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# MINUTES

## COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION Thursday, April 30, 2020 Videoconference via ZOOM

*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 APRIL 30, 2020. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 8:30 A.M. AND ADJOURN AT APPROXIMATELY 11:45 A.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  
Gwenn Aspen  
Dr. John Bernthal  
Tim Daniels

Dr. Deborah Frison  
Charles Garman  
Mary Lauritzen  
W. Scott Wilson

#### Commissioners Absent

Dr. Ron Hunter

Dr. Paul Von Behren

#### Commission Staff Present

Dr. Michael Baumgartner  
Dr. Kathleen Fimple  
Jill Heese  
Kadi Lukesh

J. Ritchie Morrow  
Helen Pope  
Gary Timm  
Joe Velasquez (Zoom moderator)

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*Minutes of February 5, 2020, approved*

**MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 5, 2020, COMMISSION MEETING**

Commissioner Adam made a motion to approve the February 5, 2020, minutes as written. Commissioner Bernthal seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Lauritzen abstained. The remaining seven Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.

*Minutes of March 12, 2020, approved*

**MINUTES OF MARCH 12, 2020, COMMISSION MEETING**

Commissioner Daniels made a motion to approve the March 12, 2020, minutes as written. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioners Aspen, Bernthal, and Lauritzen abstained. The remaining five Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.

*Chair's report*

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

*Chair Frison announced Commissioner Hunter's resignation*

Chair Frison reported that Commissioner Ron Hunter has chosen to resign from the Commission, effective May 1, 2020. She read a resolution thanking Dr. Hunter for his commitment to higher education in Nebraska and 13 faithful years of service to the Commission. Chair Frison stated he will be greatly missed and we wish him well.

*Chair Frison discussed Committee changes*

With Commissioner Hunter's departure, Chair Frison has asked Commissioner Wilson to step off of the Planning and Consumer Information Committee in order to have the appropriate number of Commissioners on each committee. Since Commissioner Hunter was Chair of the Academic Programs Committee, a new chair will be voted upon at their next Committee meeting.

*Chair Frison appointed nominating committee members*

Chair Frison appointed Commissioners Wilson, Aspen, and Von Behren to the nominating committee, with Commissioner Aspen chairing the committee. The nominating committee is responsible for submitting a slate of nominations at the June 25 Commission meeting for chair, vice chair, and two additional members making up the Executive Committee. Commission officers will serve July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021.

*Executive Director's report*

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

*Kadi Lukesh presented the Third Quarter Budget Report*

Dr. Baumgartner introduced Ms. Kadi Lukesh, Budget Coordinator/Office Manager, who presented the Third Quarter Budget Report. Ms. Lukesh noted the third quarter ended March 31. Administrative funds are where they should be at this point in the fiscal year, with 75% of the year lapsed and 72% spent, ending the fiscal year well. Since it is the first year of the biennium, we will be able to carry over unspent money into the next fiscal year. Ms. Lukesh also noted there is a surplus in Commissioner travel, and excess funds will be used in other categories. Ms. Lukesh reported that the Community College Gap Assistance Program budget included contractual funds for staff travel that were not utilized. That money will be moved into the government aid to be distributed to the community colleges. The Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship program has a

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current balance of \$2,500, with distribution for this program ending within the next week.

*Dr. Baumgartner spoke about rescheduling a Commission meeting at PSC*

Dr. Baumgartner stated that since we could not be at Peru State College for today's meeting, he will be working with the state college system to reschedule for a later date. PSC has made many updates to their facilities as well as plans for upcoming capital improvements.

*Dr. Baumgartner presented a legislative update*

Dr. Baumgartner presented a legislative update, noting that the legislature adjourned until further notice due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Speaker Scheer has made no announcement about reconvening yet, but the legislature has completed only 44 of its 60 days of this session. Dr. Baumgartner noted the only change to the legislative report from the last Commission meeting on March 12 is that LB 1008, the mid-biennium budget bill that included some important new funding for postsecondary education was given first-round approval and moved to select file. Dr. Baumgartner noted that we were contacted by the Education Committee about needs, and indicated that we would like to see LB 920 and LB 1131, the two education priority bills, move forward as they address some immediate issues. He stated that maintaining student aid programs is our highest priority.

*Dr. Baumgartner discussed recent virtual meeting opportunities*

While the staff is not traveling, we continue to participate in webinars, Zoom meetings, and conference calls with the state and national organizations. Dr. Baumgartner noted we attend US Department of Education conference calls on CARES Act funding releases and updates regarding programs that affect us.

*Dr. Baumgartner talked about federal CARES funding*

Dr. Baumgartner commented that he is attempting to keep everyone up to date on issues of federal CARES funding. The federal CARES funding included \$14 billion dollars for postsecondary education. Nebraska colleges and universities are receiving \$66.2 million in CARES funding, one-half for emergency student aid for students' expenses related to disruption of campus operations and one-half for institutions to cover any costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus. The institutional funds can also be used for additional emergency student aid.

*Dr. Baumgartner discussed the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund*

Nebraska is also receiving \$16.4 million for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund. This is a block grant that can be used for K12 schools, colleges and universities, or other education-related entities that have been deemed to be most significantly impacted by Covid-19. It is our understanding that Governor Ricketts is still formulating his plan for those funds. Dr. Baumgartner noted that the national organizations have requested additional federal funding of \$47 billion dollars to cover lost revenue and the impact on operation costs.

*Dr. Baumgartner noted Nebraska Institutions using distance learning for the remainder of the term*

In terms of what is happening on college campuses, Nebraska institutions have shifted to distance learning for the remainder of spring and summer terms. The University and state colleges have announced that they intend

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*Commissioner Lauritzen requested a breakdown of the federal CARES funding and distribution*

to welcome students back on campus in the fall, with adequate safety measures in place.

Commissioner Lauritzen requested a breakdown of the federal CARES funding and distribution. Dr. Baumgartner indicated that information is on the CCPE website and he will email the Commissioners a link to access the information.

*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. Jodi Kupper, Nebraska State College System*

Dr. Jodi Kupper, Nebraska State College System, came forward to mention that she along with several representatives from Wayne State College and Chadron State College were available to discuss the proposals on the instructional programs on the agenda.

*Dr. David Jackson, University of Nebraska*

Dr. David Jackson, Vice Provost from the University of Nebraska, stated he along with individuals from the University of Nebraska at Kearney were present to answer questions and speak on the Public Communication Master of Arts program proposal.

*Dr. Leah Barrett, Northeast Community College*

Dr. Leah Barrett President from Northeast Community College, commented that she along with Dr. Michele Gill, Interim VP of Educational Services, and Ms. Faye Kilday, Dean of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, were available to answer questions and discuss the NECC proposal on the agenda.

*Rev. Dr. Dave Kersten, North Park Theological Seminary*

Rev. Dr. Dave Kersten, Dean of North Park Theological Seminary, came forward to state that he and Mr. Luke Palmerlee, Seminary Administrative Manager, Ms. Alexandria Hofmann Macias, Director of Academic Programming, and Dr. Michelle Clifton-Soderstrom, Interim Dean of Faculty, were on hand to speak on North Park's Application for a Recurrent Authorization to Operate.

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

*Commissioner Lauritzen presided over the Academic Programs Committee*

**ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

With the absence of Commissioner Hunter, Commissioner Lauritzen presided over the Academic Programs Committee. She introduced Dr. Kathleen Fimple, Academic Programs Officer, to discuss the agenda items.

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North Park Theological Seminary

Dr. Fimple presented the application

Rev. Dr. Dave Kersten, and Luke  
Parmelee, North Park Theological  
Seminary

APC recommendation

North Park Theological Seminary's  
Application for a Recurrent  
Authorization to Operate approved

Wayne State College

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal

Dr. Jodi Kupper, Nebraska State College  
System

Dr. Taoka Yasuko, and Dr. Steven  
Elliott, Wayne State College

APC recommendation

### **North Park Theological Seminary – Application for a Recurrent Authorization to Operate**

Dr. Fimple presented information on the application, noting North Park Theological Seminary is the seminary for the Evangelical Covenant Church and part of North Park University in Chicago. The application is for the seminary to teach two weeks each year at Carol Joy Holling Camp near Ashland, Nebraska, starting in the fall of 2020. Dr. Fimple noted the financial soundness of the University is strong, and all courses are available online and onsite on the main campus and other locations outside of Nebraska. Rev. Kersten stated this distance cohort model has been used for several years and has proven successful. Mr. Palmerlee answered Commissioner Lauritzen's question on clinical placement, noting that most students have field education or internships in place, but the seminary will assist students to identify a placement if needed.

#### **Committee Recommendation:**

#### **Approve the recurrent authorization to operate for:**

**Institution:** North Park Theological Seminary

**Owner:** North Park University

**Level of Authorization:** Authorized to offer the master's degree in Christian Formation and in Christian Ministry

**Length of Authorization:** Five years (valid through May 1, 2025)

**Commissioner Lauritzen, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the North Park Theological Seminary's Application for a Recurrent Authorization to Operate. A roll call was taken. All eight Commissioners present voted yes.**

### **Wayne State College – Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Interdisciplinary Studies, MA and MS**

Dr. Fimple presented the program proposal, stating this program is designed to meet demand for programs in emerging and intersectional markets such as medical management or digital music. State statutes specify that state colleges are only authorized to offer master's degrees in business administration and education unless approved by CCPE. The only additional degree approved is in organizational management. These proposed master's degrees were not authorized under statute, but rather by demonstrating compelling need and approval by the CCPE. Dr. Fimple noted faculty and facilities are in place, no additional needs or resources are anticipated, and very little additional cost would be required. Dr. Kupper and Dr. Taoka Yasuko, Dean of the WSC School of Arts and Humanities, discussed the need for the program and answered Commissioners' questions. Dr. Steven Elliott, VP for Academic Affairs at WSC, spoke about why the program would be offered only on campus and the possibility of later adding online opportunities. He added that 750 students are enrolled in graduate programs at Wayne State College.

Commissioner Lauritzen stated the Committee recommendation is to approve the MA and MS degrees in Interdisciplinary Studies at Wayne State College.

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*Wayne State College's Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Interdisciplinary Studies, MA and MS approved*

**Commissioner Lauritzen, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve Wayne State College's Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Interdisciplinary Studies, MA and MS. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Garman voted no. The remaining seven Commissioners present voted yes.**

*Wayne State College and Chadron State College*

*Dr. Fimple presented the proposal*

**Wayne State College and Chadron State College – Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Nutrition and Dietetics, Joint BS**

Dr. Fimple presented the program proposal, noting the proposed start date of the program would be the fall of 2022, rather than 2021, to make sure the program is in full candidacy status with the accreditor. Chadron and Wayne are seeking ACED accreditation at the baccalaureate level and together have applied and been accepted to be an early adopter of the program. Dr. Fimple reviewed the need for this program, noting both CSC and WSC constituents indicated a shortage of nutrition/dietetics professionals. Potential employers in the state reported they have unfilled positions or a need for more skilled workers in their facilities. Both institutions estimate 10 new students would enroll in the program each year at each college. Dr. Jackson and Dr. Jim Powell, VP for Academic Affairs at Chadron State College, answered Commissioners' questions.

*Dr. David Jackson, University of Nebraska*

*Dr. Jim Powell, Wayne State College*

Commissioner Lauritzen stated the Committee recommendation is to approve the joint Bachelor of Science degree in Nutrition and Dietetics at Chadron State College and Wayne State College.

*APC recommendation*

**Commissioner Lauritzen, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve Wayne State College and Chadron State College's Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Nutrition and Dietetics, Joint BS. A roll call vote was taken. All eight Commissioners present voted yes.**

*Wayne State College and Chadron State College's Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Nutrition and Dietetics, Joint BS approved*

*University of Nebraska at Kearney*

**University of Nebraska at Kearney – Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Public Communications, MA**

Commissioner Lauritzen and Dr. Fimple presented the proposal. Commissioner Lauritzen noted that the goal of the program would be to teach students to communicate expert knowledge to broader audiences and that it would be offered entirely online. Dr. Fimple added the program has a required nine-hour core of courses and six hours each in specialization and skills. It was noted that the number one skill employers want is communication proficiency. Commissioner Adam stated that during the committee meeting they discussed the addition of a new faculty member at UNK when a hiring freeze at the University has been imposed. It was decided to forward the proposal for this program to the entire Commission in order to obtain more information from UNK representatives. Dr. Jackson, Dr. Ryan Teten, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Ralph Hanson, Chair, Department of Communication; and Dr. Matt Bice, Associate Dean, Graduate Studies answered Commissioner's questions.

*Commissioner Lauritzen and Dr. Fimple presented the proposal*

*Dr. David Jackson, University of Nebraska*

*Dr. Ryan Teten, Dr. Ralph Hanson, and Dr. Matt Bice, University of Nebraska at Kearney*

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*APC recommendation*

Commissioner Lauritzen stated the Academic Programs Committee recommended forwarding the proposal for the Master of Arts in Public Communication at UNK to the full Commission without a committee recommendation.

*University of Nebraska at Kearney's Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Public Communications, MA approved*

**Commissioner Adam made a motion to approve the University of Nebraska at Kearney's Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Public Communications, MA. Commissioner Aspen seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All eight Commissioners present voted yes.**

*Northeast Community College*

*Dr. Fimple presented the proposal*

**Northeast Community College – Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Drug and Alcohol Counseling, certificate**

Dr. Fimple presented the program proposal, stating the State of Nebraska Division of Public Health requires 270 clock-hours of approved coursework and 300 hours of supervised practical training for first-level licensure for substance abuse counselors. The coursework for the second level, Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor, requires the first-level coursework plus an additional 6,000 hours of supervised, paid clinical work experience. Several years ago, NECC had three alcohol and drug counseling courses approved by the state of Nebraska Division of Public Health. Along with four additional courses approved within the last two years, they met the requirements for the initial licensure. Taking the courses that were established over the last few years and awarding an academic certificate, which would also apply to a requirements for an associate to the arts in human services, creates a double advantage for the students. Dr. Fimple added that demand for the proposed program is expected to rise because of the need for counselors for military veterans and in the criminal justice system.

*Dr. Michele Gill and Ms. Faye Kilday, Northeast Community College*

Dr. Michele, Gill, Interim VP of Educational Services at Northeast Community College, thanked Dr. Fimple for her work on this proposal. Ms. Faye Kilday, Dean of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, added that with their current enrollment and expected enrollment growth, it is the right time for this certificate to be offered.

*APC recommendation*

Commissioner Lauritzen stated the Committee recommendation is to approve the certificate in Drug and Alcohol Counseling at Northeast Community College.

*Northeast Community College's Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Drug and Alcohol Counseling, certificate approved*

**Commissioner Lauritzen, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve Northeast Community College's Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Drug and Alcohol Counseling, certificate. A roll call vote was taken. All eight Commissioners present voted yes.**

*State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement Report*

*Dr. Fimple presented the report*

**2018-2019 Report on State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA) Data**

Dr. Fimple presented the report with a brief background of SARA. In the spring of 2019 institutions participating in

SARA were required to report their in-state distance education enrollments in addition to the out-of-state enrollments. Dr. Fimple reviewed several graphs that indicated the number of participating SARA institutions in the various sectors. The reports also lists the states providing the largest number of distance students to Nebraska institutions, enrolling the largest number of students from Nebraska, and the institutions enrolling the largest number of students from Nebraska. Dr. Fimple stated there is more new reporting, with institutions asked to report placements for experiential learning, such as internships and clinicals. Dr. Fimple listed in the report a table with the number of students placed in Nebraska and out-of-state in several different disciplines.

*Annual Reports from Institutions Holding a Recurrent Authorization to Operate*

*Dr. Fimple presented the report*

**Annual Reports from Institutions Holding a Recurrent Authorization to Operate**

Dr. Fimple presented the report, noting most authorizations are approved for a five-year period with an annual reporting requirement. Annual reports submitted from January to March 2020 were from Bryan College of Health Sciences, University of Missouri, and Hope International University. It was noted that Hope International will be closing the Nebraska Christian campus in Papillion May 31, 2020.

Chair Frison called for a break at 10:47 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:57 a.m.

*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.**

*Commissioner Lauritzen presided over the Planning and Consumer Information Committee*

**PLANNING AND CONSUMER INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Lauritzen, Committee Chair, introduced Jill Heese, Research Coordinator, to present the peer report.

*2020 Peer Report: Nebraska State College System*

*Ms. Jill Hesse, Research Coordinator*

**2020 Peer Report: Nebraska State College System**

Ms. Heese provided a PowerPoint presentation on the peer selection process for the Nebraska State College System. Nebraska statute requires the Commission to establish peer groups for Nebraska's public institutions. The last selection of peer groups occurred in 2014. Peer groups are used for program reviews, budget analysis, tuition and fees comparisons, facilities analysis, and other comparisons. For CCPE's purposes, peer institutions are defined as institutions that are similar in mission, programs, size, students, and wealth. Selection of peer groups for the state colleges was last conducted in 2014. Ms. Heese stated Commission staff worked closely with the Nebraska State College System to identify the most suitable peers for each state college. The

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*NSCS Peer Report continued*

*Dr. Paul Turman, Nebraska State  
College System*

*Planning and Consumer Information  
Committee recommendation*

*2020 Peer Report: Nebraska State  
College System approved*

*Next Commission meeting is Thursday,  
June 25, 2020*

*Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.*

Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) was used as the data source for evaluation purposes. Peer institutions were selected based on location, sector, rurality, percent admitted, 12-month unduplicated headcount, percent of awards that are master's degrees, the percentage of students who are minorities, program offerings, state appropriations, and net tuition and fees. Dr. Paul Turman, Chancellor of the Nebraska State College System, and Ms. Heese answered questions from the Commissioners. Once approved by the Commission the full report will be available online at [ccpe.nebraska.gov](http://ccpe.nebraska.gov).

Commissioner Lauritzen stated the Planning and Consumer Information Committee recommends approval of the *2020 Peer Report: Nebraska State College System*.

**Commissioner Lauritzen, on behalf of the Planning and Consumer Information Committee, moved to approve the *2020 Peer Report: Nebraska State College System*. A roll call vote was taken. All eight Commissioners present voted yes.**

#### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next Commission meeting will be Thursday, June 25, 2020, at Union College, Lincoln, Nebraska.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Frison adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.



## RESOLUTION 20-2

*Whereas*, Dr. Ron Hunter has served on Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education for the past 13 years; and

*Whereas*, Dr. Hunter has served in many leadership roles including Commission Chairman and chairman of the Commission's various committees; and

*Whereas*, Dr. Hunter has made the 900+ mile round trip between Hay Springs and the Commission's meeting locations, typically in eastern Nebraska, dozens of times with very few discouraging words; and

*Whereas*, Dr. Hunter has demonstrated mastery of the difference between Mountain Time and Central Time while attending to his responsibilities to a degree that few could equal and none surpass; and

*Whereas*, Dr. Hunter has demonstrated during his 13 years on the Commission an unwavering commitment to the Coordinating Commission and to higher education issues in Nebraska;

*Be it therefore resolved*, that the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education bestows on Dr. Hunter the title *Commissioner Emeritus* for his years of service and leadership and wishes him well in his future endeavors.

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Dr. Deborah Frison, Chair  
Nebraska's Coordinating Commission  
for Postsecondary Education  
April 30, 2020