, bring people together with like interests, and conduct outreach activities. They also want to create an undergraduate minor in international trade and business, as well as graduate courses that would form a graduate specialization. Dr. Fimple stated that the Commission does not approve minors or specializations.

*Dr. Ron Yoder, IANR*

Dr. Ron Yoder, Associate Vice Chancellor of UNL's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR) representing the Yeutter Institute, expressed the excitement generated and plans for the new institute given the interest in international trade. He answered questions from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Bernthal stated committee recommendation is to approve the Clayton Yeutter Institute of International Trade and Finance at UNL.

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln proposal for a New Organizational Unit - Clayton Yeutter Institute of International Trade and Finance approved*

**Commissioner Bernthal, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Proposal for a New Organizational Unit – Clayton Yeutter Institute of International Trade and Finance. A roll call vote was taken. All eight Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

*Chapter 7 – Postsecondary Institution Act Revision*

*Dr. Fimple presented the proposal*

**Changes to Nebraska Administrative Code 281 - Chapter 7 – Postsecondary Institution Act (Revision)**

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal, stating that the Commission has seen Chapter 7 before and this will be the last vote before submission to the Governor's Office, Secretary of State, Attorney General, and various state agencies for final approval. She noted a few definitions have been revised to agree with statute, along with deletion of application forms that are no longer required.

Commissioner Bernthal stated the committee recommendation is to approve the Changes to Nebraska Administrative Code 281 – Chapter 7 – Postsecondary Institution Act (Revision).

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*Chapter 7 Postsecondary Institution Act Revision approved*

**Commissioner Bernthal, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the Revision to Nebraska Administrative Code 281 – Chapter 7 – Postsecondary Institution Act. A roll call vote was taken. All eight Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

*Chapter 8 Guaranty Recovery Cash Fund*

**Nebraska Administrative Code 281 - Chapter 8 – Guaranty Recovery Cash Fund (New)**

*Gary Timm presented the proposal*

Gary Timm, Chief Finance & Administrative Officer, presented the proposal, noting a letter was received from the Creative Center opposing the addition of Chapter 8. By statute, we are required to create Chapter 8. The Attorney General reviewed the document and made a few minor changes, one indicating the Commission will consider a claimant's written submission of disagreement with the written recommendations.

Commissioner Bernthal stated the Committee recommendation is to approve the Nebraska Administrative Code 281 - Chapter 8 – Guaranty Recovery Cash Fund (New).

*Chapter 8 Guaranty Recovery Cash Fund approved*

**Commissioner Bernthal, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve Nebraska Administrative Code 281 – Chapter 8 – Guaranty Recovery Cash Fund. A roll call vote was taken. All eight Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

*Existing Program Review*

**Existing Program Review**

Commissioner Bernthal and Dr. Fimple presented the Existing Program Review, noting there are two action items to be voted upon since they are undergoing study. Dr. Jackson stated the Board of Regents will examine the in-depth reviews later this year, take action, and report back to the Commission by September 30, 2018.

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln and University of Nebraska at Kearney*

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln – Geography (MA, PhD), and, University of Nebraska at Kearney – Philosophy (BA)**

Chair Wilson recommended voting on the existing programs together.

Commissioner Bernthal stated the Committee recommendation is to approve the Existing Program Review of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln – Geography (MA, PhD) and University of Nebraska at Kearney – Philosophy (BA), with a report due in September of 2018.

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln Geography (MA, PhD) and University of Nebraska at Kearney Philosophy (BA) approved*

**Commissioner Bernthal, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Existing Program Review – Geography (MA, PhD) and University of Nebraska at Kearney – Philosophy (BA). A roll call vote was taken. All eight Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

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*Annual Reports for Institutions Holding  
a Recurrent Authorization to Operate  
in Nebraska*

*Dr. Fimple presented the report*

**Annual Reports For Institutions Holding a Recurrent Authorization  
to Operate in Nebraska**

Dr. Fimple presented the report, commenting that Kaplan University's enrollment and degrees awarded has decreased, most likely connected with the merger with Purdue University. The merger is moving forward and the new entity will be called Purdue University Global. Dr. Fimple also stated that Omaha School of Massage and Healthcare of Herzing University closed its campus in Omaha and reported to the Commission what happened to the enrolled students when the teach-out was initiated. Dr. Fimple noted a correction that the number of students was 110, not 100 as listed on the report.

**Phase Out, Reasonable and Moderate Extensions, and Program  
Concentration Deletions**

Commissioner Bernthal and Dr. Fimple presented the following information items.

*Phase out*

A. **Phase out**

1. UNO – BS degree in Athletic Training

*Reasonable and Moderate Extensions*

B. **Reasonable and Moderate Extensions**

1. NECC – Business Certificate in Banking
2. NECC – Business Certificate in Real Estate
3. NECC - AS concentration in Public Health (college transfer)
4. NECC – Community Health Worker Certificate
5. NECC – Automotive Light Service Technician Certificate
6. NECC – Mechanical Drafting concentration within the Drafting program AAS
7. NECC – Mechanical Drafting diploma
8. NECC – Mechanical Drafting certificate

*Program Concentration Deletions*

C. **Program Concentration Deletions**

1. NECC – Business (Insurance Services) AAS
2. NECC – Business (Entrepreneurship) AAS
3. NECC – Business (International Business) AAS
4. NECC – Business (Real Estate) AAS
5. NECC – Business (Retail Management) AAS

Chair Wilson called for a break at 9:50 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:05 a.m.

*Public Hearing on Budget,  
Construction, and Financial Aid  
Committee Items*

*Rebecca Koller, University of Nebraska*

**PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET, CONSTRUCTION, AND  
FINANCIAL AID COMMITTEE ITEMS**

Rebecca Koller, Assistant Vice President for Business and Finance and Director of Facilities Planning and Management from the University of Nebraska Central Administration, stated that she and John Amend, UNO Assistant Vice Chancellor of Facilities, were available to discuss



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*Dr. Paul Illich, Southeast Community College*

the UNO – Dodge Campus Arts and Sciences Hall Renovation proposal.

Dr. Paul Illich, President of Southeast Community College, came forward in support of the Southeast Community College - Milford Campus Diesel Technology Building proposal. He stated that also present to answer Commissioner's questions were Ed Koster, SCC Vice President Milford Campus, Aaron Epps, SCC Director of Facilities, Lester Breidenstine, SCC Diesel Program Chair, and Jeff Chadwick, Clark Enerson Architectural Firm.

**Chair Wilson closed the public hearing on Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee Items.**

*Commissioner Probyn acknowledged BCF committee members*

**BUDGET, CONSTRUCTION, AND FINANCIAL AID COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Probyn, Committee Chair, acknowledged committee members and staff that attended the recent Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee conference call.

*University of Nebraska at Omaha*

**University of Nebraska at Omaha – Dodge Campus – Arts and Sciences Hall Renovation**

*Mike Wemhoff presented the proposal*

Mike Wemhoff, Facilities Officer, presented the proposal, complimenting the institutions for the quality of information provided to the Commission. The Original Arts and Sciences Hall was built in 1938 with the most recent renovation completed in 2000. It is one of the largest buildings on the Omaha Dodge Campus. The current renovation proposal would focus on the interior building systems, including mechanical, electrical, data communication upgrades, and code compliance items such as updating restrooms and addressing outdated fixtures. Elevators would be brought up to code compliance, and the classrooms and lecture halls would have additional audiovisual upgrades. The cost of the renovation is being funded by facility bond proceeds made available by LB 957 that was passed in 2016.

*John Amend, University of Nebraska at Omaha*

Mr. Amend commented that UNO appreciates the Commission's support on this project, as they take pride in the Arts and Sciences Hall and look forward to the interior renovations.

Commissioner Probyn stated the Committee recommendation is to approve the University of Nebraska at Omaha – Dodge Campus – Arts and Sciences Hall Renovation.

*University of Nebraska at Omaha – Dodge Campus – Arts and Sciences Hall Renovation approved*

**Commissioner Probyn, on behalf of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee moved to approve the University of Nebraska at Omaha's - Dodge Campus - Arts and Sciences Hall Renovation. A roll call vote was taken. All eight Commissioners present voted yes. The motion passed.**

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*Southeast Community College – Milford Campus*

*Commissioner Probyn and Mr. Wemhoff presented the proposal*

*Dr. Paul Illich, Southeast Community College*

*Southeast Community College – Milford Campus – Diesel Technology Building approved*

*Biennial Inflationary Adjustment to the Statutory Threshold for an Incremental Increase in Facility O&M costs*

*Mr. Wemhoff presented the report*

*Biennial Inflationary Adjustment to the Statutory Threshold for an Incremental Increase in Facility O&M Costs approved*

### **Southeast Community College – Milford Campus – Diesel Technology Building**

Commissioner Probyn and Mr. Wemhoff presented the proposal. Southeast Community College is proposing to construct a new facility on the Milford Campus for its Diesel Technology-Ag Equipment and Diesel Technology-Truck programs. They would also relocate welding which is not a stand-alone degree-granting program. The additional space would provide ample room for and accommodate large diesel truck and agriculture equipment. Welding would have more space, better equipment and ventilation. The existing program spaces would be used for current automotive programs. Mr. Wemhoff stated the college's proposed use of capital improvement property tax levy funds for the project is appropriate.

Dr. Illich thanked Mr. Wemhoff for working with SCC on this project proposal and gave a brief overview of how the new building will not only provide much needed space and improvements in efficiency, but also a welcoming and safer environment for the students and faculty. Mr. Breidenstine mentioned that as SCC Milford Campus moves to a semester system in August 2019, more classes will be offered on the campus. Dr. Illich and Mr. Breidenstine answered Commissioners' questions.

Commissioner Probyn stated the Committee recommendation is to approve the Southeast Community College – Milford Campus – Diesel Technology Building.

**Commissioner Probyn, on behalf of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee moved to approve Southeast Community College's – Milford Campus Diesel Technology Building. A roll call vote was taken. All eight Commissioners present voted yes. The motion passed.**

### **Biennial Inflationary Adjustment to the Statutory Threshold for an Incremental Increase in Facility Operating and Maintenance Costs**

Mr. Wemhoff stated that statute requires that the inflationary adjustment threshold be reviewed every two years. There are two triggers for Commission review: the total project costs of a project if there is at least \$2,000,000 of tax funds involved (not subject to inflationary adjustments), and secondly, if facility operation and maintenance (O&M) costs of a project are likely, as determined by the institution, to result in an incremental increase of at least \$90,000 in tax funds in any fiscal year within 10 years of completion of a project. Commission staff submitted its recommendation to institutions for comment, based on price index for facility O&M, with costs to remain at the \$90,000/year threshold.

Commissioner Probyn stated the Committee recommendation is to approve the Biennial Inflationary Adjustment to the Statutory Threshold for an Incremental Increase in Facility Operating and Maintenance Costs

**Commissioner Probyn, on behalf of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee moved to approve the Biennial Inflationary**

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**Adjustment to the Statutory Threshold for an Incremental Increase in Facility Operating and Maintenance Costs to remain at the \$90,000/year incremental increase. A roll call vote was taken. All eight Commissioners present voted yes. The motion passed.**

*Access College Early 2016-17 Year-End Report*

*J. Ritchie Morrow presented the report*

**Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship AY 2016-17 Year-End Report**

Mr. Morrow presented the ACE Scholarship year-end report, commenting that the report is in a different format. Some of the information from the Nebraska Higher Education Progress Report has been added so pertinent information is provided in one report. The objective of the ACE program is to encourage well-prepared high school students from low-income families to enroll in college courses. Mr. Morrow stated that Nebraska universities and colleges enrolled 2,157 low-income, Nebraska high school students from 209 high schools who received 4,036 ACE scholarships in 2016-17. The total amount awarded was \$947,076, with the average award per scholarship equaling \$234.65. These are high school students taking college courses and they are doing well, with 75% of the students receiving a grade of B or better. Mr. Morrow reviewed the amounts awarded, credit hours taken, and grade level of recipients since the beginning of the ACE scholarship program in 2007. The report provides graphs of eligibility, gender, and race of recipients, noting females are taking advantage of the program more than males. Mr. Morrow went over the college continuation rate, participating colleges, and noted that the end of the report lists the number of scholarships awarded by high school, and the courses taken by scholarship recipients.

Commissioner Probyn stated the Committee recommendation is to approve the Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship AY 2016-17 Year-End Report.

*Access College Early 2016-2017 Year-End Report approved*

**Commissioner Probyn, on behalf of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee moved to approve the Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship AY 2016-17 Year-End Report. A roll call vote was taken. All eight Commissioners present voted yes. The motion passed.**

*Nebraska Opportunity Grant 2016-2017 Year-End Report*

*Mr. Morrow presented the report*

**Nebraska Opportunity Grant (NOG) AY 2016-2017 Year-End Report**

Mr. Morrow presented the 2016-17 year-end Nebraska Opportunity Grant report, commenting that it is Nebraska's only need-based financial aid program for postsecondary students and is funded through General Fund appropriations and lottery funds. The NOG program uses information from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as a basis for determining eligibility. For the 2016-17 year, \$16,889,748 was awarded to 12,928 students with the average grant award of \$1306.45 per student. Mr. Morrow noted that the NOG program is an important part of the financial aid strategy of postsecondary institutions and that many eligible students are not served by the NOG program due to lack of funding. Mr. Morrow distributed a handout and gave a brief update on FAFSA completion statistics for the past three years. He answered questions from the Commissioners.

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*Next Commission meeting is March 8, 2018*

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next Commission meeting will be Thursday, March 8, 2018, at the Apothecary Building, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor loft, Lincoln, Nebraska.

*Chair Wilson adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Wilson adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.