
MINUTES

COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

August 20, 2015

The Apothecary Building, 5th Floor, South Loft

140 North 8th 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 AUGUST 20, 2015. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 8:30 A.M. AND ADJOURN AT APPROXIMATELY 2:30 P.M.

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

CAROL ZINK, CHAIR

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

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

Commissioners Present

Colleen Adam

Dr. John Bernthal

Mary Lauritzen

Dwayne Probyn

Eric Seacrest

Dr. Joyce Simmons

Carol Zink

Commissioners Absent

Dr. Deborah Frison

Dr. Ron Hunter

Lori Warner

W. Scott Wilson

Commission Staff Present

Miste Adamson

Dr. Michael Baumgartner

Dr. Kathleen Fimple

Jill Heese

Jason Keese

Kadi Lukesh

J. Ritchie Morrow

Helen Pope

James Schiltz

Gary Timm

Mike Wemhoff

*Brenda Hicks-Sorensen, Nebraska
Department of Economic
Development*

PRESENTATION ON NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Chair Zink introduced Brenda Hicks-Sorensen, Director of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. As the new director for the department, Ms. Hicks-Sorensen has been able to travel the state meeting with community representatives and partners, and businesses. She hears a consistent message from across the state, that even though Nebraska has the lowest unemployment rate in the country, many employers are understaffed and many employees are under-employed and lack skills needed in the workplace. She has been looking at educational programs and they are pursuing an economic development strategic plan. She distributed a hand-out of the plan's timeline to the Commissioners. They will be looking at data analysis on target industries and exploring the economic development innovation ecosystems. Nebraska typically ranks low on innovation indicators. The goal is to present a full package of workforce development proposals to the Legislature for its 2017 session. Ms. Hicks-Sorensen stated they are focusing on working with businesses across the state to partner with and communicate workforce needs with educational institutions. She answered questions from the Commissioners.

*Minutes of June 25, 2015 Work
Session and Commission meeting
approved*

MINUTES OF JUNE 25, 2015 COMMISSION MEETING

Chair Zink noted that the Work Session minutes from the evening before the June Commission meeting will be up for approval along with the regular Commission meeting minutes.

Commissioner Simmons moved that the June 24, 2015 Work Session minutes and the June 25, 2015 Commission meeting minutes be approved. Commissioner Bernthal seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Seacrest abstained. All other Commissioners present voted yes.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Former Chair Colleen Adam honored

Chair Zink presented outgoing Chair Colleen Adam with a plaque in honor of her service as Chair to the Coordinating Commission. Former Chair Adam, representing District 5, has served on all of the Commission's subcommittees, as well as serving as Chair twice.

*Chair Zink announces committee
assignments for 2015-2016*

Chair Zink thanked the Commissioners for contacting her with their preferences for the new committees. She distributed the 2015-2016 Committee Roster and announced the committee assignments for 2015-2016.

Executive Committee

Carol Zink (Chair)
W. Scott Wilson (Vice Chair)
Colleen Adam
Dwayne Probyn

Academic Programs Committee

Colleen Adam
Dr. Deborah Frison
Dr. Ron Hunter
Mary Lauritzen
Dwayne Probyn

Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee

Colleen Adam
Dwayne Probyn
Dr. Joyce Simmons
Scott Wilson
Carol Zink

Planning and Consumer Information Committee

Mary Lauritzen
Dr. John Bernthal
Dr. Deborah Frison
Eric Seacrest
Lori Warner

A chair for each committee will be decided upon at the next committee meetings.

Chair Zink acknowledges Planning and Consumer Information committee

Chair Zink took a moment to acknowledge the Planning and Consumer Information Committee as it begins work on updating the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Baumgartner reports on out-of-service area authorizations

Dr. Michael Baumgartner reported that the following out-of-service area applications have been authorized.

1. Offered by Northeast Community College
Interactive two-way video originated from Bancroft-Rosalie High School in Bancroft, NE
Delivered to Giltner High School in Giltner, NE
 - MATH 2000 Analytic Geometry & Calculus (5 cr.)
8/17/15 – 5/15/16
2. Offered by Northeast Community College
Interactive two-way video originated from West Point-Beemer High School in West Point, NE
Delivered to Howells-Dodge High School in Howells, NE

Out-of-area authorizations continued

- ENGL 1010 English Composition I (3 cr.)
8/17/15 – 12/22/15
- 3. Offered by Northeast Community College
Interactive two-way video originated from Wayne High School in Wayne, NE
Delivered to Logan View High School in Hooper, NE
 - PSYC 1810 Introduction to Psychology (3 cr.)
8/13/15 – 12/18/15
- 4. Offered by University of Nebraska at Omaha
Interactive two-way video originated from UNO
Delivered to Raymond Central High School in Raymond, NE
 - SOC 1010 Introduction to Sociology (3 cr.)
Fall 2015
- 5. Offered by Central Community College
Interactive two-way video originated from Humphrey High School in Humphrey, NE
Delivered to Pope John High School in Elgin, NE
 - ENGL 1010 English Composition (3 cr.)
8/17/15 – 12/11/15
- 6. Offered by Central Community College
Interactive two-way video originated from St. Paul High School in St. Paul, NE
Delivered to Wheeler Central High School in Bartlett, NE
 - PHYSICS 1410 General Physics I (5 cr.)
8/17/15 – 12/11/15
- 7. Offered by Central Community College
Interactive two-way video originated from CCC in Columbus, NE
Delivered to Pope John High School in Elgin, NE
 - PSYC 1810 Introduction to Psychology (3 cr.)
8/17/15 – 12/11/15
- 8. Offered by Central Community College
Interactive two-way video originated from David City High School in David City, NE
Delivered to Madison High School in Madison, NE
 - ENGL 1010 English Composition (3 cr.)
8/17/15 – 12/11/15

Kadi Lukesh presents fourth quarter budget report

Dr. Baumgartner introduced Kadi Lukesh, Budget Coordinator, to present the fourth quarter budget report. Ms. Lukesh stated this is not the final report, as it is a work in progress. She noted that even though the remaining balance looks high, the Federal and the cash funds stay with the Commission. Badly needed improvements were done, including

working with Correctional Services Industries to re-cover the conference, side and visitor chairs for the office. A few new desk chairs and large computer monitors were purchased. Commissioner Simmons asked if there would be a possibility of getting an audio amplification system for use at the Commission meetings.

Ms. Lukesh reports on State of Nebraska Combined Charities Campaign

Dr. Baumgartner asked Ms. Lukesh to report on the State of Nebraska Combined Charities Campaign and Services Fund that is currently taking place. Ms. Lukesh reported that for the past six years the State campaign has been the number one campaign for Lincoln and Lancaster County. The Commission staff has been very successful for the past 10 years having 100 percent participation. This year we are collaborating with other small state agencies to raise funds including the Crime Commission and Banking and Finance by providing baked goods for bake sales. On Friday, August 28, Carli Israelson from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation will come to speak to the staff at our annual Combined Charities Breakfast.

Dr. Baumgartner discusses Oral Health Training and Services Fund and the Community College Gap Assistance Program

Dr. Baumgartner reported that he has been meeting with officials from two programs that will be starting in early 2017: the Oral Health Training and Services Fund and the Community College Gap Assistance Program. The Commission will be administering both programs.

Dr. Baumgartner talks on the Nebraska TechHire Initiative.

Dr. Baumgartner met with Invest Nebraska representatives to learn about the Nebraska TechHire Initiative in Buffalo County and how it might fit into the Tuition Gap program. Dr. Deb Brennan, Vice President of Educational Services at Central Community College, who is present at the meeting today, is on their steering committee.

Dr. Deb Brennan, Central Community College

Legislative news update

In Legislative news, LB 519, which divided up the State lottery funds, appropriated \$10 million to the Nebraska Opportunity Grant (NOG) and created the Community College Gap program, requires the Education Committee to conduct an affordability study. Dr. Baumgartner will present to the committee on September 10th concerning affordability of Nebraska public institutions, state need-based grant programs, and suggestions for improving affordability.

Dr. Baumgartner reports on LR 223

Sen. Sue Crawford sponsored LR 223, which calls for a study of strategies and ideas to get adult learners to complete adult basic education and/or postsecondary education in fields experiencing worker shortages. Dr. Kathleen Fimple, Academic Programs Officer, and Dr. Baumgartner will be part of a committee Sen. Crawford is assembling with the assistance of the Nebraska Appleseed organization.

Dr. Baumgartner notes that Information is being gathered for the review of the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education.

Information is being gathered for the review of the *Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education*. Dr. Baumgartner stated that Brenda Hicks-Sorensen's work with the Department of Economic Development directly addresses industrial and business needs for a skilled workforce, economic trends, and the needs of the geographical regions of the state.

Dr. Baumgartner discusses attending the Nebraska State Data Center Annual Data User's Conference

Dr. Baumgartner, Dr. Duncan Hsu, Database Manager, and Jill Heese, Research Coordinator, attended the Nebraska State Data Center Annual Data User's Conference via video conference. This conference covered many pertinent topics, including population trends, poverty data and trends, economic data, and business data. UNO Center for Public Affairs Research will be invited to present some of the state/local population trends to the Commission at a later date.

Dr. Baumgartner presents Nebraska Postsecondary Enrollment and Degrees handout to Commissioners

Commissioners were presented a one-page handout on Nebraska Postsecondary Enrollment and Degrees. Dr. Baumgartner noted that Commission staff is also working on a one-pager about postsecondary finances in Nebraska and a longer piece describing higher education funding in Nebraska.

Dr. Baumgartner notes dates and locations for 2016 Commission meetings will be presented at October Commission meeting

Dr. Baumgartner reported that Commission staff will be meeting to plan Commission meeting dates and locations for 2016. Those will be considered by the Executive Committee and presented to the full Commission at its October meeting.

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 Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee items

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

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

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

BUDGET, CONSTRUCTION, AND FINANCIAL AID COMMITTEE

Chair Simmons acknowledged Commissioners currently serving on the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee.

Gary Timm presents the Nebraska Community Colleges State Aid Enrollment FTE/REU Guidelines for FY 2016

Nebraska Community Colleges State Aid Enrollment FTE/REU Guidelines for FY 2016

Gary Timm, Chief Finance and Administrative Officer, presented the *Nebraska Community Colleges State Aid Enrollment FTE/REU Guidelines* for FY 2016, offering background information on the guidelines, and reviewing current changes. This document is used to identify what is allowable in the weighting of courses in order to make the distribution of the \$97 million State aid to community colleges. Mr. Timm answered questions from the Commissioners.

Metropolitan Community College
Fort Omaha Campus Capital
Construction Project – Booker
Building Renovation

Mike Wemhoff presents the project
proposal

Chief David Friend, MCC

Metropolitan Community College
Fort Omaha Campus Capital
Construction Project – Booker
Building Renovation approved

Nebraska Opportunity Grant (NOG)
Allocations for 2015-2016

J. Ritchie Morrow presents the NOG
report

Public Hearing on Academic
Programs Committee Items

Dr. David Jackson, University of
Nebraska

Commissioner Simmons, on behalf of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee, moved to approve the *Nebraska Community Colleges State Aid Enrollment FTE/REU Guidelines for FY 2016*. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

Metropolitan Community College Fort Omaha Campus – Capital Construction Project - Booker Building Renovation

Mike Wemhoff, Facilities Officer, presented the project proposal, noting that representatives present at the meeting from Metropolitan Community College include Jim Grotrian, Executive Vice President, David Friend, MCC Police Chief, and Stan Horrell, Director of Campus Planning and Sustainability. The project proposal is to renovate the Booker Building, which is an existing army facility that was acquired by MCC in 2014. The renovation would total close to 37,000 square feet and the primary departments that would utilize the facility would be Police and Public Safety, Public Affairs, some duplicating services, and the college archives. The cost of the project is \$5.2 million, with \$3.7 million from property taxes and the remaining from student facility fees collected that go into the capital improvement fund. Mr. Grotrian discussed the Five-Year Facilities Plan Summary and answered questions from the Commissioners. Chief Friend came forward to comment on the video monitoring of the campus, noting they have a police staff of 45 located at their three campus locations. Mr. Wemhoff gave background history on Robert D. Booker, whom the building is named for. He was a 22-year-old Army soldier from Callaway, Nebraska who died serving his country during World War II and posthumously was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Commissioner Simmons, on behalf of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee, moved to approve the Metropolitan Community College Fort Omaha Campus – Capital Construction Project – Booker Building Renovation. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

Nebraska Opportunity Grant (NOG) Allocations for 2015-2016

J. Ritchie Morrow, Financial Aid Officer, presented a report on the Nebraska Opportunity Grant allocations for 2015-2016, noting that each year a calculation is run that is in statute to allocate Nebraska Opportunity Grant funds to our participating institutions. An application is sent to eligible institutions for the following year. Mr. Morrow discussed the formula, 2015-2016 allocations, and past allocation trends.

Chair Zink called for a break at 10:07 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:20 a.m.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE ITEMS

Dr. David Jackson, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Nebraska, came forward to state he and Dr. Kenya Taylor, UNK Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, and

Dr. Kenya Taylor, University of Nebraska at Kearney

Greg Henson, Sioux Falls Seminary

Dr. Kevin McDonald, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Omaha, NE

Dean for Graduate Studies and Research, were available to answer questions the Commissioners may have on the UNK and UNMC program proposals. Dr. Taylor stated they are excited about the prospect of offering the certificate programs, seeing this as an opportunity for their campuses.

Greg Henson, President of Sioux Falls Seminary, stepped forward to introduce himself along with Nathan Helling, Chief Financial Officer, and Dr. Kevin McDonald, Board Member and Pastor at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Omaha. Pastor McDonald spoke briefly, stating that Sioux Falls Seminary campus in Omaha is the only protestant seminary in Nebraska. They were available to answer questions the Commissioners may have.

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

Academic Programs Committee

Commissioner Probyn thanks Dr. Fimple

University of Nebraska at Kearney

Commissioner Probyn and Dr. Fimple presented the program

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Probyn stated the Academics Programs Committee had a lengthy meeting on August 10 to discuss the proposals. He thanked Dr. Fimple for her work and dedication to the committee.

University of Nebraska at Kearney – Proposal for New Instructional Programs - Occupational Safety Professional & Advanced Occupational Safety Professional (undergraduate certificates)

Commissioner Probyn presented the program proposal, remarking on how critical occupational safety is in the workplace. Dr. Fimple commented that certificate proposals coming from the University of Nebraska at Kearney are comprised of existing courses, and the format the institutions use to propose new certificates is different than the format the Commission or the University uses for a new instructional program, resulting in less information provided.

Commissioners Simmons and Bernthal discuss pre-requisite courses for non-degree seeking students

Commissioners Simmons and Bernthal inquired about wavier of pre-requisite courses for non-degree seeking students. Dr. Fimple stated if there was a pre-requisite on a course that offers an overview of the program, the institution wants students to take the introductory course before they go on to the remaining courses in a program. Because the certificate in occupational safety is focused, UNK has determined that these four courses can be taken without the pre-requisite in the field.

Dr. Deb Brennan VP of Educational Services at CCC

To answer a question proposed by Commissioner Simmons regarding duplication of environmental health and safety certificate programs at Central Community College, Dr. Brennan spoke briefly about the occupational safety certificate programs at the college, saying they are geared toward the beginner and a select population looking for specific skills and expertise.

Commissioner Probyn stated the Committee recommendation is to approve the University of Nebraska at Kearney's proposal for New Instructional Programs – Occupational Safety Professional & Advanced Occupational Safety Professional (undergraduate certificates).

Commissioner Simmons moves to amend the University of Nebraska at Kearney Occupational Safety Professional & Advanced Occupational Safety Professional (undergraduate certificates)

Commissioner Simmons moved to amend to restrict the programs to students who are entering to have met established prerequisites for the required courses or at least junior standing. Commissioner Bernthal seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioners Lauritzen and Probyn voted no. All other Commissioners present (5) voted yes.

University of Nebraska at Kearney Occupational Safety Professional & Advanced Occupational Safety Professional (undergraduate certificates) amended motion approved

Commissioner Simmons moved to approve the amended motion for approval of the University of Nebraska at Kearney's Proposal for New Instructional Programs - Occupational Safety Professional & Advanced Occupational Safety Professional (undergraduate certificates). Commissioner Bernthal seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioners Lauritzen and Probyn voted no. All other Commissioners present (5) voted yes.

University of Nebraska at Kearney

University of Nebraska at Kearney – Proposal for a New Instructional Program - Early Childhood Family Advocate (undergraduate certificate)

Dr. Fimple presented the program proposal

Dr. Fimple presented the program proposal. Discussion ensued regarding the need for a degree or certificate in early childhood family advocacy and the salary of individuals obtaining the certificate.

Commissioner Simmons moves to amend the University of Nebraska at Kearney – Early Childhood Family Advocate (undergraduate certificate) program

Commissioner Probyn stated the Committee recommendation is to approve the University of Nebraska at Kearney's Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Early Childhood Family Advocate (undergraduate certificate).

Commissioner Simmons moved to amend the motion to approve the Early Childhood Family Advocate (undergraduate certificate) proposal to make it a requirement for those entering the program not seeking a degree to have sophomore standing. Commissioner Adam seconded the motion.

Discussion followed the motion. Dr. Baumgartner stated the Commission's authority is to review the need and demand for the program and the qualifications of students is a governance issue that the Commission is not allowed to address.

Commissioner Simmons withdrew the motion

Commissioner Simmons withdrew the motion and Commissioner Adam withdrew the second to the amendment.

University of Nebraska at Kearney – Early Childhood Family Advocate (undergraduate certificate) program approved

Commissioner Probyn restated the motion to approve the University of Nebraska at Kearney's proposal for a New Instructional Program - Early Childhood Family Advocate (undergraduate certificate). The certificate is built with existing courses and requires few additional resources from UNK. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

University of Nebraska at Kearney

Commissioner Probyn and Dr. Fimple presented the program

Dr. Kenya Taylor, University of Nebraska at Kearney

University of Nebraska Professional Sales (undergraduate certificate) approved

Discussion on LB 637 allowing four-year institutions to offer undergraduate certificates

University of Nebraska at Kearney

Commissioner Probyn presented the program

Dr. Kenya Taylor, University of Nebraska at Kearney

Commissioner Probyn read committee comment

University of Nebraska at Kearney – Proposal for a New Instructional Program - Professional Sales (undergraduate certificate)

Commissioner Probyn and Dr. Fimple presented the program proposal. Dr. Fimple noted this is a stand-alone program and is open to both degree and non-degree seeking individuals and could be pursued by students working toward a degree in a variety of majors. Commissioner Probyn discussed sufficient need for the program from an employer stand-point, and the fact that the curriculum doesn't directly consider sales as part of the job description.

Dr. Taylor stated that demand for the program comes from industry and corporation partnerships that work closely with the University. She also noted that students must earn a B in every course in order to obtain the certificate. Dr. Jackson commented that this program could be taken as a minor, but this is an opportunity for individuals already in the workplace to earn certification.

Commissioner Probyn, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the proposal from the University of Nebraska at Kearney for a New Instructional Program - Professional Sales (undergraduate certificate). The certificate is built with existing courses and requires few additional resources from UNK. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Probyn voted no. All other Commissioners present voted yes.

The Commissioners discussed the passage of LB 637. Commissioner Adam commented that the statute allows four-year institutions and the University to offer undergraduate certificates if the courses comprised in the certificate are above the associate degree level. Therefore questions brought up about pre-requisites are addressed in this bill.

University of Nebraska at Kearney – Proposal for a New Instructional Program - Supply Chain Management (undergraduate certificate)

Commissioner Probyn presented the program proposal. There was discussion on level 300 and 400 courses required to receive the certificate in supply chain management, and the minimum requirement to pursue the certificate would be a high school diploma. Dr. Taylor commented that in the guidelines for development of certificate programs at the University, all course work must be completed with a grade of C or better in each course. If a C is not obtained, the student will have to take pre-requisites for the course.

Commissioner Probyn read the committee comment. The certificate is built with existing courses and requires few additional resources from UNK. The courses feed directly into the minor and emphasis area in supply chain management at UNK. It is unfortunate, and a significant disadvantage to students, that the majority of courses for the proposed certificate may not apply to the supply chain management BS degree at UNL. He noted the Committee recommendation is to approve the University of Nebraska at Kearney's Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Supply Chain Management (undergraduate certificate).

Commissioner Simmons moved to amend the motion

Commissioner Simmons moved to amend the motion because the proposal violates the spirit and intent of LB 637 when it says it allows the University to offer certificates if the preponderance of courses comprising the certificate are above the associate degree level. The spirit of the Legislation is being violated in that these students are taking 300 and 400 level courses, and it has the appearance of a loophole being used by UNK. The amendment is to require these students to have completed sophomore year and be junior level before they can enter this non-degree seeking certificate. Commissioner Adam seconded the motion.

Discussion followed. Dr. Baumgartner commented that he doesn't think the Commissioners have a basis for disapproving the program proposal and determine the qualifications of students entering a program.

Amended motion voted upon and killed

A roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Simmons voted yes. All other Commissioners present voted no.

University of Nebraska at Kearney – Supply Chain Management (undergraduate certificate) program approved

A roll call vote was taken on the Academic Programs Committee recommendation to approve the proposal from the University of Nebraska at Kearney's New Instructional Program - Supply Chain Management (undergraduate certificate). Commissioner Simmons voted no. All other Commissioners present voted yes.

Sioux Falls Seminary action item moved in the agenda to accommodate those traveling

Sioux Falls Seminary - Application for Renewal of Authorization to Operate

Dr. Fimple presented the program

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal, noting the Department of Education and the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) are both monitoring the financial status of Sioux Falls Seminary. Enrollments have been steady and the financial situation seems to be improving. The HLC will make a decision about the accreditation status of the Seminary in February 2017. Mr. Henson spoke briefly, stating the Seminary has a specialty accreditation by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). Sioux Falls Seminary is valued in Omaha because it offers a Master's degree in Divinity and it is fortunate to have a good relationship with Creighton University, Grace University, and Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Greg Henson, Sioux Falls Seminary

Commissioner Probyn, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve Sioux Falls Seminary's Application for Renewal of Authorization to Operate through August 31, 2017 with an annual report required March 1, 2016 and on the condition that Sioux Falls Seminary shall 1) submit its annual audited financial statements and 2) notify the Commission of any actions taken by the U.S. Department of Education, the Higher Learning Commission, or the institution's primary lender. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

Sioux Falls Seminary Renewal of Authorization to Operate approved

Chair Zink called for lunch break at 12:15 p.m. The meeting resumed at 12:46 p.m.

Northeast Community College

Commissioner Probyn presented the program

Northeast Community College
Plumbing Technology (diploma)
approved

Central Community College

Commissioner Probyn and Dr.
Fimple presented the program

Dr. Nathan Allen, Central
Community College

Dr. Deb Brennan, Central
Community College

Central Community College
Precision Agriculture (AAS, diploma,
certificate) approved

Central Community College

Commissioner Probyn and Dr.
Fimple presented the program

Dr. Nathan Allen, Central
Community College

Northeast Community College – Proposal for a New Instructional Program - Plumbing Technology (diploma)

Commissioner Probyn presented the program proposal, noting the program will be located in a new 66,000 square foot facility along with offices and laboratory space for the HVAC program and the proposed plumbing program. One new faculty member will be hired and there should be sufficient resources to fund the program.

Commissioner Probyn, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve Northeast Community College’s proposal for a New Instructional Program - Plumbing Technology (diploma). A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

Central Community College – Proposal for a New Instructional Program - Precision Agriculture (AAS, diploma, certificate)

Commissioner Probyn presented the program proposal, stating the Academic Programs Committee felt there wasn’t sufficient information in the areas of revenues, need, and demand, and therefore the committee recommended forwarding the proposal to the full Commission for consideration. Dr. Fimple stated it was a translational issue, as the information that was provided was from the U.S. Department of Labor Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant application and not in a format the committee requests and normally receives.

Dr. Nathan Allen, Associate Dean of Academics at Central Community College, commented that the college received round four of funding from the TAACCCT grant in September of 2014, and the college did extensive research to apply for the grant. They met with 35 industry representatives to determine the need for precision agriculture. 365 participants will benefit from the grant, some pursuing degrees and diplomas and others attending workshops. There should be about 20 new students entering precision agriculture each year. Dr. Allen and Dr. Brennan answered questions from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Seacrest, based on additional information provided, moved to approve Central Community College’s proposal for a New Instructional Program - Precision Agriculture (AAS, diploma, certificate). Commissioner Adam seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

Central Community College – Proposal for a New Instructional Program - Landscape Design (AAS, diploma, certificate)

Commissioner Probyn and Dr. Fimple presented the program proposal, stating Central Community College provided a survey of employers within its service area, which indicated a need and demand for this program. Dr. Allen stated that two years ago the horticulture program was discontinued because it was difficult to market all the programs within the name as the name itself was very broad.

*Central Community College
Landscape Design (AAS, diploma,
certificate) approved*

Commissioner Probyn, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve Central Community College's proposal for a New Instructional Program - Landscape Design (AAS, diploma, certificate). A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

*University of Nebraska Medical
Center*

*Commissioner Probyn presented the
program*

*Dr. David Jackson, University of
Nebraska Central Administration*

University of Nebraska Medical Center – Proposal for a New Organizational Unit – Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Commissioner Probyn presented the program proposal, commenting that the goal of the proposed department is to provide medical students with an introduction to the field of physiatry. Dr. Jackson noted this department creates a residency program in partnership with Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. UNMC has entered into an agreement with Madonna.

*University of Nebraska Medical
Center Department of Physical
Medicine and Rehabilitation
approved*

Commissioner Probyn, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska Medical Center's proposal for a New Organizational Unit – Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Approval of the Department does not constitute approval of any new programs now or in the future. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

*ITQ State Grant Program 2015-2016
RFP*

Improving Teacher Quality (ITQ) State Grant Program - 2015-2016 Request for Proposals (RFP)

Dr. Fimple stated the ITQ document was created by CCPE staff and the appendices are from the U.S. Federal Government as part of their federal statute or guidelines. She noted that a high-need local educational agency list is generated yearly based on the U.S. Bureau of the Census data and information from the Nebraska Department of Education.

*ITQ State Grant Program 2015-2016
RFP approved*

Commissioner Probyn, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the 2015-2016 Request for Proposals – Improving Teacher Quality State Grant Program. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

*Off-Campus Distance Education
Report 2013-2014*

Off-Campus Distance Education Report 2013-2014

Dr. Fimple presented the report, commenting on the different types of distance delivery: traditional, synchronous, and asynchronous. Distance education has increased 13% from 2011 to 2014, with all institutions seeing an increase. The graphs were reviewed and Dr. Fimple answered questions from the Commissioners.

*SARA Institutional Applications and
Renewals Approved by the
Executive Director*

State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA) Institutional Applications and Renewals Approved by the Executive Director

Dr. Fimple stated that 20 Nebraska institutions will soon be participating in SARA. Institutions have to renew every year and the renewal must

*Annual Reports from Institutions
Holding Recurrent Authorizations to
Operate in Nebraska*

take place prior to 90 days of the expiration date. The most recent states to join SARA are Arkansas, Illinois, Oklahoma, and Tennessee, totaling 28 states now participating.

Annual Reports from Institutions Holding Recurrent Authorizations to Operate in Nebraska

Dr. Fimple presented the report, noting there was no accreditation activity to report.

Report on name changes, deletions, reasonable and moderate extensions, and other institutional activities relating to existing programs

Dr. Fimple read a statement from UNO regarding its Early Childhood Auditory Oral Education for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing program, indicating that UNO has recommended the discontinuance of the program; the Board of Regents will consider the recommendation at its October meeting.

Discontinued Programs

A. Discontinued Programs

1. CCC – Commercial Horticulture
2. UNO – Early Childhood Auditory Oral Education for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing (graduate certificate)
3. UNK – Science Education (MSE)
4. NCTA – Horticulture

Program Name Changes

B. Program Name Change

1. CCC – Agribusiness to *Agricultural Sciences* (beginning 7/1/16)

*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 Committee Items.

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

*Commissioner Lauritzen introduced
James Schiltz to present peer
reports*

PLANNING AND CONSUMER INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Commissioner Lauritzen introduced James Schiltz, Data Analyst, to present the UNL, NCTA, and UNMC peer reports. Mr. Schiltz commented that by statute, it is the responsibility of the Coordinating Commission to select peer institutions for Nebraska's public postsecondary institutions. The reports are important because they help evaluate and monitor performance of our institutions by comparing them with schools that have similar missions, academic program offerings, financial resources, and students. A group of institutions with similar characteristics is selected that meet certain criteria such as mission, size, and students.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Peer Report

University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Peer Report

Mr. Schiltz presented a PowerPoint presentation on the *University of Nebraska-Lincoln Peer Report*. In response to Commissioner Seacrest's question inquiring if the University of Nebraska Central Administration office has received the peer report, Dr. Jackson explained that institutions have various groups of peers. UNL has the Big 10 group of peers, the Board of Regents' group of peers and the CCPE group of peers. He went on to say that Central Administration did receive each of the peer reports prior to the Commission meeting, and the reports feature a logical identification of said peers and they are perfectly satisfactory.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Peer Report approved

Commissioner Lauritzen, on behalf of the Planning and Consumer Information Committee, moved to approve the *University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Peer Report* and Peer Group List. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

NCTA Peer Report

Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) Peer Report

Mr. Schiltz presented a PowerPoint presentation on the *Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture Peer Report*, noting that NCTA's unique focus on agricultural programs makes it difficult to choose peers. Dr. Baumgartner met with Dean Ron Rosati from NCTA to determine what variables to use as well as institutions he saw as natural peers of NCTA. Dean Rosati recommended looking beyond agriculture and including institutions that include technical programs representing a significant portion of degrees granted, with the rationale that these programs would have similar equipment costs and technology-based curriculum. Mr. Schiltz answered questions from the Commissioners.

NCTA Peer Report approved

Commissioner Lauritzen, on behalf of the Planning and Consumer Information Committee, moved to approve the *Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) Peer Report* and Peer Group List. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

UNMC Peer Report

University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) Peer Report

Mr. Schiltz gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the *University of Nebraska Medical Center Peer Report*. He stated that for this report, the Coordinating Commission worked closely with the University of Nebraska to help choose the peers. The Commission submitted peer group proposals and the University responded with suggestions for altering certain criteria. The Commission adjusted its criteria and ranges to incorporate much of the University's recommendations.

UNMC Peer Report approved

Commissioner Lauritzen, on behalf of the Planning and Consumer Information Committee, moved to approve the *University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) Peer Report* and Peer Group List. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

Commissioner Seacrest left the Commission meeting at 2:08 p.m.

Dr. Baumgartner congratulated Mr. Schiltz on his great work with the peer report project, and noted that next week James will be embarking upon the second course in his doctoral program in higher education at UNL. Anticipated graduation is May of 2020.

Jill Heese presents the 2015 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska – Degrees and Other Awards

2015 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska – Degrees and Other Awards

Commissioner Lauritzen introduced Jill Heese, Research Coordinator, who presented the *2015 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska* report on degrees and other awards. Degrees and other awards are analyzed in five sections of the report by sector, level (graduate and undergraduate), gender, race/ethnicity, and discipline. A new section has been added this year (Section 6) and it contains the number of completers by age. Sections 1 through 5 analyze the number of conferred awards, whereas Section 6 analyzes the number of students who earned awards. Ms. Heese stated that in the coming months she will produce a data dashboard where data users can drill down the data and perform data analysis on our website. She answered questions from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Bernthal left the Commission meeting at 2:18 p.m.

Next Commission meeting: October 15, 2015

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Commission meeting will be Thursday, October 15, 2015, at Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln, Nebraska.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Zink comments

Chair Zink thanked the Commissioners for their thoughtful and passionate participation and Miste Adamson and Kadi Lukesh for arranging and serving break and lunch.

Commissioner Lauritzen comments

Commissioner Lauritzen mentioned it was nice to receive thank you notes from participants at Chadron State College's June Commission meeting. Former Commissioner Riko Bishop was one of three finalists for appointment to the Nebraska Supreme Court. Commissioner Lauritzen was proud to send a recommendation for her and follow up with the Governor even though she was not appointed.

Commissioner Simmons comments

Commissioner Simmons brought up a previous issue that was discussed at a Commission meeting regarding UNL programs where student tuition was paying for other students' scholarships. Dr. Baumgartner sent a follow-up email regarding this issue, noting the University of Nebraska prepared and sent the Commission a memo supporting its authority to use tuition dollars for the scholarship and the Commission is satisfied by their argument.

Dr. Fimple comments

Dr. Fimple stated she saw former CCPE Executive Director Marshall Hill at the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) meeting and he says hello to the Commissioners. He currently is located in Boulder,

Colorado and works for the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA).

Commissioner Probyn Comments

Commissioner Probyn noted that on August 13 he was invited by U.S. Sen. Ben Sasse to a military and veteran services meeting at Bellevue University, with close to 200 people in attendance in a room designed for 70 people. This group is responsible for finding jobs for 175-200 returning military veterans. Commissioner Probyn will be working with this group and Dr. Fimple to help returning veterans use the skills and technical knowledge they acquired while in military service in the workplace. Chair Zink added there is an official group called the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) that do that very thing, along with talking to soldiers and their families about benefits. Her husband, Walter Zink, is the chair of this group. This volunteer group has been together for the last six years and would be an adjunct to what this group is doing. Commissioner Simmons noted that Commissioner Hunter is on a committee regarding military service experience and credit for college. Dr. Fimple stated that she has drafted a letter and a survey that will go out to this committee, which includes college representatives, National Guard educational benefits representatives, and the Nebraska Department of Education, which authorizes programs for veteran's benefits. She noted there are others also that will be sent the letter and survey, which will go out this fall.

Commissioner Lauritzen comments

Commissioner Lauritzen thanked Jill Heese and James Schiltz for presenting their in-depth reports in such an efficient manner.

Meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Zink adjourned the meeting at 2:36 p.m.