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# MINUTES

## COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION December 12, 2019 The Apothecary Building 140 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street Lincoln, Nebraska

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*

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION WILL HOLD A MEETING ON DECEMBER 12, 2019. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 8:30 A.M. AND ADJOURN AT APPROXIMATELY 1:00 P.M.

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

DR. DEBORAH FRISON, CHAIR

*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	Mary Lauritzen
Gwenn Aspen	Dwayne Probyn
Dr. John Bernthal	Dr. Paul Von Behren
Dr. Deborah Frison	W. Scott Wilson
Charles Garman	

#### **Commissioners Absent**

Tim Daniels  
Dr. Ron Hunter

#### **Commission Staff Present**

Dr. Michael Baumgartner	Helen Pope
Dr. Kathleen Fimple	Edie Schleiger
Kadi Lukesh	Gary Timm
J. Ritchie Morrow	Mike Wemhoff

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*Dr. Paul Turman, Nebraska State  
College System*

### **PRESENTATION**

Dr. Paul Turman, Chancellor at the Nebraska State College System (NSCS), stated he appreciates working with the Commission. He gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2025 Strategic Plan for the Nebraska State Colleges. He stated there are 35 task force members representing the three state colleges and NSCS. Their goal is student success and completion. He provided a handout on that goal that included a summary and discussion on student retention rates. The task force's top five priorities are student retention rates, degree completion rates, overall graduate placement in Nebraska, total degrees awarded, undergraduate and graduate, and overall student enrollment. Dr. Turman discussed NSCS's National Student Migration Data tool that shows state by state migration patterns and their IPEDs Analysis Data Tool that shows peer data for Nebraska's colleges and universities. He answered questions from the Commissioners.

*Minutes of September 26, 2019,  
approved*

**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2019, COMMISSION MEETING**  
**Commissioner Bernthal moved that the September 26, 2019, minutes be approved. Commissioner Probyn seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Commission Lauritzen abstained. The remaining eight Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

*Chair's report*

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Frison reported that she attended the Annual Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC) meeting November 19-20 in Indianapolis.

*Executive Director's report*

*Kadi Lukesh presented First Quarter  
Report*

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

Dr. Baumgartner introduced Kadi Lukesh, Budget Coordinator/Office Manager, who gave an update on the First Quarter Report. Ms. Lukesh stated that the report for administrative funds looks overspent due to large annual fee payments that have been made to Worker's Compensation, MHEC dues, and accounting and auditing services. Ms. Lukesh noted 37% of funds have been spent on the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Program (NOG). She gave a brief report on the Community College Gap Assistance Program and the Access College Early Scholarship (ACE) programs. Dr. Baumgartner added that around 70% of the ACE funds have been distributed to date.

Ms. Lukesh stated there is a fund not listed which is a holding account called the Guarantee Recovery Cash Fund. This fund was established to reimburse any student injured by termination of operation for a for-profit postsecondary institution for the cost of tuition and fees. At this time, The Creative Center is the only institution affected by this, and no payout has been made.

*Dr. Baumgartner discussed dual  
enrollment working group*

Dr. Baumgartner reported that the dual enrollment working group with the State Board of Higher Education recently held their fourth and final meeting on November 4, at which priorities and timelines for moving

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forward were discussed. The group includes Commissioners Lauritzen and Bernthal, and State Board of Higher Education members Lisa Fricke and Patsy Koch-Johns. Deven Scott and Dr. Sharmila Mann of the Education Commission of the States (ECS) assist the group. Dr. Mann drafted a final report of the working group that focused on five areas: improving communications, making existing connections explicit, increasing the supply of qualified instructors, increasing affordability, and addressing data and reporting. The report will be presented and discussed at the January 23 meeting. Dr. Baumgartner noted that the report has implications for the Commission's work plan for the coming year, including an update to the Comprehensive Statewide Plan.

*Dr. Baumgartner attended Commissioner Lauritzen's award ceremony and a dedication ceremony at Nebraska Indian Community College*

On October 10, Dr. Baumgartner attended an award ceremony for Commissioner Lauritzen at Northeast Community College, and on October 11, he attended the new building addition and aquaponics facility dedication ceremony at Nebraska Indian Community College in Macy.

*Dr. Baumgartner spoke about Community College Gap Assistance Program*

Gary Timm, Chief Financial Officer, and Dr. Baumgartner have been working with Sen. Kate Bolz on legislation to extend the Community College Gap Assistance program to the two tribal colleges. They recently met with Judi gaiashkobos, the executive director of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs (NCIA), to discuss building support for the legislation. Last week Mr. Timm made a presentation to the NCIA on the Gap program.

*Dr. Baumgartner made a presentation regarding lottery fund allocations at the Education Committee's hearing*

On November 15, Dr. Baumgartner made a presentation at the Education Committee's hearing on the distribution of lottery funds, presenting information on the Nebraska Opportunity Grant and the Community College Gap Assistance Fund. By statute, the Education Committee must conduct a lottery study and make recommendations for future allocations of lottery funds by December 31, 2019. Dr. Baumgartner stated that he had recently met with Sen. Mike Groene, Sen. Rick Kolowski, and Nebraska Department of Education staff concerning the programs and addressing their information requests.

*Chair Frison and Dr. Baumgartner attended MHEC meeting*

Chair Frison and Dr. Baumgartner attended the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) meeting in Indianapolis November 19 to 20. MHEC is currently updating its strategic plan, making that conversation a major part of the meeting.

*Dr. Baumgartner invited to White House Briefing*

Dr. Baumgartner reported that on November 19 he was invited to a White House Briefing on Preparing Students for Financial Success. The focus of the briefing was financial literacy, and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, Education Secretary Betsy DeVoss, U.S. Treasurer Jovita Carranza, and several other administration officials spoke about efforts to avail more students of financial literacy training.

*Dr. Baumgartner participated in ECS meeting in Denver, CO*

Dr. Baumgartner noted that last week he participated in the Education Commission of the State's winter meeting in Denver. Along with Commissioner Matthew Blomstedt, they made a joint presentation on Strengthening Dual Enrollment in Nebraska based on recently concluded work.

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*J. Ritchie Morrow made a presentation at NASFAA training session*

J. Ritchie Morrow, Financial Aid Officer, presented at the Nebraska Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators fall training session and is wrapping up his annual audits this week. Dr. Baumgartner noted Mr. Morrow was recognized for 25 years of state service in October.

*Dr. Kathleen Fimple participated in MHEC annual military credit meeting and HLC Fall State meeting*

Dr. Kathleen Fimple, Academic Programs Officer, participated in MHEC's Multi-state Collaborative on Military Credit annual meeting and the Higher Learning Commission's (HLC) Fall State Meeting last month. Recent changes to the U.S. Department of Education rules governing accreditation and state authorization will have some effect on state rules and processes. HLC will be hosting a call for state agencies in February to continue the conversation. Dr. Baumgartner noted the rules go into effect July 1, 2020.

*CCPE recognized for 100% participation at Charitable Giving Campaign picnic*

Dr. Baumgartner stated the Coordinating Commission was one of two agencies recognized for 100% participation at the Charitable Giving Campaign picnic at the Governor's mansion. The CCPE office staff is also in the midst of our adopt-a-family Christmas project for Voices of Hope.

*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**

*Dr. David Jackson, University of Nebraska*

Dr. David Jackson, Interim Vice Provost at the University of Nebraska, came forward to announce that there were representatives from UNL, UNK, and UNMC present to discuss and answer questions on their agenda items.

*Dr. Ryan Teten, University of Nebraska at Kearney*

Dr. Ryan Teten, Dean of the new combined College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, testified on the UNK Philosophy, BA program. Dr. Teten noted the collaboration of the two colleges has presented an opportunity for growth and expansion at UNK. He noted Dr. Peter Longo, the outgoing Dean, was also present to answer questions that may come up.

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

*Commissioner Adam acknowledges Committee members*

#### **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Adam chaired the Academic Programs Committee in Commissioner Hunter's absence. She acknowledged members of the Committee who were on the recent Academic Programs conference call.

*Southeast Community College*

#### **Southeast Community College – Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Health Science, AS**

*Dr. Fimple and Mr. Bob Morgan, Southeast Community College, presented the proposal*

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal and was joined by Mr. Bob Morgan, Vice President of Program Development, and Ms. Jill Sand, Dean of Health Sciences at Southeast Community College. Mr. Morgan commented that

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*Jill Sand, Southeast Community College*

this program is set up to give students the opportunity to go to a community college and focus on the skills and general studies they need to move on to a four-year institution for a degree in the medical field. It would provide a more focused pathway for their students, and all faculty and facilities are already in place. Dr. Fimple noted that there is a need for this program as a student must be admitted to a program to qualify for federal financial aid. Ms. Sand stated that SCC looks at healthcare shortages in the community to meet the need of employers. They work closely with their four-year partner programs and help to prepare the students with their health science pathway to a degree.

*APC Committee recommendation*

Commissioner Adam stated the Committee recommendation is to approve the Associate of Science degree in Health Sciences at Southeast Community College.

*Southeast Community College New Instructional Program – Health Science, AS approved*

**Commissioner Adam, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the Proposal for a New Instructional Program at Southeast Community College – Health Science, AS. A roll call vote was taken. All nine Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

*University of Nebraska Medical Center*

**University of Nebraska Medical Center – Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Occupational Safety & Health, Graduate Certificate**

*Dr. Fimple presented the proposal*

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal, stating that this is a graduate-level 12-credit-hour program and would be available online. Two courses are required and two are elective from a list of ten. This coursework would meet all or part of the requirements for the OSHA 30-hour General Industry Card, meet the coursework requirements to sit for the Certificate in Industrial Hygiene exam, or satisfy the training requirement for the Certified Occupational Hearing Conservationist credential. Employers polled had interest in their employees earning this certificate, as this program is designed for graduate students, public health professionals, and healthcare providers. Dr. Jackson stated the projected cost is minimal with facilities and staff in place, and that this program represents a packaging of coursework that is beneficial to both students and employers. Dr. Chandran Achutan, Associate Professor, Department of Environmental, Agricultural and Occupational Health, College of Public Health at UNMC, spoke briefly about the OSHA certification and answered Commissioners' questions.

*Dr. David Jackson, University of Nebraska*

*Dr. Chandran Achutan, UNMC*

*APC Committee recommendation*

Commissioner Adam stated the Committee recommendation is to approve the Occupational Safety and Health Graduate Certificate at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

*University of Nebraska Medical Center New Instructional Program – Occupational Safety & Health, Graduate Certificate approved*

**Commissioner Adam, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the Proposal for a New Instructional Program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center – Occupational Safety & Health, Graduate Certificate. A roll call vote was taken. All nine Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

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University of Nebraska at Kearney

Dr. Fimple presented the in-depth review

Dr. Jackson comments

Dr. Teten comments

APC Committee recommendation

University of Nebraska at Kearney  
Bachelor of Arts in Art History  
program continued

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Dr. Fimple presented the in-depth review

Dr. Christopher Marks, University of  
Nebraska-Lincoln

APC Committee recommendation

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Master  
of Arts in Art History program  
continued

University of Nebraska at Kearney

Dr. Fimple presented the in-depth review

### **University of Nebraska at Kearney– In-Depth Review of an Existing Program - Art History, BA**

Dr. Fimple stated that last year the University identified this program as low producing and conducted an in-depth review and provided a report to the Commission to take action. She reviewed the summary and goals that UNK provided and Dr. Jackson commented that although these are called in-depth reviews as required by statute, the University asks units and administrators to provide an action plan to correct whatever deficiency of performance standard they have been unable to meet. Dr. Teten added he is optimistic of the potential growth of this program since UNK is partnering with the Frank House and the Museum of Nebraska Arts.

Commissioner Adam stated the Committee recommendation is to continue the Bachelor of Arts in Art History at UNK with a report on the Board of Regents' monitoring, including enrollments, majors, and number of graduates, due November 1, 2022.

**Commissioner Adam, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to continue the Bachelor of Arts in Art History at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioners Garman and Probyn abstained. The remaining seven Commissioners voted yes. The motion carried.**

### **University of Nebraska-Lincoln – In-Depth Review of an Existing Program - Art History, MA**

Dr. Fimple presented the in-depth review noting the School of Art, Art History & Design is an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) and requires that all programs have an art history course. She noted that the program has identified strategies for increasing the number of students. Dr. Christopher Marks, Associate Dean of the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts at UNL, and Dr. Fimple discussed contacting UNL's 10 peer institutions for information and concluded that its production is in line with four of its peers. Dr. Marks answered Commissioners' questions.

Commissioner Adam stated the Committee recommendation is to continue the Master of Arts in Art History at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a report on the Board of Regents' monitoring, including enrollments and number of graduates due November 1, 2022.

**Commissioner Adam, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to continue the Master of Arts in Art History at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. A roll call vote was taken. All nine Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

### **University of Nebraska at Kearney – In-Depth Review of an Existing Program - English with a Literature Emphasis, MA**

Dr. Fimple presented the review stating that this program was not reported as English Literature until 2018 at which time UNK initiated the in-depth review. Since enrollments were decreasing, the department made several changes including offering graduate courses during the summer. She noted

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*Dr. Teten comments*

this program will be offered online and UNK anticipates an increased enrollment. Dr. Teten added that having the program online will be beneficial for students from rural communities.

*APC Committee recommendation*

Commissioner Adam stated the Committee recommendation is to continue the Master of Arts in English with a Literature Emphasis at the University of Nebraska at Kearney with a report on the Board of Regents' monitoring, including enrollments, majors, and number of graduates due November 1, 2022.

*University of Nebraska at Kearney  
Master of Arts in English with a  
Literature Emphasis continued*

**Commissioner Adam, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to continue the Master of Arts in English with a Literature Emphasis at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. A roll call vote was taken. All nine Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

*Dr. Fimple presented the in-depth  
review*

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln - In-Depth Review of an Existing Program - Modern Languages, PhD**

Dr. Fimple presented the review noting the minimum performance standard is three graduates, with UNL being close and doing well to maintain that. The Committee did not see a need for a report on monitoring by the Board of Regents until the next regular program review in 2025. Dr. Jackson stated the program is on track and recognizes the need to up recruiting efforts and the curriculum in order to stay above the performance standards.

*Dr. Jackson comments*

*APC Committee recommendation*

Commissioner Adam stated the Committee recommendation is to continue the PhD in Modern Languages at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln PhD in  
Modern Languages continued*

**Commissioner Adam, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to continue the PhD in Modern Languages at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. A roll call vote was taken. All nine Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

*Dr. Fimple presented the in-depth  
review*

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln – In-Depth Review of an Existing Program - Natural Resource and Environmental Economics, BS**

Dr. Fimple presented the review stating UNL developed a three-point action plan that will assess the curriculum, build a recruitment plan, and explore ways to increase student retention strategy. Dr. Tiffany Heng-Moss, Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, and Dr. Larry Van Tassell, Department Head, Agricultural Economics, from UNL came forward to discuss the program and answer Commissioners' questions.

*Dr. Tiffany Heng-Moss and Dr. Larry  
Van Tassell, University of Nebraska-  
Lincoln*

*APC Committee recommendation*

Commissioner Adam stated the Committee recommendation is to continue the Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource and Environmental Economics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a report on the Board of Regents' monitoring, including enrollments, majors, and number of graduates due November 1, 2022.

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Bachelor of Science in Natural  
Resource and Environmental  
Economics continued*

**Commissioner Adam, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to continue the Bachelor of Science in Natural**

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**Resource and Environmental Economics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. A roll call vote was taken. All nine Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

*Dr. Fimple presented the monitoring report*

*Dr. Jackson comments*

*APC Committee recommendation*

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln – Geography MA and PhD Monitoring Report accepted*

*University of Nebraska at Kearney*

*Commissioner Adam and Dr. Fimple presented the monitoring report*

*Dr. Teten comments*

*Dr. Peter Longo, University of Nebraska at Kearney comments*

*APC Committee recommendation*

*University of Nebraska at Kearney Philosophy BA Monitoring Report accepted*

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln – Review of Board of Regents Monitoring Report - Geography, MA & PhD**

Dr. Fimple presented the review, commenting that this report includes an in-depth report from 2018 and a summary of the 2019 Board of Regents Monitoring Report. She noted there was a review conducted in 2015-2016 that resulted in the College of Arts and Sciences rebuilding the program by adding faculty. The 2019 Board of Regents report gave an update that shows they implemented a plan to meet the minimum performance standards. Dr. Jackson discussed the proposal for creating a new School of Global Integrative Studies that would include geography.

Commissioner Adam stated the Committee recommendation is to accept the monitoring report for the Masters and PhD in Geography from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Commissioner Adam, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to accept the Review of Board of Regents Monitoring Report – University of Nebraska-Lincoln – Geography, MA & PhD. A roll call vote was taken. All nine Commissioners voted yes.**

**University of Nebraska at Kearney – Review of Board of Regents Monitoring Report - Philosophy, BA**

Commissioner Adam and Dr. Fimple presented the report. Dr. Fimple stated the program in the past was below threshold consistently, and UNK submitted a plan in their 2018 in-depth review that was very thorough and included productivity goals. In 2019, the Board of Regents Monitoring Report shows they attempted to reach high schools and other departments to collaborate and create programs or courses that might work in other departments without any interest. Dr. Teten stated they currently are working on a complete culture shift by collaborating with other departments and colleges to create what is best for the students. He is a part of these discussions and noted he is optimistic that it will play out in a positive way. Dr. Longo briefly discussed the departments' collaboration with the law college, UNL, and UNO.

Commissioner Adam stated that the committee did not make a recommendation and chose to forward the Regents' monitoring report for the Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy at the University of Nebraska at Kearney to the full Commission. It was noted that the initial 2018 in-depth review asked for a report on enrollments and number of graduates due June 30, 2021.

**Commissioner Adam made a motion to accept the Review of Board of Regents Monitoring Report – University of Nebraska at Kearney – Philosophy, BA. Commissioner Lauritzen seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All nine Commissioners voted yes.**



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Chair Frison called for a break at 11:38 a.m. The meeting resumed at 11:52 a.m.

*2018-2019 Existing Program Review*

**2018-2019 Existing Program Review**

Dr. Fimple and Commissioner Adam presented the Existing Program Review for 2018-2019 noting there are many medical and allied health programs listed below performance standards per credit hour/FTE because there are accreditation requirements about faculty/student ratios, which can bring that below threshold. Dr. Fimple noted there are many new programs with low number of graduates, including graduate certificates that do not have a threshold.

*University of Nebraska Medical Center*

*Dr. Fimple presented the program proposal*

**University of Nebraska Medical Center – Program Requiring Additional Review – Biostatistics, PhD**

Dr. Fimple stated there were no degrees awarded over a five-year period in the Biostatistics PhD program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

*APC Committee recommendation*

*Commissioner Wilson stepped away from the table*

Commissioner Adam stated the Committee recommendation is to continue the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Program – Biostatistics, PhD, with a in-depth review due July 15, 2020.

*University of Nebraska Medical Center  
Biostatistics PhD program requiring additional review continued*

**Commissioner Adam, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to continue the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Program Requiring Additional Review – Biostatistics, PhD. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Wilson was not available at the time of the vote. The remaining eight Commissioners voted yes.**

**Report on Discontinued Programs and Reasonable and Moderate Extensions**

*Discontinued Programs*

**Discontinued Programs**

1. CCC – Police Services, Diploma
2. UNMC – Community Orientated Primary Care, Grad Certificate
3. UNMC – Pre-Medical Science, Certificate
4. UNMC – Radiation Oncology Physics, Grad Certificate
5. UNMC – Health Policy, Grad Certificate
6. UNK – Medical Technology Comprehensive, BS

*Reasonable and Moderate Extensions*

**Reasonable and Moderate Extensions**

1. CCC – Criminal Justice, Diploma
2. MCC – Analog Photography
3. MCC – Digital Photography

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

*Steve Schram, Northeast Community College – Norfolk introduced NECC representatives present*

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

Steve Schram, Interim College President at Northeast Community College in Norfolk, came forward and introduced those present to discuss the capital construction project on the agenda. Dr. Michele Gill, Interim Vice

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President of Educational Services; Corrine Morris, Dean of Agriculture, Math and Science Division; Tara Smydra, Associate Dean of Agriculture, Math and Science Division; Dr. Michael Cooper, Instructor/Director of Veterinary Technician Program; and Kali Eklund, Principal, from Wilkins ADP.

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

*Commissioner Adam acknowledged BCF Committee members*

**BUDGET, CONSTRUCTION, AND FINANCIAL AID COMMITTEE**  
Commissioner Adam, Committee Chair, acknowledged Commissioners that were on the recent Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee conference call and noted the committee received a program statement from Northeast Community College in advance with much appreciated information.

*Northeast Community College Norfolk Campus*

**Northeast Community College / Norfolk Campus – Capital Construction Project - Ag & Water Center of Excellence (Phase 1) - Vet. Tech. & Farm Operation/Large Animal Project**

*Mike Wemhoff, Facilities Officer, presented the proposal*

Mike Wemhoff, Facilities Officer, mentioned that before presenting the proposal he wanted to make two observations. One relates to the in-depth planning that the college and their consultants did as they developed a master plan about five years ago including the veterinary technology program, farm operations, and future phases. This included many years of planning. Secondly, the scale of this particular project would not be possible to the extent it is without the assistance of private donors and local industry.

*Mr. Schram comments*

Mr. Wemhoff presented the project proposal commenting that Northeast Community College is proposing to replace Veterinary Technology and Farm Operations and Large Animal facilities on the existing 500-acre farm adjacent to the Norfolk campus. The new Veterinary Technology Building would consolidate the entire program into a single facility and allow for future expansion. The estimated cost of the project is \$23.4 million with capital improvement property tax levy funds and private donations as fund sources. Mr. Schram noted that the public capital campaign started in August is getting great support from the region. Ms. Morris discussed the current student enrollment in the veterinary tech program, noting there is much more interest than what they can accommodate. They work with the high schools and FFA students and will continue with their efforts to increase interest in all of the agricultural programs. Dr. Cooper stated the demand for graduates is great as clinics are requesting more than one technician and that vet tech is projected to be a high-growth industry. Mr. Schram added the program is vital to the area and that 82% of Northeast Community College agricultural program graduates stay in Nebraska.

*Ms. Corrine Morris, Northeast Community College comments*

*Dr. Michael Cooper, Northeast Community College comments*

*BCF Committee recommendation*

Commissioner Adam stated the Committee recommends approval of Northeast Community College's proposal to utilize up to \$14.0 million in capital improvement property tax funds as part of a \$23.4 million project

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to construct and equip Veterinary Technology and Farm Operations/Large Animal space, as outlined in the program statement approved by the Board of Governors on August 8, 2019.

*Northeast Community College – Norfolk Campus Capital Construction Project – Ag & Water Center of Excellence (Phase 1) – Vet. Tech. & Farm Operation/Large Animal Project approved*

**Commissioner Adam, on behalf of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee, moved to approve Northeast Community College / Norfolk Campus’ Capital Construction Project – Ag & Water Center of Excellence (Phase 1) – Vet. Tech. & Farm Operation/Large Animal Project. A roll call vote was taken. All nine Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

*Public Hearing on Planning and Consumer Information 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.**

*Commissioner Probyn acknowledged Committee members*

**PLANNING AND CONSUMER INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Probyn, Committee Chair, acknowledged those Committee members and staff who were on the recent conference call. In Jill Heese’s absence, Dr. Baumgartner will present her report.

*Dr. Baumgartner presented the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education 2019 Measuring Accomplishments Report*

**Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education 2019 Measuring Accomplishments Report**

Dr. Baumgartner gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2019 Measuring Accomplishments Report, noting that this is the fourth edition and is a companion piece to Chapter One of the *Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education*. The report includes national and peer comparisons as well as non-comparative measures and is updated on an annual basis. Our goal is to be in the top 10 states in the national comparisons and aim for ranking in the top five of the Nebraska public institutions peer groups. Dr. Baumgartner noted the Data Dictionary describes each of the measures in detail. Nebraska is ranked in the top 25 for college continuation rates and six-year completion rates. Nebraska also is in the top 10 for high school graduation rates and ACT college readiness. Dr. Baumgartner gave an update on national comparisons, peer comparisons, and non-comparative measures, and answered questions from the Commissioners.

*Next Commission meeting is Thursday, January 23, 2020*

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next Commission meeting will be Thursday, January 23, 2020, at the Apothecary Building, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor loft, Lincoln, Nebraska

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*Dr. Baumgartner introduced new administrative assistant*

**COMMENTS OF INTEREST**

Dr. Baumgartner introduced Edie Schleiger, the new Administrative Assistant. Ms. Schleiger stated she assists Dr. Fimple and she previously worked at the University of Nebraska.

*Meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Frison adjourned the meeting at 12:55 p.m.