
MINUTES

**COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
The Apothecary Building
Ridnour Room, Lincoln, Nebraska
NECC, West Point Extended Campus (via ZOOM)
Thursday, October 8, 2020**

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 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2020. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 8:30 A.M. AND ADJOURN AT APPROXIMATELY 12:30 P.M.

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

DR. DEBORAH FRISON, CHAIR

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Deborah Frison called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and asked for introductions.

Commissioners Present

Gwenn Aspen
Dr. John Bernthal
Tim Daniels
Dr. Deborah Frison

Mary Lauritzen (via Zoom)
Dr. Paul Von Behren
W. Scott Wilson

Commissioners Absent

Colleen Adam

Charles Garman

Commission Staff Present

Dr. Michael Baumgartner
Dr. Kathleen Fimple
Kadi Lukesh
Helen Pope

Gary Timm
Joe Velaquez (Zoom moderator)
Mike Wemhoff

*Minutes of September 10, 2020,
approved*

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2020, COMMISSION MEETING

Commissioner Wilson made a motion to approve the September 10, 2020, minutes as written. Commissioner Bernthal seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All seven Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.

Chair's Report

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Frison announced that Commissioner Aspen is the new committee chair for the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee, and Commissioner Adam is the new committee chair for the Academic Programs Committee. A Planning Committee chair will be chosen at their next committee meeting.

Executive Director's Report

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Mike Baumgartner, Executive Director, introduced Kadi Lukesh, Budget Coordinator/Office Manager, who presented the First Quarter Budget Report for the fiscal year 2020-21. Ms. Lukesh reported there is a large carryover from last year in the Administrative Funds, and with careful planning, this year should be comfortable.

*Ms. Lukesh presented First Quarter
Budget Report*

Ms. Lukesh stated the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Program (NOG) payments are being allocated to institutions from the cash fund first and then the general fund will be used. Payments are made quarterly to the Community Colleges from the Community College GAP Assistance Program. Under personal services, the hours that Gary Timm works on the Gap program are paid out. The Access College Early Scholarship (ACE) has a credit of \$117.00 due to unspent dollars at the beginning of the fiscal year. However, that money will be allocated in the near future.

*Dr. Baumgartner discussed
preparations for 2021 legislative
session*

Dr. Baumgartner stated the CCPE is preparing for the 2021 legislative session by meeting with the Appropriations Committee staff, the Education Committee staff, and staff at the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE). Items of interest include the agency budget and financial aid programs, along with the issues the Commission worked on last year: a fix for an ACE eligibility issue, extending the Community College Gap Assistance Program to the tribal colleges, the distribution of lottery funds for the next five years, and implementation of recommendations from the dual credit study with NDE.

*Dr. Baumgartner spoke at
Appropriations Committee hearing*

Dr. Baumgartner noted he was invited to speak at the Appropriations Committee hearing concerning LR 389, an interim study on programs, initiatives, and strategies to address workforce and talent shortages and to identify best practices for increasing degrees and credentials needed for high-wage, high-demand, high-skilled jobs. He spoke about the NOG, Gap, and ACE programs.

*Dr. Baumgartner noted plans to visit
WNCC*

Dr. Baumgartner commented that he will be visiting with President Dr. Carmen Simone at Western Nebraska Community College October 16. He plans to stop at McCook Community College and meet with Mid-Plains

Dr. Baumgartner reported on staff activities

Community College (MPCC) Vice President Kelly Rippen and visit MPCC extended campuses at Imperial and Ogallala while in the western part of the state.

Dr. Baumgartner reported on happenings from the staff and noted that he along with Ritchie Morrow, Financial Aid Officer, and Gary Timm, Chief Finance & Administrative Officer, will be meeting with Brian Rocky and the staff at the Nebraska Lottery in November for an update on last year's results and items that may affect lottery revenues in the future.

Mr. Morrow has been visiting colleges and universities to audit their financial aid programs and plans to attend the virtual National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs annual meeting in late October.

Kathleen Fimple, Academic Programs Officer, attended the virtual NC-SARA meeting in September, which stretched over several days, and she and Dr. Baumgartner plan to attend the virtual Higher Learning Commission (HLC) annual state agencies meeting in November.

The Midwestern Higher Education Compact will be holding its annual meeting virtually rather than in Des Moines in November, and the Education Commission of the States will also be holding a virtual version of its combined annual and winter meetings in November.

Jill Heese, Research Coordinator, has updated the CCPE fact sheets, which are being provided as a packet to the Commissioners and are available on the CCPE website.

Dr. Neal Grandgenett, Haddix Community Chair of STEM Education at UNO, along with colleagues Michael Flesch and Corey Hatt

PRESENTATION

Dr. Baumgartner introduced and welcomed Dr. Neal Grandgenett, Haddix Community Chair of STEM Education at UNO, and his Nebraska Mathematics Readiness Project colleagues Michael Flesch, Dean of Math and Natural Sciences at Metropolitan Community College, and Corey Hatt, Nebraska Mathematics Readiness Project Director from Central Community College.

Dr. Grandgenett presented a PowerPoint presentation on the second-year results of the Nebraska Mathematics Readiness Project (NMRP). The NMRP is a partnership between the six community colleges and 35 high schools in 27 school districts. The purpose of the Nebraska Math Readiness Project is to provide a bridge to success for high school seniors who need to improve their math skills before entering and completing a college-level math course. The goal of the Nebraska Math Readiness Project is to be the statewide, systematic approach that addresses the low percentage of Nebraska high school students who are college-ready in math upon high school graduation. The project is funded by several foundations and has been in development and implementation for several years.

Dr. Grandgenett stated that math readiness is a national challenge, with 70 percent of community college students and 40 percent of four-year college students needing developmental math. Upon successful completion of the course, students will not need to take foundation-level math classes in college. One challenge is recruiting students as it is important for school advisers/counselors, along with math teachers, to understand the NMRP program and how to communicate it to students and their parents. Dr. Grandgenett provided information on year one and year two completers, achievement results, and the estimated savings to Nebraska families. Dr. Grandgenett, Mr. Flesch, and Mr. Hatt discussed recommendations and sustainability of the program and answered Commissioners' questions.

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

APC Chair Bernthal

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Bernthal, in Commissioner Adam's absence, introduced the Academic Programs Committee items.

University of Nebraska at Omaha

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal

University of Nebraska at Omaha – Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Real Estate, Undergraduate Certificate

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal, noting that in the 1970s the faculty at UNO recognized that there was a need in the community for professional real estate education. They created an informal certificate, without academic credit attached to it, which did not appear on the student's transcript. This proposal will take what is essentially in place and become a credit-bearing certificate in the College of Business Administration. Dr. David Jackson, Vice Provost at UN, stated that this program will add value by creating a formal credential. Mr. David Beberwyk, Instructor, Finance, Banking and Real Estate from UNO (via Zoom), answered Commissioners' questions and stated that those taking this course most likely will be students with extensive experience in real estate or who already have a degree or some college education. Dr. Michelle Trawick, John Becker Dean, College of Business Administration, and Kerstiena Dodge, Project Specialist, Academic Affairs, were present via Zoom in support of the proposal.

Dr. David Jackson, University of Nebraska

Dr. David Beberwyk, UNO

APC recommendation

Commissioner Bernthal stated the APC Committee recommendation is to approve the Real Estate Undergraduate Certificate at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

*University of Nebraska at Omaha –
Proposal for a New Instructional
Program – Real Estate, Undergraduate
Certificate approved*

Commissioner Bernthal, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska at Omaha’s Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Real Estate, Undergraduate Certificate. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Aspen voted no. The remaining six Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.

*University of Nebraska Medical Center
Dr. Fimple presented the in-depth
review*

**University of Nebraska Medical Center – In-Depth Review –
Biostatistics**

Dr. Fimple presented the in-depth review stating the Biostatistics program was new in 2012, and when it came up for its first seven-year review in 2019 it had not yet produced any graduates. UNMC conducted an in-depth review per statute. UNMC identified several factors that contributed to low enrollments and few graduates and set up a clear and realistic action plan to bring the program into compliance within five years. Dr. Jackson and Dr. Ying Zhang, Professor and Chair from the Department of Biostatistics, College of Public Health at UNMC (via Zoom), discussed the in-depth review and answered Commissioners’ questions.

*Dr. David Jackson, University of
Nebraska*

Dr. Ying Zhang, UNMC

APC recommendation

Commissioner Bernthal stated the APC Committee recommendation is to continue the PhD in Biostatistics at UNMC with a report on the Board of Regent’s monitoring, including enrollments and number of graduates, due July 15, 2022.

*University of Nebraska Medical Center
– In-Depth Review – Biostatistics
approved*

Commissioner Bernthal, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska Medical Center’s In-Depth Review – Biostatistics. A roll call vote was taken. All seven Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.

University of Nebraska at Omaha

*Dr. Fimple and Commissioner Bernthal
presented the in-depth review*

**University of Nebraska at Omaha – In-Depth Review – Women’s and
Gender Studies**

Dr. Fimple and Commissioner Bernthal presented the in-depth review, noting that the number of graduates does not meet the criteria but the number of credit hours does. Dr. Fimple stated the Women’s and Gender Studies program was new in 2001, at which time the Commission noted that the next review should address need and demand. The program was continued and in 2019 produced 3.8 graduates. UNO has indicated they anticipated six graduates in 2020. They have identified goals, action steps, and some anticipated results, such as offering the course online. Dr. Jackson added that structuring the curriculum to be interdisciplinary would address a few issues. Peggy Jones, Associate Professor and Associate Director at the College of Arts and Sciences at UNO (via Zoom), spoke about how not offering this program would be a great loss to the students and other departments. Deb Smith-Howell, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean for Graduate Studies, was available via Zoom in support of the in-depth review.

Peggy Jones, UNO

APC recommendation

Commissioner Bernthal stated the APC Committee recommendation is to continue the Bachelor of Arts in Women's and Gender Studies at UNO with a report on the Board of Regent's monitoring, including enrollments and number of graduates, due July 15, 2022.

*University of Nebraska Medical Center
– In-Depth Review – Women's and
Gender Studies approved*

Commissioner Bernthal, on behalf of the Academics Program Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska at Omaha's In-Depth Review – Women's and Gender Studies. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Von Behren voted no. The remaining six Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.

2019-2020 Existing Program Review

2019-2020 Existing Program Review

The following Community College Programs were approved by the Executive Director for continuation:

Central Community College

- Construction Technology (AAS, Diploma, Certificate)
- Electrical Technology (AAS, Diploma, Certificate)

Metropolitan Community College

- Construction and Building Science (AAS, Certificate)
- Critical Facilities Operations (AAS, Certificate)
- Precision Machine Technology (AAS, Certificate)
- Electrical Technology (AAS, Certificate)
- Electrical Mechanical Maintenance (AAS, Certificate)
- Apprentice-related Technology (AAS, Certificate)

Mid-Plains Community College

- Electrical Technology (AAS, Diploma)

Northeast Community College

- Building Construction (AAS)
- Electrical Construction and Control (AAS)

Southeast Community College

- Building Construction and Technology (AAS)

Western Nebraska Community College

- Aviation Airframe/Powerplant Maintenance (AAS, Diploma, Certificate)

Mid-Plains Community College

Dr. Fimple presented the program review

Mid-Plains Community College – Existing Program Review – Building Construction Technology (AAS, Diploma, Certificate)

Dr. Fimple presented the Building Construction Technology existing program requiring additional review. MPCC provided a description of the program and listed the challenges this program faces. No action plan was given.

APC recommendation

Commission Bernthal stated the APC Committee recommendation is to continue the Building Construction Technology program at MPCC with an in-depth review to include an action plan to address challenges, due September 15, 2021.

Mid-Plains Community College Existing Program Review – Building Construction Technology Program (AAS, Diploma, Certificate) approved

Commissioner Bernthal, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve Mid-Plains Community College’s Existing Program Review – Building Construction Technology Program (AAS, Diploma, Certificate). A roll call vote was taken. All seven Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.

Annual Reports for Institutions Holding a Recurrent Authorization to Operate

Annual Reports for Institutions Holding a Recurrent Authorization to Operate

Dr. Fimple presented the annual reports

Dr. Fimple presented the annual reports on the following institutions that were submitted to the Commission from March through August 2020.

- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- The Creative Center
- Crown College
- CHI Health School of Radiologic Technology
- Purdue University Global
- University of South Dakota

Delivering Courses Beyond Campus Wall: A Focus on High Schools

Delivering Courses Beyond Campus Walls: A Focus on High Schools

Dr. Fimple presented the report

Dr. Fimple presented the report, stating this report requests information solely on distance courses offered for high school students. All six community colleges, the three state colleges, and the University of Nebraska campuses (except for UNMC) offer courses for high school students via distance education. Metropolitan Community College, Northeast Community College, and Southeast Community College included courses that were taught on campus or at a center. Dr. Fimple noted the report shows tables that summarize the college courses offered to high school students by delivery method, discipline, and sector. The report lists each high school or location and the number of courses offered there by sector.

Report on Institutional Activities Related to Existing Programs

Reasonable and Moderate Extensions

Reasonable and Moderate Extensions

- CCC – Heavy Equipment Operator Technician, AAS
- CCC – Mental Health Advocate, certificate
- WNCC – Human Services, certificate
- WNCC – Business Technology, Information Technology Technical Support option under the AAS
- WNCC – Business Technology, Information Technology Technical Support diploma

Chair Frison called for a break at 10:36 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:46 a.m.

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

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

There was no testimony on Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid
Committee Items.

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

Budget, Construction, and Financial
Aid Committee

BCF Chair Aspen

BUDGET, CONSTRUCTION, AND FINANCIAL AID COMMITTEE

Commissioner Aspen, new Committee Chair, opened the BCF Committee
section of the agenda.

Postsecondary Education Operation
and State Aid Budget
Recommendations for the 2021-2023
Biennium

Gary Timm, Chief Finance &
Administration Officer, presented the
recommendations

**Postsecondary Education Operation and State Aid Budget
Recommendations for the 2021-2023 Biennium**

Mr. Timm presented the *Postsecondary Education Operating and State
Aid Budget Recommendations for the 2021-2023 Biennium*. Mr. Timm
noted the Commission is directed to review the budget requests of the
governing boards and make recommendations for approval or
modification of the budget requests, together with the rationale for its
recommendations. Mr. Timm directed attention to the Executive
Summary, which provides an overview of the public institution sectors'
requests for the next biennium. Overall they are requesting a 5.81 percent
increase, with the majority of the increases being two percent inflationary
increases. He reviewed the Commission's recommendations for each
institutional request along with the recommendations. Mr. Timm gave a
brief overview of each section of the report and stated the Commission
recommends additional funding for the ACE and NOG programs that
would provide financial aid scholarships for low-income students.

BCF recommendation

Commissioner Aspen stated the BCF Committee Recommendation is to
approve the *2021-2023 Operating Budget and State Aid
Recommendations*.

Postsecondary Education Operation
and State Aid Budget
Recommendations for the 2021-2023
Biennium approved

**Commissioner Aspen, on behalf of the Budget, Construction, and
Financial Aid Committee, moved to approve the *Postsecondary
Education Operation and State Aid Budget Recommendations for the
2021-2023 Biennium*. A roll call vote was taken. All seven
Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

Capital Construction Budget
Recommendations and Prioritization,
2021-2023 Biennium, for the Nebraska
State College System, University of
Nebraska, and Nebraska College of
Technical Agriculture

Mike Wemhoff, Facilities Officer,
presented the Recommendations

**Capital Construction Budget Recommendations and Prioritization,
2021-2023 Biennium, for the Nebraska State College System,
University of Nebraska, and Nebraska College of Technical
Agriculture**

Mike Wemhoff, Facilities Officer, presented the *Capital Construction
Budget Recommendations and Prioritization, 2021-2023 Biennium, for the
Nebraska State College System, University of Nebraska, and Nebraska
College of Technical Agriculture*. Mr. Wemhoff reported that the
Commission recommends to the Governor and the Legislature
modification, approval, or disapproval of the requests from each
institution, and develops a prioritization of approved individual capital

construction budget request with the goal of protecting building occupants, completing partially funded projects, and preventing deterioration of existing physical assets. He noted that the Commission places high priority on providing safe, functional, and well-maintained facilities that support the institutions' efforts to provide exemplary programs. In order to fund the upkeep of existing facilities, the Commission has identified three areas that are in need of new funding during the next biennium: ongoing routine maintenance, deferred repair, and renovation/remodeling. Mr. Wemhoff gave an overview of each of the five sections. There was discussion on the second recommendation in Section I, page I-12. The second recommendation state:

Second, increase institutional outlays for ongoing routine building maintenance to a minimum recommended level of expenditures, including possible utilization of a portion of Facilities and Administrative (F&A) cost reimbursement from federal grant funds;

Motion and approval to amend Section I, page I-12 of the Capital Construction Budget Recommendations and Prioritization, 2021-2023 Biennium, for the Nebraska State College System, University of Nebraska, and Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

Commissioner Aspen made a motion to amend Section I, page I-12, second bullet to end the sentence after the word *expenditures* and omit the remainder of the wording so to state: *Second, increase institutional outlays for ongoing routine building maintenance to a minimum recommended level of expenditures.* Commissioner Lauritzen seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All seven Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.

Amended Capital Construction Budget Recommendations and Prioritization, 2021-2023 Biennium, for the Nebraska State College System, University of Nebraska, and Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture approved

Commissioner Bernthal moved to approve the amended Capital Construction Budget Recommendations and Prioritization, 2021-2023 Biennium, for the Nebraska State College System, University of Nebraska, and Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture. Commissioner Aspen seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All seven Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.

Executive Committee

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Approval of 2020-2021 Salary for the Executive Director

Approval of 2020-2021 Salary of the Executive Director

Motion and approval to enter into closed session

Chair Frison, made a motion to enter into closed session as authorized by the Nebraska Revised Statutes, Section 84-1410, for the protection of the public interest and to prevent needless injury to the reputation of Dr. Michael Baumgartner, who has not requested a public hearing, for the purpose of discussing the executive director's salary. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All seven Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.

Chair Frison announced going into closes session

Chair Frison stated that the Commission is going into closed session to discuss the proposed salary of the executive director recommended by the Executive Committee. Chair Frison requested that staff and guests leave the room.

Closed session began at 12:04 p.m.

The Commission entered into closed session at 12:04 p.m.

Closed session ended at 12:16 p.m.

The Commission ended the closed session at 12:16 p.m. by unanimous vote.

Executive Committee recommendation

Chair Frison stated that formal action must be taken in open session on the executive director's salary recommendations. Commissioner Bernthal stated the Executive Committee recommends a 2.3 percent salary increase for 2020-2021.

2020-2021 executive director salary increase approved

Commissioner Bernthal made a motion to approve the proposed 2.3 percent salary increase for 2020-2021 for Executive Director Baumgartner. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All seven Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.

Next Commission meeting is December 3, 2020

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Commission meeting will be Thursday, December 3, 2020, in the Ridnour Room at the Apothecary/Ridnour Building, Lincoln, Nebraska

Chair Frison comments

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chair Frison discussed the possibility of microphone usage at the Commission meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Frison adjourned the meeting at 12:22 p.m.