
MINUTES

COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION Thursday, June 25, 2020 Videoconference via ZOOM

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.

Public notice of meeting

<p style="text-align: center;">NOTICE OF MEETING</p> <p>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION WILL HOLD A MEETING ON JUNE 25, 2020. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 8:30 A.M. AND ADJOURN AT APPROXIMATELY 10:30 A.M.</p> <p>AN AGENDA IS MAINTAINED IN THE COMMISSION OFFICE, 140 N. 8TH STREET, SUITE 300, LINCOLN, NEBRASKA.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DR. DEBORAH FRISON, CHAIR</p>

Meeting called to order at 8:32 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Deborah Frison called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. and asked for introductions.

Commissioners Present

Colleen Adam	Charles Garman
Gwenn Aspen	Mary Lauritzen
Dr. John Bernthal	Dr. Paul Von Behren
Tim Daniels (arrived 8:45 a.m.)	W. Scott Wilson
Dr. Deborah Frison	

Commission Staff Present

Dr. Michael Baumgartner	J. Ritchie Morrow
Dr. Kathleen Fimple	Helen Pope
Jill Heese	Gary Timm
Kadi Lukesh	Joe Velasquez (Zoom moderator)

Minutes of April 30, 2020, approved

MINUTES OF APRIL 30, 2020, COMMISSION MEETING

Commissioner Bernthal made a motion to approve the April 30, 2020, minutes as written. Commissioner Von Behren seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All eight Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.

Chair's report

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Frison prepared and read a statement regarding the recent protests and unrest in the country. It was agreed upon by the Commissioners that the statement be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

Nominating Committee

Commissioner Aspen announced nominations for 2020-2021 Commission Chair, Vice Chair, and Executive Committee members

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Commissioner Aspen reported that she, along with Commissioners Wilson and Von Behren, made up the nominating committee for Commission officers for 2020-2021. She presented the Committee's slate of nominations for Commission Chair, Vice Chair, and two other members of the 2020-2021 Executive Committee.

The Nominating Committee proposed approval of Commissioner Frison to continue to serve as Commission Chair from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021.

Commissioner Frison approved to serve as Chair for 2020-2021

Commissioner Aspen, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, moved to approve Commissioner Frison to serve as Commission Chair from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021. A roll call vote was taken with all eight Commissioners present voting yes.

Commissioner Daniels joined the meeting at 8:45 a.m.

The Nominating Committee proposed approval of Commissioner Bernthal to continue to serve as Vice Chair from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021.

Commissioner Bernthal approved to serve as Vice Chair for 2020-2021

Commissioner Aspen, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, moved to approve Commissioner Bernthal to serve as Commission Vice Chair from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Bernthal abstained. The remaining eight Commissioners voted yes.

The Nominating Committee proposed approval of Commissioners Aspen and Adam to serve on the Executive Committee along with the Chair and Vice Chair from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021.

Commissioners Aspen and Adam approved to serve on Executive Committee for 2020-2021

Commissioner Aspen, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, moved to approve Commissioners Aspen and Adam to serve on the Executive Committee, along with the Chair and Vice Chair, from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021. A roll call vote was taken with all nine Commissioners present voting yes.

Executive Director's Report

Out-of-service area application authorized

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

1. Offered by Metropolitan Community College Hybrid Format from MCC-Omaha to Ashland-Greenwood High School, Ashland, NE
 - SPAN 1120 Elementary Spanish II (7.5 quarter credit hours)

-
- SPAN 2110 Intermediate Spanish I
(4.5 quarter credit hours)
Fall 2020

Dr. Baumgartner stated the legislature will reconvene on July 20, 2020

Dr. Baumgartner stated the legislature will be reconvening July 20 and meet for 17 legislative days, concluding on August 13. The focus will be on committee and senator priority bills. Two bills of interest to the Commission are LB 920 and LB 1131, both Education Committee priority bills.

Dr. Baumgartner provided an update on the Federal CARES Act Funds

Dr. Baumgartner gave an update on the Federal CARES Act Funds, with \$67.2 million going to Nebraska institutions from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, one-half for emergency student aid and one-half for institutional expenses related to the Covid-19. \$1.7 million will go to Nebraska Indian Community College and Little Priest Tribal College from HEERF-Tribal Colleges, and \$597,000 for seven institutions participating in the federal Strengthening Institutions Program. We are still waiting for a new allocation for the FIPSE program.

Information on the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund

Nebraska is also receiving \$16.4 million for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund. Governor Ricketts will be directing those funds to address equitable access for technology resources for K-12. In addition, Governor Ricketts is directing \$16 million to worker retraining at the community colleges and \$40 million to increase high speed internet access to 41 Nebraska communities from the State Coronavirus Relief Fund.

Dr. Baumgartner discussed upcoming 2021-2023 Biennial Budget requests

Dr. Baumgartner reported that over the next few months we will be working on our 2021-2023 biennial budget request, which will be brought to the Commission for approval at the September 10 meeting. With anticipated guidance from the Department of Administrative Services, much will depend on state revenues from the next couple months. We will focus on increasing funding for our financial aid programs to the greatest extent possible. With discrepancies in college attendance and completion by family income as well as race and ethnicity, and with low-income families and families of color being hit disproportionately hard by the pandemic, need-based financial aid has never been more important.

Dr. Baumgartner and Chair Frison attended virtual MHEC executive committee meeting

Dr. Baumgartner and Chair Frison attended a virtual Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC) executive committee meeting this month. The meeting was planned to be held in Omaha with Nebraska as the featured state. University of Nebraska President Carter and UNMC/UNO Chancellor Gold made a pre-meeting presentation on how the University is preparing for re-opening in the fall and discussed the resources UNMC has developed for institutional reopening, which are being shared across the country.

Dr. Baumgartner's reported plans to visit new college presidents

Dr. Baumgartner will be meeting with Northeast Community College President Dr. Leah Barrett in Norfolk next week. He noted he tries to visit new college presidents in a timely manner, but it hasn't worked out this year. He plans to meet with Western Nebraska Community College President Dr. Carmen Simone within the next several months.

Dr. Baumgartner stated if restrictions are not re-imposed the September Commission meeting will be held on UNL campus

Dr. Baumgartner noted that June 30 marks the end of the executive order allowing public bodies to meet remotely without requiring that remote locations be in public facilities, so unless public gathering restrictions are re-imposed, and/or the University of Nebraska decides it needs to close the campus to non-students and employees, we expect to conduct the Commission meeting at the UNL East Campus Union on September 10.

Public Hearing on Matters of General Concern

PUBLIC HEARING ON MATTERS OF GENERAL CONCERN

There was no testimony on Matters of General Concern.

Chair Frison closed the public hearing on Matters of General Concern.

Public Hearing on Academic Programs Committee Items

PUBLIC HEARING ON ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE ITEMS

There was no testimony on Academic Programs Committee Items.

Chair Frison closed the public hearing on Academic Programs Committee Items.

Academic Programs Committee

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

APC Chair Von Behren

Commissioner Von Behren, new Committee Chair, stated the Academic Programs Committee recently met via Zoom.

University of Nebraska Medical Center

University of Nebraska Medical Center – Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Master of Diagnostic Cytology

Dr. Fimple presented the program proposal

Dr. Kathleen Fimple, Academic Programs Officer, presented the program proposal, noting that UNMC currently has a graduate certificate in cytotechnology. However, a program review committee for the accrediting body recently reviewed curriculum across the board and recommended didactic and practice-based competencies be added to the current curriculum. By 2025 the entry-level degree would be a master's degree. UNMC would graduate all students enrolled in the current post-baccalaureate certificate program prior to initiating the master's program. The certificate program would then be discontinued.

Dr. Kyle Meyer, Dr. Amber Donnelly, UNMC, and Dr. David Jackson, University of Nebraska

Dr. Kyle Meyer, Dean, College of Allied Health Professions, and Dr. Amber Donnelly, Professor and Program Director of the Cytotechnology Program from UNMC, along with Dr. David Jackson, Vice Provost, at the University of Nebraska, discussed the program proposal and answered questions from the Commissioners.

AP Committee Recommendation

Commissioner Von Behren stated the Committee recommendation is to approve the Master of Diagnostic Cytology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

University of Nebraska Medical Center Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Master of Diagnostic Cytology approved

Commissioner Von Behren, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska Medical

Center’s Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Master of Diagnostic Cytology. A roll call vote was taken. All nine Commissioners present voted yes.

University of Nebraska Medical Center

Dr. Fimple presented the program proposal

University of Nebraska Medical Center – Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Doctor of Public Health

Dr. Fimple presented the program proposal, stating it would target current public health practitioners and require a master’s or equivalent to be admitted to the program. The program would be offered online and asynchronously. She noted all of the public health programs at UNMC are accredited, as this would be. Demand and need for this program is quite high and there is no other Doctor of Public Health degree program in Nebraska.

Dr. Christine Arcari, UNMC

Dr. Christine Arcari, Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs and Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology at UNMC’s College of Public Health, stated that staff support is in place to get this program operational and they are getting numerous inquiries from students about the program. Dr. Jackson added that even with the current hiring freeze, there is a mechanism in place for departments and colleges to add needed faculty on case-by-case basis.

Dr. David Jackson, University of Nebraska

AP Committee recommendation

Commissioner Von Behren stated the Committee recommendation is to approve the Doctor of Public Health at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

*University of Nebraska Medical Center
Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Doctor of Public Health approved*

Commissioner Von Behren, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska Medical Center’s Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Doctor of Public Health. A roll call vote was taken. All nine Commissioners present voted yes.

Southeast Community College

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal

Southeast Community College – Proposal for an Off-campus Center with a Long-term Commitment – Hebron Learning Center

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal, stating an institution can have a presence outside of their campus, with most of them being short-term leases or commitments. If a long-term commitment is wanted then Commission approval is needed. In 2017 Southeast Community College opened a learning center in Hebron with a short-term arrangement with Thayer County Public Schools. Southeast renovated the facility to accommodate online and distance learning. Thayer County Public Schools decided to offer the building and land to SCC. Dr. Fimple noted that the center has been successful and there is clearly a demand for instruction in the geographical area. SCC has recently added spaces for nursing assistant and other allied health courses, and dual credit courses are planned for summer 2020.

AP Committee recommendation

Commissioner Von Behren stated the Committee recommendation is to approve the proposal from Southeast Community College for an off-campus center with a long-term commitment in Hebron, Nebraska.

Southeast Community College Proposal for an Off-campus Center with a Long-term Commitment – Hebron Learning Center approved

Commissioner Von Behren, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the Southeast Community College’s Proposal for an Off-campus Center with a Long-term Commitment – Hebron Learning Center. A roll call vote was taken. All nine Commissioners present voted yes.

Fees for Private Postsecondary Institution Applications

Dr. Fimple presented the report

Fees for Private Postsecondary Institution Applications

Dr. Fimple presented the report of fees the Commission charges institutions based on administrative costs. It is in rule that the Commission review the fees every two years and be published on the website. Dr. Fimple noted there were no significant changes to the fees.

AP Committee recommendation

Commissioner Von Behren stated the Committee recommendation is to approve the fees for private postsecondary institution applications to become effective July 1, 2020.

Fees for Private Postsecondary Institution Applications approved

Commissioner Von Behren, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the Fees for Private Postsecondary Institution Applications. A roll call vote was taken. All nine Commissioners present voted yes.

Report on Changes Related to Existing Programs

Reasonable and Moderate Extensions

A. Reasonable and Moderate Extensions

1. CCC – Revenue Cycle Management: certificate
2. CCC – Cybersecurity: certificate
3. SCC – Residential Electrical Construction: certificate
4. SCC – Powersports: AAS
5. UNL – Museum Studies: graduate certificate

Name Change

B. Name Change

1. PSC – Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, Law and Society option to *Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, Legal Studies option*

Program Elimination

C. Program Elimination

1. UNL – Classical Languages, BA and BS

Public Hearing on Planning and Consumer Information Committee Items

PUBLIC HEARING ON PLANNING AND CONSUMER INFORMATION COMMITTEE ITEMS

There was no testimony on Planning and Consumer Information Items.

Chair Frison closed the public hearing on Planning and Consumer Information Committee Items.

*Planning and Consumer Information
Committee*

Commission Lauritzen

*2020 Factual Look at Higher Education
in Nebraska: Degrees and Other
Awards Conferred*

Ms. Heese presented the report

*Chair Frison discussed promoting the
Factual Look report*

Executive Committee

Chair Frison

*Proposed Operating Budget FYE June
30, 2021*

*Mr. Timm presented the proposed
budget report*

*Proposed Operating Budget FYE June
30, 2021 approved*

PLANNING AND CONSUMER INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Commissioner Lauritzen, Committee Chair, stated that the Commission is very proud of the *Factual Look* reports and the staff who collect and assemble the information.

2020 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska: Degrees and Other Awards Conferred

Jill Heese, Research Coordinator, delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the *2020 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska: Degrees and Other Awards Conferred*. Ms. Heese gave background information stating that the Commission is required by statute to report information from the federal Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). Ms. Heese's report focused on the latest 10-year trends for five sections: sector, award level, gender, race/ethnicity, and discipline cluster. While sections one through five analyze the number of awards conferred, section six analyzes the number of students who completed awards by age group. Ms. Heese pointed out the full report is available online at ccpe.nebraska.gov. Data users also are able to view data via a dashboard on the Commission's website. Chair Frison started discussion on how the Commission can promote and/or share this information to local media, the public, and others that it may be of interest to.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair Frison introduced Gary Timm, Chief Finance & Administrative Officer, to present the Proposed Operating Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

Proposed Operating Budget FYE June 30, 2021

Mr. Timm gave a review of the state's budgeting process, reporting that the state appropriates funding for agencies on a two-year basis. During the 2019 budget session, the Commission was appropriated funding for the 2019-2020 fiscal year which ends June 30, as well as for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The 2020-2021 budget breaks out the Commission's intentions to spend funds for the second year of the biennium. The Commission's 2021-2023 budget request will be presented at the September Commission meeting, and will go before the Legislature in January 2021. Mr. Timm explained how the administrative budget is set up and pointed out that once the Legislature reconvenes and the extent of possible budget reductions are communicated, the Commission can respond, having already allowed for a 10 percent reduction. Mr. Timm gave a brief overview of the Nebraska Opportunity Grant (NOG), Access College Early (ACE), Gap Tuition Assistance, and Guaranty Recovery Fund.

Chair Frison, on behalf of the Executive Committee, moved to approve the Proposed Operating Budget for the Fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. A roll call vote was taken. All nine Commissioners present voted yes.

Next Commission meeting is September 10, 2020

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Commission meeting will be Thursday, September 10, 2020, at UNL East Campus Union, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Frison adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Today's meeting is the first we have met since the death of **George Floyd, African American man** who died during an arrest by the Minneapolis Police Department. As we all know, his death ignited a series of protests and unrests throughout the country and abroad. Some organizations and agencies during this month time have issued statements and initiatives to address their response to the unrest. At this point, our Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education has not put out a formal statement.

So, my comments as Chair are very personal, but I believe we are an agency with great power and influence. And within our duties and responsibilities, we have been given an inherent opportunity and an obligation to champion and lead efforts to end systemic racism. At this time it's not my interest to convince anyone whether or not systemic racism exists, but my efforts right now are to ensure listeners that I believe, having served on this Commission for eight (8) years, that the Commissioners with whom I serve, our Executive Director and the staff of the Coordinating Commission whom we support, take seriously our duties and responsibilities to the Coordinating Commission.

Let me highlight a few of those duties and responsibilities:

- Creating and putting into action a [comprehensive statewide plan](#) to guide Nebraska's higher education system;
- Helping low-income Nebraska students attend college by awarding need-based [financial aid](#) and developing state financial aid strategy;
- Administering the [Community College Gap Assistance Program](#), which offers financial aid to students who want to work in high-need fields;
- Assembling and analyzing statewide data and publishing [reports](#) tied to the state's higher education goals; and,
- Helping teachers and underserved populations through the administration of federal education [grants](#).

And, I hope that some would say that our in-depth review of the Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska is a foundational recommitment each year to look at inequities in achievement and gaps in education attainment, to expose disparities in enrollment, in hopes of recommitting to advancing equity, access, and attainment to higher education for all.

We all know who we want our Nebraska students to become, our future teachers and educators, leaders, businesspeople, policymakers, healthcare workers, lawyers, police officers, and productive workforce overall. And we don't need to be reminded because we don't forget that now one-third of Nebraska students identify as a student of color. I believe we embrace this diversity.

So while conversations about racial inequities must occur everywhere to prepare our students in every corner of the state to better face the challenges of our nation, rest assured that I believe each individual Commissioner with whom I serve and the staff of the Coordinating Commission have every concern for doing our part to address equity, to take action against inequities and racial injustice, and to ensure a best today and a better tomorrow for our Nebraska youth and higher education population.

Thank you!