
MINUTES

COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Meeting held virtually via Zoom
Thursday, January 21, 2021

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 21, 2021. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 8:30 A.M. AND ADJOURN AT APPROXIMATELY 10:00 A.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 8:32 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
Gwenn Aspen
Dr. John Bernthal
Tim Daniels
Dr. Deborah Frison

Gene Kelly
Mary Lauritzen
Molly O'Holleran
W. Scott Wilson

Commissioners Absent

Charles Garman

Dr. Paul Von Behren

Commission Staff Present

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

Helen Pope
Gary Timm
Mike Wemhoff
Joe Velaquez (Zoom moderator)

Minutes of December 3, 2020, meeting approved

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 2020, COMMISSION MEETING
Commissioner Adam requested a correction be made to the December 3, 2020, minutes. She then made a motion to approve the corrected minutes. Commissioner Aspen seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Kelly abstained. The remaining eight Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.

Oath of Office for new Commissioners

COMMISSIONER OATH OF OFFICE

The Secretary of State's office requires newly appointed Commissioners to take and sign an oath of office. Molly O'Holleran of North Platte and Gene Kelly of Papillion were welcomed and sworn in as new Commissioners by Chair Frison.

Chair's Report

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Frison welcomed new Commissioners O'Holleran and Kelly. She appointed Commissioner O'Holleran to the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee, and Commissioner Kelly to the Academic Programs Committee.

Executive Director's Report

Out-of-service area authorizations approved by the Executive Director

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The following out-of-service area authorizations were approved by the Executive Director:

1. Offered by Central Community College
Interactive two-way video from Arcadia High School, Arcadia, NE to Sargent High School, Sargent, NE
 - HLTH 1060 Comprehensive Medical Terminology (3 cr.)
January 11 – May 6, 2021
2. Offered by Central Community College
Interactive two-way video from Arcadia High School, Arcadia, NE to Loup County High School, Taylor, NE
 - BIOS 1250 Structure & Function of Human Body I (2 cr.)
January 11 – March 12, 2021
3. Offered by Central Community College
Interactive two-way video from Arcadia High School, Arcadia, NE to Loup County High School, Taylor, NE
 - BIOS 1250 Structure & Function of Human Body II (2 cr.)
March 15 - May 13, 2021
4. Offered by Central Community College
Interactive two-way video from Central Community College, Columbus, NE to Pope John High School, Elgin, NE
 - SPCH 1110 Public Speaking (3 cr.)
January 11 – May 6, 2021

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5. Offered by Mid-Plains Community College
Interactive two-way video from Mid-Plains Community College,
North Platte to Clarkson High School, Clarkson, NE
 - MATH 1350 – Applied Calculus (3 cr.)
January 12 – May 6, 2021

*Out-of-service area request denied by
Executive Director*

The following out-of-service area request was denied by the Executive Director as Western Nebraska Community College will provide the course online:

1. Offered by University of Nebraska at Kearney
Blended face-to-face and online instruction onsite at Bayard High School, Bayard, NE
 - TE 100 – Teaching in a Democratic Society (3 cr.)
Semester starting January 2021

*Kadi Lukesh presented Second Quarter
Budget Report*

Kadi Lukesh, Budget Coordinator/Office Manager, presented the Second Quarter Budget Report, noting the quarter ended on December 31, 2020. She stated several one-time payments are made in the first quarter of the year making the percentages high. The budget is now caught up as there has been substantial savings by not hiring a new administrative assistant due to timing of the pandemic, and Commission meetings being held via Zoom eliminated travel and hotel expenses. Ms. Lukesh stated a microphone system has been purchased for use at Commission meetings. Ms. Lukesh also reported that LB 381 updated the statute regarding meal reimbursement. Effective January 1, 2021, meal reimbursement during travel shall be paid on a per diem basis.

Ms. Lukesh reviewed the Nebraska Opportunity Grant (NOG), Community College Gap Assistance Program, and the Access College Early Scholarship (ACE) appropriations and allocations. She noted that the Guarantee Recovery Program was not included in the budget report. The Guarantee Recovery Program was established to reimburse any student for the cost of tuition and fees affected by the termination of operations of a for-profit postsecondary institution. The Creative Center was the only institution contributing to this fund, and we were saddened to learn of its upcoming closing.

*Ritchie Morrow discussed ACE
Scholarship disbursement*

Commissioner Bernthal asked J. Ritchie Morrow to talk about the ACE Scholarship. Mr. Morrow stated timing is a factor as to when funds are disbursed as he waits for invoices from the institutions before distributing the funds.

*Dr. Baumgartner reported on
Coronavirus Response and Relief
Supplemental Appropriations Act aid
distribution*

Dr. Baumgartner reported that the Department of Education released the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) aid distribution. Nebraska institutions will receive \$119.8 million of which \$33.6 million must go to student aid. The remainder will be used for expenditures related to Covid expenses and to make up lost revenues.

Dr. Baumgartner spoke about FAFSA changes

Dr. Baumgartner noted the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act included Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) simplification and Pell eligibility changes. Those changes will not go into effect for several years but will impact how the NOG program is administered by the CCPE.

Dr. Baumgartner discussed Gov. Ricketts' recent budget

Dr. Baumgartner stated he was pleased with Governor Ricketts' budget that was recently introduced. CCPE did not receive the extra NOG funding that was requested from the General Fund but did get additional spending authority from lottery funds, which will increase NOG funds, and the ACE program did see 2% annual increases.

Dr. Baumgartner provided information on legislative bills of interest to the Commission

Dr. Baumgartner reported that the Nebraska Legislature started its 107th session this month and the staff has been following bills introduced that are of interest to the CCPE. LB 529 would distribute lottery funds for the next five years and would reduce NOG from 62% of funding for education to 58%, but it would provide lottery funding to ACE, and funding for teachers seeking graduate courses to meet Higher Learning Commission (HLC) requirements to teach dual credit courses. It would also transfer administration of the Excellence in Teaching Act from the Nebraska Department of Education to the CCPE.

Dr. Baumgartner discussed other bills that affect higher education including LB 528, a clean-up bill to fix old statutory language affected by other state or federal law changes. The bill includes the extension of the Gap program to the Tribal Colleges and provides a fix for determining ACE eligibility in certain situations. LB 243 would create the ACE Tech Promise Program and LB 200 would make FAFSA completion or written opt out a high school graduation requirement. Dr. Baumgartner noted there are several bills related to property taxes that would affect capital projects at the community colleges.

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
Commissioner Adam spoke*

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Adam, Committee Chair, acknowledged Committee members who were on the recent Committee call to discuss the two Western Nebraska action items. She noted that President Carmen Simone and Dr. Charlie Gregory from WNCC are available via Zoom to comment and answer questions on these proposals.

*Western Nebraska Community College
Dr. Fimple and Commissioner Adam
presented the proposal*

Western Nebraska Community College – Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Diesel, Truck, and Heavy Equipment Technology, AAS, Diploma, Certificates

Dr. Kathleen Fimple, Academic Programs Officer, and Commissioner Adam presented the proposal. Dr. Fimple stated there will be two certificates available to students with the option of “laddering” up by applying it to a diploma. The diploma then could be applied to an associate degree. Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc. provided evidence of need with data indicating job openings in the Panhandle. Dr. Fimple stated many letters of support for the program were received from regional businesses and industries. The program would be housed in a newly leased facility that would provide equipment, classrooms, and work bays. President Simone and Dr. Gregory spoke briefly about how WNCC is working with local high schools that have career and technical programs that would feed into this new program and answered Commissioner’s questions.

*Dr. Carmen Simone and Dr. Charlie
Gregory, Western Nebraska
Community College*

APC recommendation

Commissioner Adam stated the APC Committee recommendation is to approve the AAS, Diploma, and Certificates in Diesel, Truck, and Heavy Equipment Technology at Western Nebraska Community College.

*Western Nebraska Community College
Proposal for a New Instructional
Program – Diesel, Truck, and Heavy
Equipment Technology, AAS, Diploma,
Certificates approved*

Commissioner Adam, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve Western Nebraska Community College’s Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Diesel, Truck, and Heavy Equipment Technology. A roll call vote was taken. All nine Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.

Western Nebraska Community College

Western Nebraska Community College – Proposal for an Off-Campus Center with a Long-Term Commitment in Scottsbluff, Nebraska

*Dr. Fimple and Commissioner Adam
presented the proposal*

Dr. Fimple and Commissioner Adam presented the proposal. Dr. Fimple stated the committee was focused on seeking the need and demand for the off-campus center. Approving a long-term commitment makes no judgment regarding cost of construction of the proposed facility. The proposed facility would meet the programs needs by providing truck bays, supply and storage areas, and offices, which are not available at the WNCC campus. Commissioner Adam added that nine regional businesses and industries met and agreed to collaborate with WNCC to support the program.

APC recommendation

Commissioner Adam stated the APC Committee recommendation is to approve the proposal from Western Nebraska Community College

*Western Nebraska Community College
Proposal for an Off-Campus Center
with a Long-Term Commitment in
Scottsbluff approved*

2019-2020 Existing Program Review

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

Dr. Fimple presented the report

for an off-campus center with a long-term commitment in Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

Commissioner Adam, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve Western Nebraska Community College's Proposal for an Off-Campus Center with a Long-Term Commitment in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. A roll call vote was taken. All nine Commissioners voted yes. The motion carried.

2019-2020 Existing Program Review

Dr. Fimple reported on the following programs that were approved for continuation by the Executive Director:

Central Community College

- Occupational Therapy Assistant, AAS

Northeast Community College

- Community Health Worker, Certificate
- Physical Therapist Assistant, AAS

Southeast Community College

- Physical Therapist Assistant, AAS

University of Nebraska Medical Center

- Nursing, BSN, MSN, DNP, PhD
- Undergraduate Certificate for Internationally Educated Nurses, Certificate
- Post-MSN Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Certificate
- Medicine, BS, MD
- Cytotechnology, Post-BS Certificate
- Environmental Health, Occupational Health, PhD
- Medical Lab Sciences, BS
- Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences, MS, PhD

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

- Forensic Science, BS
- Insect Science, BS
- Entomology, MS, PhD
- Insect Biology for Educators, Graduate Certificate

Annual Report for Institutions Holding a Recurrent Authorization to Operate in Nebraska

Dr. Fimple presented the report, stating that institutions wanting to come into Nebraska to offer educational programs either with a permanent facility or working in cooperation with another institution, but physically in the state, have to get approval from the Commission. After an application is received, the institution is approved by the Commission for a five-year period with annual reporting. Three institutions sent reports in November-December, 2020. Andrews

University does not have a physical campus in Nebraska but works with Union College. The Creative Center has a physical campus in Nebraska but will be closing at the end of the AY 2020-21. Bryan College of Health Sciences reports to the CCPE as they offer a variety of allied health programs on their Lincoln campus.

Report on Reasonable and Moderate Extensions, Discontinued Program, and New SARA Institution

Reasonable and Moderate Extensions

Reasonable and Moderate Extensions

- NECC – Horticulture and Golf Course Management, Diploma
- NECC – Agriculture AS, Urban Agriculture concentration

Discontinued Program

Discontinued Program

- NECC – Drafting AAS, Industrial Facility Design concentration

New SARA institution

New State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) Institution in Nebraska

Nebraska Wesleyan University was approved to participate in SARA on December 22, 2020. This brings Nebraska's total number of participating institutions to 26.

For the benefit of the new Commissioners, Dr. Fimple gave a brief description of and background information on SARA.

Next Commission meeting will be held on March 11, 2021

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, March 11, 2021, in the Ridnour Room at the Apothecary/Ridnour Building, 140 N. 8th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Commissioner Lauritzen comments

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Lauritzen said thank you and farewell to The Creative Center as it is difficult to see them close. Kimberly Guyer, Executive Director of the Creative Center, was present on the Zoom meeting.

Commissioner O'Holleran comments

Commissioner O'Holleran stated that it is an honor to be part of the Commission. She thanked everyone for the work they put into creating equity and access for students all over the state and to the former representative from District 6.

Meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Frison adjourned the meeting at 9:52 a.m.