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# MINUTES

(Amended and Approved 01/26/17)

## COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION December 1, 2016 Apothecary Building 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 1, 2016. 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. 8<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SUITE 300, LINCOLN, NEBRASKA.

CAROL ZINK, CHAIR

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

### CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

#### Commissioners Present

Colleen Adam  
Gwenn Aspen  
Dr. Deborah Frison  
Mary Lauritzen

Dwayne Probyn  
Dr. Joyce Simmons  
W. Scott Wilson  
Carol Zink

#### Commissioners Absent

Dr. John Bernthal  
Dr. Ron Hunter

#### Commission Staff Present

Dr. Michael Baumgartner  
Dr. Kathleen Fimple  
Jill Heese  
Jason Keese

Helen Pope  
Gary Timm  
Mike Wemhoff

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Minutes of October 13, 2016  
Commission meeting approved

**MINUTES OF OCTOBER 13, 2016, COMMISSION MEETING**

**Commissioner Wilson moved that the October 13, 2016, minutes be approved. Commissioner Frison seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioners Adam and Lauritzen abstained. The remaining six Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

*Chair Zink's report*

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Zink reported that Commissioners Bernthal and Hunter were not able to attend the meeting due to other commitments.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Michael Baumgartner, Executive Director, noted there were no out-of-service area authorization requests.

*Dr. Baumgartner discussed NCCA meeting in Kearney and visit to Mid-Plains Community College in Broken Bow*

Dr. Baumgartner stated he attended the NCCA meeting in Kearney on November 7-8. He spoke on the update to Chapter One of the Comprehensive Plan for Postsecondary Education. After the meeting he visited Mid-Plains Community College's extended campus site in Broken Bow. He noted that Greg Adams has been named the new executive director of the NCCA, starting November 1. Mr. Adams and out-going executive director Dennis Baack are overlapping the position during the month of December.

*Dr. Baumgartner reports attending MHEC meeting*

In mid-November, Dr. Baumgartner attended the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) meeting in St. Louis, where he was joined by fellow MHEC Commissioners from Nebraska, Chairwoman Zink, State Sen. Sue Crawford, and Dr. Randy Ferlic. MHEC celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which included a retrospective on the policy areas that MHEC is engaged with and discussion of their strategic plan. On the second day, there was a brief forum on affordability featuring Tom Mortenson and Sandy Baum, two researchers we use extensively for things like our progress and tuition and fees reports.

*Dr. Baumgartner speaks about attending the Education Commission of the States meeting*

Dr. Baumgartner also attended the Education Commission of the States meeting this week, which included conversations about federal policy and speculation on what the new administration would mean for postsecondary education, given the appointment of the new secretary of education. Dr. Baumgartner attended presentations on existing federal and state funding to improve affordability and student success, financial aid, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), and data collection. He also attended a session on computer science and economic development, which is timely in light of UNO's proposal on today's agenda. Arkansas has mandated that every high school offers at least one computer science course in high school and has developed comprehensive standards for K-8 and high school. Massachusetts also has adopted digital literacy standards and is working on teacher certification issues.

*Dr. Baumgartner comments on federal rule on overtime*

Dr. Baumgartner reported that the new federal rule on overtime eligibility is currently on hold because of a federal judge's injunction. The Commission

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has recently encountered this topic because of the State College's request for mid-biennium budget adjustments and new funding to meet the requirements of the regulations. It is unclear if the regulations will ever be implemented as they were originally written.

*Dr. Baumgartner noted Chapter 9 Capital Construction Rules have been signed by the Governor and Attorney General*

Chapter 9 Capital Construction Rules have been signed by Governor Ricketts and the Attorney General and are final.

*Dr. Baumgartner discussed the state budget*

Dr. Baumgartner reported that in terms of the state budget, one percent of allotment is being held back each quarter in the fiscal year 2017. There may be a bill introduced to reduce the appropriations which will affect our office operations and our grant programs. J. Ritchie Morrow, Financial Aid Officer, has notified the colleges and universities of the possibility of reductions to the grants. Gary Timm, Chief Finance & Administrative Officer, has notified the community colleges of the possibility of reduction to their state aid, and the University and State Colleges have been notified directly by the budget office.

State revenue is growing, but less than expected when the budget was put together. The state is projected to be about \$1 billion negative by the end of Fiscal Year 2020-21 if no adjustments are made. The Commission was asked to put together budget scenarios that include up to an 8 percent reduction, so plans are in place. Dr. Baumgartner has recently met with several members of the current appropriations committee to discuss our grant programs.

*Dr. Baumgartner distributed article on Nebraska leading FAFSA submissions and completions*

Dr. Baumgartner distributed a recent article on how Nebraska led the nation in Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) submissions and completions during the first four weeks of the new early FAFSA timeline. This year students are able to submit their FAFSA applications much earlier. The article reports on the work EducationQuest has done to raise awareness in the state. Dr. Baumgartner complimented Mr. Morrow, who runs the Coordinating Commission's FAFSA Completion Initiative and works closely with school counselors throughout the state and with EducationQuest.

*Public Comment on Matters of General Concern*

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS OF GENERAL CONCERN**

There was no testimony on Matters of General Concern.

**Chair Zink 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, Vice Provost from the University of Nebraska, came forward to point out that representatives from the University are present to answer questions and provide discussion on the programs the University has on the agenda.

*Dr. David Jackson, University of Nebraska*

Dr. Tom McDonnell, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Metropolitan Community College, spoke in opposition to the Creative Center's request

*Dr. Tom McDonnell, Metropolitan Community College*

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for recurrent authorization to operate. He asked the Commissioners to consider cost, debt, and academic value when making a decision.

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

*Commissioner Frison acknowledged APC committee*

**ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Frison, Committee Chair, acknowledged committee members and staff on the recent Academic Programs Committee conference call.

*University of Nebraska at Omaha  
Dr. Fimple presented the proposal*

**University of Nebraska at Omaha - Proposal for a New Instructional Program - Computer Science Education (MS, graduate certificate)**

Dr. Kathleen Fimple, Academic Programs Officer, presented the proposal, stating this program is designed for persons wanting to teach computer science in K-12. UNO has documented high need and demand for computer science courses and teachers at the secondary level. Dr. Deepak Khazanchi, Associate Dean, College of Information Science and Technology, spoke briefly about the proposal, and answered Commissioners' questions.

*Dr. Deepak Khazanchi, University of Nebraska at Omaha*

**Commissioner Frison, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska at Omaha's Proposal for a New Instructional Program - Computer Science Education (MS, graduate certificate). A roll call vote was taken. All eight Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

*University of Nebraska at Omaha  
New Instructional Program -  
Computer Science Education (MS,  
graduate certificate) approved*

*University of Nebraska at Omaha*

**University of Nebraska at Omaha - Proposal for a New Instructional Program - Tribal Management and Emergency Services (undergraduate certificate)**

Dr. Fimple presented the program, stating that all communities need emergency services. The Native American communities have the same needs, but as separate entities it is difficult to find funding and training. This certificate would be available on campus and online. Edouardo Zendejas, a professor at UNO, noted this program would be the first one of its kind offered in the country. He stated that this program is necessary to give Tribal government and its people an opportunity to develop the skills needed for emergency management. Mr. Zendejas answered Commissioners' questions. Commissioner Simmons asked what criteria is required to get into the program. Dr. Jackson commented that students must meet the academic requirements to enter the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

*Dr. Fimple presented the proposal*

*Edouardo Zendejas, University of Nebraska at Omaha*

*Dr. David Jackson, University of Nebraska*

*University of Nebraska at Omaha  
New Instructional Program – Tribal  
Management and Emergency  
Services (undergraduate certificate)  
approved*

**Commissioner Frison, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska at Omaha's Proposal for a New Instructional Program - Tribal Management and Emergency Services (undergraduate certificate). A roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Aspen stated for the record her concern with undergraduate certificates watering down the brand of UNO; however,**

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given the strong need for the program she is in favor. All eight Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.

*University of Nebraska Medical Center*

*Dr. Fimple presented the proposal*

*Dr. Jan Thompkins, University of Nebraska Medical Center*

*University of Nebraska Medical Center New Instructional Program – Health Professions Teaching and Technology (Master’s, graduate certificate) approved*

*University of Nebraska – Lincoln*

*Dr. Fimple presented the proposal*

*Dr. Chuck Hibberd, Nebraska Extension*

*University of Nebraska – Lincoln New Organization Unit – Eastern Nebraska Research and Extension Center approved*

*Creative Center*

*Dr. Fimple presented the proposal*

**University of Nebraska Medical Center - Proposal for a New Instructional Program - Health Professions Teaching and Technology (Master’s, graduate certificate)**

Dr. Fimple presented the program, commenting that this program is geared toward medical professionals who teach other medical professionals. There has not been a systemic change in the method of training healthcare professionals since 1910. With technology changing, college faculty know their subject matter but require improvement in instructional methods. Students will have access to virtual and simulation education and equipment. Dr. Jan Thompkins, an Assistant Professor at UNMC, clarified that while simulation is used extensively, some students do not use it because of the time and opportunity to be trained. These specific courses would give them that opportunity.

**Commissioner Frison, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska Medical Center’s Proposal for a New Instructional Program - Health Professions Teaching and Technology (Master’s, graduate certificate). A roll call vote was taken. All eight Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

**University of Nebraska – Lincoln Proposal for a New Organizational Unit - Eastern Nebraska Research and Extension Center**

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal, reporting that at this time there are four regions served by the Extension Center: West Central, Panhandle, Northeast, and Southeast. The western regions are being well served. This new center would combine the Northeast and Southeast regions to offer and create new opportunities, especially for the state’s metropolitan areas. Dr. Chuck Hibberd, Dean and Director of Nebraska Extension, spoke about how the new center would strengthen extension work in a metropolitan setting where they can offer robotics, science and STEM preparation, career development, and civic engagement in urban settings. Dr. Hibberd answered Commissioners’ questions.

**Commissioner Frison, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska - Lincoln’s Proposal for a New Organizational Unit - Eastern Nebraska Research and Extension Center. Approval of the Center does not constitute approval of any new programs or construction projects requiring Commission review now or in the future. A roll call vote was taken. All eight Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

**Creative Center - Application to Renew a Recurrent Authorization to Operate**

Dr. Fimple presented the application, noting that in the interest of full disclosure she sits on the advisory committee for the Creative Center but no policy making or voting is involved. Each institution has to report to the Commission every year, but the renewal for authorization to operate comes

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up every five years. The Creative Center is accredited by a national accreditor recognized by the US Department of Education.

*Commissioner Joyce Simmons*

*Dr. Tom McDonnell, Metropolitan Community College*

*Dr. Michael Baumgartner*

*Commissioner Simmons makes a motion to amend the length of authorization for the Creative Center*

*The motion is ~~rescinded~~ **withdrawn***

*Commissioner Frison reads the Committee recommendation and reporting requirements for the Creative Center*

Commissioner Simmons expressed her concern for students of the Creative Center due to its uneven revenue stream. She asked that if they would close, as two other postsecondary institutions recently have, what protection students have in regards to teach-out and financial aid concerns. She asked Dr. McDonnell to discuss Metropolitan Community College's program offerings, if they have room to accommodate the Creative Center's students, and to compare the programs. Dr. McDonnell noted Metro currently has close to 100 students in its graphic design program, does have room for more students, and has the most up-to-date, state-of-the-art equipment. He noted that Metro is an open-admissions institution and the Creative Center has selective admissions. Dr. Baumgartner stated there may be state legislation in 2017 offering protection to students of closed institutions. Discussion followed concerning the length of authorization to operate. It was noted that the Commission may ask that an institution report their financials more often than annually.

**Commissioner Simmons made a motion to amend the length of authorization from five years to one year for the Creative Center. Commissioner Adam seconded the motion.** With the motion on the floor discussion followed. Commissioner Adam asked what authority the Commission has after annual financial statements are received. Dr. Fimple stated the Commission could rescind an institution's authorization to operate if there is solid proof that requirements were not met. **The motion on the floor to amend the length of authorization from five years to one year for the Creative Center was rescinded **withdrawn**.**

Commissioner Frison read the Committee recommendation and reporting requirements.

**Committee Recommendation: Approve the renewal of the authorization to operate.**

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Institution:             | Creative Center, College of Art and Design   |
| Owner:                   | The Creative Center, Inc., Ray Dotzler, President  |
| Level of authorization:  | Authorized to offer one or more complete degree programs at the associate and baccalaureate level, limited to the AOS in Graphic Design and BFA in Graphic Design. |
| Length of authorization: | Five years (valid through December 31, 2021)   |

**Reporting requirements:**

Annual reports are required in a form provided by the Commission. The next report is due December 8, 2017. The college will continue to routinely provide annual audited financial statements that Commission staff will review.

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*Commissioner Simmons makes a motion to amend the length of authorization for the Creative Center*

*The vote tied, motion failed*

*Creative Center Renewal of Recurrent Authorization to Operate approved*

*Bryan College of Health Sciences*

*Dr. Fimple presented the proposal*

*Dr. Richard Lloyd, Dr. Kay Crabtree, Dr. June Smith, Bryan College of Health Sciences*

*Commissioner Frison reads the Committee recommendation and reporting requirements for Bryan College of Health Sciences*

**Commissioner Simmons made a motion to amend the Committee’s recommendation on the length of authorization for the Creative Center’s Application to Renew a Recurrent Authorization to Operate from five years to three years. Commissioner Aspen seconded the motion.** With the motion on the floor, Mr. Timm discussed the Creative Center’s financial state and answered Commissioners’ questions. **A roll call vote was taken. Commissioners Frison, Probyn, Zink, and Adam voted no. Commissioners Lauritzen, Simmons, Wilson, and Aspen voted yes. The vote was tied, therefore the motion failed.**

**Commissioner Frison, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the Creative Center’s Application to Renew a Recurrent Authorization to Operate. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioners Probyn and Simmons voted no. The remaining six Commissioners voted yes. The motion carried.**

Chair Zink called for break at 10:42 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:55 a.m.

**Bryan College of Health Sciences - Application to Renew a Recurrent Authorization to Operate**

Dr. Fimple presented the application, stating the Bryan College of Health Sciences is an embedded educational entity within Bryan Health Center and their subsidiaries. The college increased its faculty, continues to provide state of the art simulation learning opportunities for its students, and is in a sound financial position. Dr. Richard Lloyd, President of Bryan College of Health Sciences, Dr. Kay Crabtree, Dean of Health Professions, and Dr. June Smith, Dean of Operations, came forward to introduce themselves and answer questions. Dr. Smith stated 95 percent of the students in the Health Sciences College are from Nebraska, with 10-15 percent of the nursing students being male.

Commissioner Frison read the Committee recommendation and reporting requirements.

**Committee Recommendation: Approve the renewal of the authorization to operate.**

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Institution:             | Bryan College of Health Sciences   |
| Owner:                   | Bryan Medical Center   |
| Level of authorization:  | Authorized to offer one or more complete degree programs at the associate, baccalaureate, master’s, and doctoral levels, limited to nursing, sonography, health care management, healthcare studies, simulation education, health professions, biomedical sciences, nurse anesthesia, and nursing education. |
| Length of authorization: | Five years (valid through January 31, 2022)  |

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*Bryan College of Health Science's  
Application to Renew a Recurrent  
Authorization to Operate approved*

*Strayer University*

*Dr. Fimple presented the proposal*

*Commissioner Frison reads the  
Committee recommendation and  
reporting requirements for Strayer  
University*

**Reporting requirements:** Annual reports are required in a form provided by the Commission. The next report is due January 19, 2018.

**Commissioner Frison, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the Bryan College of Health Science's Application to Renew a Recurrent Authorization to Operate. A roll call vote was taken. All eight Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

**Strayer University - Application to Renew a Recurrent Authorization to Operate**

Dr. Fimple presented the application, noting that Strayer University had two authorizations, with the original being to offer business courses and degree programs at the Verizon Call Center in Lincoln. Strayer asked to establish a campus in the Omaha metro area offering more degrees and program areas, which was approved. This fall the Verizon Call Center announced that it is closing, so Strayer University has a plan in place to assist its students in completing their programs by March 2017. Strayer University would like to keep the option open to establish a campus in Omaha.

Commissioner Frison read the Committee recommendation and reporting requirements.

**Committee Recommendation: Approve the renewal of the authorization to operate.**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Institution:             | Strayer University  |
| Owner:                   | Strayer University, Inc.; Brian Jones,<br>President   |
| Length of authorization: | One year from the time Strayer University<br>ceases offering classes at the Verizon facility<br>in Lincoln (valid through March 31, 2018) |

The 2013 Commission action approving the new campus follows and should remain in place:

Approve the modification to the recurrent authorization to operate for Strayer University to include the certificates, associate, baccalaureate, and master's degrees in the program areas listed on the following page on a campus in the Omaha metropolitan area, with the following conditions:

1. Strayer University submit its audited financial statements annually to the Coordinating Commission,
2. Strayer University provide to the Coordinating Commission any notice of adverse action or matters of concern from the regional accreditor, any programmatic accreditor, or the U.S. Department of Education, and
3. Prior to the university offering courses in Omaha:
  - a. An appropriate facility is secured and Commission staff visit the facility,
  - b. Qualified faculty are hired for the Omaha location and resumes are submitted to the Commission, and

- c. Approval is received from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and the U.S. Department of Education.

**Reporting requirements:**

If Strayer University decides to re-establish a physical presence in Nebraska, they must apply for renewal of the authorization to operate by February 15, 2018.

| Program                     | Degree                |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Criminal Justice            | AA                    |
|                             | BS                    |
| Public Administration       | MPA                   |
| Accounting                  | AA                    |
|                             | BS                    |
|                             | MS                    |
| Acquisition & Contract Mgmt | Diploma               |
|                             | AA                    |
| Business Administration     | Undergrad Certificate |
|                             | AA                    |
|                             | BBA                   |
|                             | Executive Grad. Cert  |
|                             | MBA                   |
|                             | Executive MBA         |
| Economics                   | AA                    |
|                             | BS                    |
| Marketing                   | AA                    |
| Health Services Admin       | Masters               |
| Human Resource Mgmt         | MS                    |
| Management                  | MS                    |
| Education                   | MEd                   |
| Information Systems         | AA                    |
|                             | BS                    |
|                             | MS                    |
| Information Technology      | AA                    |
|                             | BS                    |

*Strayer University Application to Renew a Recurrent Authorization to Operate approved*

*University of Oklahoma*

*Dr. Fimple presented the proposal*

**Commissioner Frison, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve Strayer University’s Application to Renew a Recurrent Authorization to Operate. A roll call vote was taken. All eight Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

**University of Oklahoma - Extension Request to a Recurrent Authorization to Operate**

Dr. Fimple presented the request, stating that the University of Oklahoma’s current authorization to operate is valid until December 31, 2016. They

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have notified the Commission that they will be ceasing operations at Offutt Air Force Base at the end of April 2017. Rather than requiring a full renewal, an extension for those four months has been requested to teach out and complete their plans. Commissioner Frison read the Committee Recommendation, noting that the University of Oklahoma is required to verify to the Commission that the location closed by the end of April 2017.

*Commissioner Frison reads the Committee recommendation and reporting requirements for the University of Oklahoma*

Commissioner Frison read the Committee recommendations and reporting requirements.

**Committee Recommendation: Approve the extension of the authorization to operate.**

Institution: The University of Oklahoma  
Owner: The University of Oklahoma  
Level of authorization: Authorized to offer one or more complete degree programs at the master's level, limited to the Master of Arts with emphases in economics and international relations and the Master of Human Relations with corresponding graduate certificates.  
Length of authorization: Valid through April 30, 2017

**Reporting requirements:** Verify to the Commission that the location closed by the end of April. Since the University of Oklahoma will no longer have a physical presence after April 30, 2017, there will be no additional reporting.

*The University of Oklahoma's Extension Request to a Recurrent Authorization to Operate approved*

**Commissioner Frison, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Oklahoma's Extension Request to a Recurrent Authorization to Operate. A roll call vote was taken. All eight Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

*2015-2016 Existing Program Review*

**2015-2016 Existing Program Review**

Dr. Fimple reported that UNMC's Physician Assistant Program at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, has been active since 1972 in conjunction with the military. The military is consolidating much of its training around the Fort Sam Houston area.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Fire Protection Technology (AS)

University of Nebraska at Omaha  
Emergency Management (BGS, BS)

University of Nebraska Medical Center  
Interservice Physician Assistant Program, Ft. Sam Houston, TX (BS, MPAS)

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Central Community College  
Environmental Health and Safety (AAS, diploma, certificate)  
Hospitality Management and Culinary Arts (AAS, diploma, certificate)

Metropolitan Community College  
Fire Science Technology (AAS)  
Culinary Arts and Management/Hospitality (AAS, certificate)

Mid-Plains Community College  
Fire Science Technology (AAS, diploma)

Northeast Community College  
Food Service/Dietary Manager (certificate)

Southeast Community College  
Fire Protection Technology (AAS, certificate)  
Fire & Emergency Services Management (certificate)  
Food Service/Hospitality (AAS, diploma, certificate)  
Radiologic Technology (AAS)

*State Authorization Reciprocity  
Agreements Update*

**State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA) Update**

Dr. Fimple provided a map that shows a total of 44 states and the District of Columbia have joined the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement as of November 2016. Dr. Fimple gave an overview of the growth of SARA Institutions and SARA states, noting there are over 1,100 SARA institutions. Dr. Fimple discussed a document detailing distance education students from SARA and non-SARA states that attend Nebraska institutions.

**Report on Name Changes, Reasonable and Moderate Extensions  
Relating to Existing Programs**

*Certificate Name Change*

A. Certificate Name Change

1. NECC - Administrative Assistant certificate to  
*Administrative Professional certificate*

*Reasonable and Moderate  
Extension*

B. Reasonable and Moderate Extension

1. NECC - Associate of Arts concentration in Global Studies

*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 Zink closed the public hearing on Planning and Consumer Information Committee Items.**

*Commissioner Lauritzen  
acknowledged members of  
committee*

**PLANNING AND CONSUMER INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Lauritzen, Committee Chair, acknowledged committee members and stated that sometimes it is difficult to define what the Coordinating Commission does. The Biennial Report does a great job of

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providing information on the agency and its duties. She introduced Jason Keese, Public Information & Special Projects Coordinator, to give an overview of the report.

*2016 Biennial Report*

*Jason Keese presented the report*

### **2016 Biennial Report**

Mr. Keese stated the Commission is required by statute to produce a biennial report on even numbered years. The document provides a detailed overview of the Commission's responsibilities, required reports, and initiatives and programs. The report is electronically submitted to the State Legislature and available on the Coordinating Commission's website: [ccpe.nebraska.gov/reports](http://ccpe.nebraska.gov/reports).

*2016 Biennial Report approved*

**Commissioner Lauritzen, on behalf of the Planning and Consumer Information Committee, moved to approve the 2016 Biennial Report. A roll call vote was taken. All eight Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

*2016 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska – Enrollment*

*Jill Heese presented the report*

### **2016 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska - Enrollment**

Jill Heese, Research Coordinator, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Enrollment section of the *2016 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska*. The report is primarily an online publication that looks at 10-year trends from fall 2005 through fall 2015. Fall enrollment at the state's postsecondary institutions has increased by 11.6 percent over that 10-year period. Ms. Heese stated the Fall Enrollment Data Dashboard also is available online and corresponds to data found in this report. Users can filter data for each institution by student level, full-time/part-time status, gender, and race/ethnicity.

*Next Commission meeting is January 17, 2017*

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next Commission meeting will be Tuesday, January 17, 2017, at the Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center, Omaha, Nebraska.

*Commissioner Probyn comments*

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Probyn offered to attend any upcoming Legislative hearing and speak in favor of any bills that would create protections for students of closed institutions. Dr. Baumgartner noted that Commission staff have assisted Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks and her staff in drafting potential legislation.

*Commissioner Simmons comments*

Commissioner Simmons asked if such legislation could be reviewed by the Coordinating Commission's Executive Committee. Dr. Baumgartner replied that could be done.

*Chair Zink comments*

Chair Zink thanked Commissioner Simmons for putting the best interest of the students first. She also acknowledged her appreciation for the Executive Committee, the committee chairs, Dr. Baumgartner, and the staff for their dedication and commitment to education in Nebraska.

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*Commissioner Wilson comments*

Commissioner Wilson stated for the record that U. S. Sen. Deb Fischer, a former Commissioner, recently honored his uncle who was wounded in the Vietnam War by coming to his home. Sen. Fischer's staff did research and found he was eligible to receive five medals and citations that he should have received but did not because of the political unrest in the country upon his return in 1968. Commissioner Wilson praised Sen. Fischer for honoring his uncle and for her support of our veterans.

*Commissioner Frison comments*

Commissioner Frison noted that not all meetings she attends are open to introducing guests and welcoming their comments. The Commission's practice of doing this makes for a warm and inviting meeting, she said, along with getting to know our guests.

*Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Zink adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.