
MINUTES

COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

December 5, 2013

The Apothecary Building
140 North 8th Street, 5th Floor
Lincoln, Nebraska

Public notice of time and place of regular meeting was given to Commission members, institutional representatives, news media, the Legislative Fiscal Office and the Department of Administrative Services.

Public notice of meeting

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION WILL HOLD A MEETING ON DECEMBER 5, 2013. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 8:30 A.M. AND ADJOURN AT APPROXIMATELY 12:00 P.M.

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

DR. RON HUNTER, CHAIR

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

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

In Chair Ron Hunter's absence, Vice Chair Clark Anderson called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. and asked that the minutes for this meeting show there is a quorum. He welcomed guests and asked for introductions.

Commissioners Present

Colleen Adam
Clark Anderson
Dr. Deborah Frison
Dr. Joyce Simmons

W. Scott Wilson
John Winkleblack
Carol Zink

Commissioners Absent

Dr. Ron Hunter
Mary Lauritzen
Eric Seacrest

Commission Staff Present

Benjamin Civic
Dr. Kathleen Fimple
Jason Keese

Dr. Carna Pfeil
Helen Pope
Mike Wemhoff

Minutes of October 31, 2013
Commission meeting approved

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 31, 2013 COMMISSION MEETING

Commissioner Wilson moved that the October 31, 2013 minutes be approved. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Winkleblack abstained, with all other Commissioners present voting yes.

VICE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Vice Chair Anderson did not have a report.

Commissioner Simmons announces nominations for 2014 Commission Chair, Vice-Chair, and Executive Committee members

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Commissioner Simmons stated that she along with Commissioners Frison and Seacrest made up the nominating committee for Commission officers for 2014. She presented the Committee's slate of nominations for Commission Chair, Vice Chair, and two other members of the 2014 Executive Committee, noting that with Commissioner Anderson leaving the Commission, and the Governor's reappointments of Commissioners coming up, the Nominating Committee chose to nominate someone who has previously performed the Chair role. The Committee's discussion included that by nominating and electing officers now, the Commission could be electing a Commissioner who is not reappointed. They suggest changing the date of the election process to summer to coincide with the fiscal year.

The Nominating Committee proposed approval of Colleen Adam to serve as Commission Chair from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014; Carol Zink to serve as Vice Chair from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014; and Commissioners Dr. Ron Hunter and Scott Wilson to serve on the Executive Committee along with the Chair and Vice Chair from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014.

2014 Commission Chair, Vice-Chair, and Executive Committee members approved

Commissioner Anderson on behalf of the Nominating Subcommittee moved to approve the slate of nominations as proposed: Commission Chair, Colleen Adam; Vice Chair, Carol Zink; and two members to serve on the Executive Committee along with the Chair and Vice Chair, Ron Hunter and Scott Wilson. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

Dr. Pfeil speaks about out-of-service area application

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Carna Pfeil, Interim Executive Director, reported that the following out-of-service area application has been authorized:

1. Offered by Central Community College
Traditional delivery at Mid-Plains Community College in Broken Bow, NE
 - BSAD 1985 New Manager Essentials (1.5 cr.)
-November 6, 2013 – November 8, 2013

Dr. Pfeil introduces Gary Timm

Dr. Pfeil introduced Gary Timm, who has accepted the position of Chief Finance and Administrative Officer at the Coordinating Commission. Mr. Timm spoke briefly about his background, stating that he attended high school in Clearwater, Nebraska, and graduated from Chadron State College. He currently is employed at the Nebraska Department of Insurance, and looks forward to starting at the Commission on January 2, 2014.

Dr. Pfeil discusses changing bylaws regarding election of officers

Dr. Pfeil stated that at the March Commission meeting we will discuss changing the bylaws regarding the annual election of officers to coincide with the beginning of our fiscal year instead of the calendar year. The statutes state that election of officers is done annually, but the bylaws specify the date.

December 4, 2013 low producing programs work session canceled

The low producing programs work session was canceled December 4 due to bad weather. The work session will be rescheduled in conjunction with the March 2014 Commission meeting.

Dr. Pfeil speaks on MHEC annual meeting

Dr. Pfeil attended the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) Annual Meeting and Policy Summit in Omaha on November 17-19, 2013. Commissioner Zink, State Senators Sue Crawford and Rick Kolowski, and Jason Keese, Communications Coordinator, were also in attendance. Dr. Pfeil asked Commissioner Zink to report on the Policy Summit.

Commissioner Zink reports on MHEC annual meeting and MOOCs policy summit

Commissioner Zink stated that Susan Fritz from the University of Nebraska was in attendance at the Policy Summit along with Senators Crawford and Kolowski. Dr. Randy Ferlic was chair of the MHEC Annual Meeting and chose the topic MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses). A MOOC is an online program that is typically taken for information purposes, not for credit. Another topic addressed was OERs (Open Educational Resources).

Nebraska is one state in a 12-state organization known as MHEC. MHEC Commissioners approved the Compact's revised Associate Status and approved an increase in the annual state commitment (dues), from \$95,000 to \$115,000, in Fiscal Year 2016 and Fiscal Year 2017. The commitment has held steady at \$95,000 since Fiscal Year 2009. Commissioner Zink explained to Senators Crawford and Kolowski that we are the pass-through agency for Nebraska's MHEC dues. Because of this, our budget will look like it has been increased \$20,000. They agreed to share that information with their colleagues.

During the MHEC annual meeting, Dr. Ferlic received the Phillip Sirotkin Award, MHEC's highest award, named for the founding father of the compact. Ferlic recently served as a regent for the University of Nebraska System. Also recognized for his exemplary service to MHEC was John Dunning, chief information officer for Wayne State College, in Wayne, NE. Dunning has served as chair of the compact's Technologies Committee since 2011 and has been a committee member since 2005. He has also chaired numerous Request For Proposal committees that have resulted in technology contracts for the compact.

Public Comment on Matters of General Concern

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS OF GENERAL CONCERN

There was no testimony regarding Matters of General Concern.

Vice Chair Anderson closed the public hearing on Matters of General Concern.

Consent Agenda

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

Biennial review of statutory “minimum capital expenditure” definition for facility O&M costs

- **Biennial review of statutory “minimum capital expenditure” definition for facility operating and maintenance costs**

Vice Chair Anderson asked if anyone wanted to take this issue off the Consent Agenda. With no one coming forward and no discussion, he recommended to move forward with the vote.

Consent Agenda Item approved

Commissioner Zink made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Item - approval of the biennial review of statutory “minimum capital expenditure” definition for facility operating and maintenance costs. Commissioner Winkleblack seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

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

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

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

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

Nebraska State College System operating budget deficit funding request

BUDGET, CONSTRUCTION AND FINANCIAL AID COMMITTEE

Nebraska State College System operating budget deficit funding request for administrative costs associated with implementing LB 429 passed in the 2013 Legislative session

Dr. Pfeil presents the request

Vice Chair Anderson asked Dr. Pfeil to present the request. Dr. Pfeil noted that statutes state Nebraska public institutions are to provide information on any deficit request to the Coordinating Commission 30 days before it is due to the Governor and State Legislature. The Commission reviewed the deficit request submitted by the State Colleges, which showed they will have significant increases in workload to comply with LB 429. The Commission suggested the Legislature make a change in the law during the 2014 legislative session.

Nebraska State College System operating budget deficit funding request approved

Commissioner Simmons, on behalf of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee moved to approve the recommendation that the Legislature identify a minimum contract amount of \$1,000 or \$5,000 which would decrease the amount of work required to comply

with LB 429. If a minimum contract amount cannot be instituted, the Commission recommends consideration of additional state general funds for the implementation of LB 429 in 2013-2014 and continuation of funding for the ongoing cost for 2014-2015. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

Ben Civic presents ACE Plus Scholarship overview

ACE Plus Scholarship Overview 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14

Ben Civic, College Access Challenge Grant Program Director, presented a PowerPoint overview of the ACE Plus (Access College Early) scholarship, noting this is the third year of the program. The scholarship is fully funded by the federal College Access Challenge Grant. Mr. Civic answered questions from the Commissioners.

Public Hearing on Academic Programs Committee Items

PUBLIC HEARING ON ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE ITEMS

Dr. Charles, Bicak, University of Nebraska at Kearney

Dr. Charles Bicak, Sr. Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, spoke briefly about the strategic plan that has emerged, beginning in 2012 following an academic program review of modern languages on the UNK campus. Most notably the plan includes a curricular revision and a focus on increasing student enrollment by developing an “umbrella” degree program in modern languages. A handout from the Department of Modern Languages was distributed to the Commissioners.

Dr. Sonja Kropp, University of Nebraska at Kearney

Dr. Sonja Kropp, Professor of French and Chair of Modern Languages at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, introduced herself and reported on the proposal for an umbrella degree in modern languages. Students would take core courses in each language and after 18 hours of courses they would have the opportunity to concentrate in French, German or Spanish. A translation/interpretation degree could be included as a concentration within this format. Dr. Kropp also discussed dual credit options.

Dr. Daren Snider, University of Nebraska at Kearney

Dr. Daren Snider, Associate Professor and Director of General Education at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, noted that in 2011, a University of Nebraska internal review team recommended taking a look at the cultural studies aspect to teaching modern languages, which could lead to a broader appeal. Dr. Snider answered questions from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Zink clarified that if the Commissioners approve the request to continue the French and German programs at UNK, the Commission would ask that a report submitted by October 2015 would include evidence of implementation of the recommendations made in the 2011 internal review team report and documentation of results.

Dr. Kathleen Fimple presents the follow-up report

Commissioner Zink introduced Dr. Kathleen Fimple, Academic Programs Officer, to present other information on the UNK French BA/BAE and UNK German BA/BAE follow-up report. She stated it would take several years before a significant improvement is seen within a bachelor's degree program when a change has been made to that program.

Dr. Bicak, University of Nebraska at Kearney

Dr. Bicak commented that on behalf of all three of the undergraduate campuses, he plans to address this issue with his counterparts by way of interim provost Susan Fritz at one of the sessions of their group of CAO's.

Dr. Jason Warr, National American University

Dr. Jason Warr, Associate Provost for regulatory affairs at National American University in Rapid City, South Dakota, came forward to discuss the programs proposed for the Omaha area. He reported that since opening the Omaha campus for National American University, they have met their growth projections and are continuing to successfully serve the students in the Omaha area. There are approximately 200 students attending the Bellevue campus. He answered questions from the Commissioners.

Dr. Fimple presents the proposal

Dr. Fimple presented the application, noting there was a decrease in the academic revenue of National American University over the previous two years, coupled with an effort to decrease operating expenses. The financial composite score is well within the federal government's acceptable range. She noted a letter was received from the University of Nebraska expressing its concern for demand of these programs, student retention, graduation rates and student loan default rates. She discussed each of these concerns, pointing out that in these areas National American University falls within the range of other institutions in Omaha.

Vice Chair Anderson closed the public hearing on Academic Programs Committee Items.

Commission meeting break

Vice Chair Anderson called for a break at 11:00 a.m. The meeting resumed at 11:15 a.m.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

UNK – French (BA/BAE) and UNK – German (BA/BAE)

Follow-up Reports on existing instructional programs, postponed from the October 31, 2013 Commission meeting – UNK – French (BA/BAE) and UNK – German (BA/BAE)

Commissioner Zink explained that at the October 31 Commission meeting there was a motion to table the UNK French (BA/BAE) and UNK German (BA/BAE) follow-up reports. She was asked to read that motion.

UNK – French (BA/BAE) and UNK – German (BA/BAE) taken off the table

Commissioner Zink moved to take the Follow-up Report on existing instructional programs – UNK – French (BA/BAE) and UNK – German (BA/BAE) off the table. Commissioner Adam seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

UNK – French (BA/BAE) approved

Commissioner Zink moved to approve the follow-up report on the existing instructional program – UNK French (BA/BAE) stating that at the October 31 Commission meeting the committee recommendation presented to the Commission was: The committee is concerned that this program is chronically low producing, averaging less than two graduates per year, and is continuously on the Commission's list for follow-up or in-depth reviews. Even so, for this follow-up review the

committee recommends that the BA/BAE in French at UNK be continued with the following stipulations:

- A report is submitted by October 15, 2015 that includes evidence of implementation of the recommendations made in the 2011 internal review team report and documentation of results.
- The report also includes the number of majors and minors, the number of degrees and minors awarded, and the student credit hour production.
- UNK provides a justification for continuing the program.

Following receipt of this information in 2015, the Commission will make a decision on whether this program should be continued or the process to discontinue should be initiated. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Winkleblack voted no. All other Commissioners present voted yes.

UNK – German (BA/BAE)
approved

Commissioner Zink moved to approve the follow-up report on the existing instructional program – UNK German (BA/BAE) stating that at the October 31 Commission meeting the committee recommendation presented to the Commission was: The committee is concerned that this program is chronically low producing, averaging less than two graduates per year, and is continuously on the Commission’s list for follow-up or in-depth reviews. Even so, for this follow-up review the committee recommends that the BA/BAE in German at UNK be continued with the following stipulations:

- A report is submitted by October 15, 2015 that includes evidence of implementation of the recommendations made in the 2011 internal review team report and documentation of results.
- The report also includes the number of majors and minors, the number of degrees and minors awarded, and the student credit hour production.
- UNK provides a justification for continuing the program.

Following receipt of this information in 2015, the Commission will make a decision on whether this program should be continued or the process to discontinue should be initiated. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Winkleblack voted no. All other Commissioners present voted yes.

Commissioner Zink thanked the UNK department chair and staff for attending the meeting. Low producing programs are an ongoing issue that the Commission will be addressing in early 2014.

MCC – Civil Engineering
Technology (AAS, Certificate,
Specialist Diploma)

Follow-up Report on an existing instructional program – MCC – Civil Engineering Technology (AAS, Certificate, Specialist Diploma)

Dr. Fimple presents the proposal

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal, noting MCC is serving the needs of the students, and the number of graduates in the civil engineering technology program is slowly increasing.

Dr. Kathleen Curphy,
Metropolitan Community College

Dr. Kathleen Curphy, Academic Vice President at Metropolitan Community College, commented that civil engineering enrollment is down nationwide. As funds increase from the government for highway improvement, enrollment and graduation rates will increase. She noted many community college students take courses to improve their skills for a current job.

MCC – Civil Engineering
Technology (AAS, Certificate,
Specialist Diploma) approved

Commissioner Zink, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve continuation of the Metropolitan Community College Civil Engineering Technology program – AAS, Certificate, Specialist Diploma, with the next regular program review due June 30, 2016. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

National American University –
Management (BS, AAS), Health
Information Technology (AAS),
Healthcare Coding (Diploma),
and Pharmacy Technician (AAS)

Application to Modify a Previous Authorization to Operate – National American University - Management (BS, AAS), Health Information Technology (AAS), Healthcare Coding (Diploma), and Pharmacy Technician (AAS)

Commissioner Zink reads the
committee recommendation

Commissioner Zink stated since testimony was previously given and no one came forward with questions or comments, she will read the committee recommendation.

National American University –
Management (BS, AAS), Health
Information Technology (AAS),
Healthcare Coding (Diploma),
and Pharmacy Technician (AAS)
approved

Commissioner Zink, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the modification to the recurrent authorization to operate for National American University to include the BS and AAS in management, the AAS in pharmacy technician, the AAS in health information technology, and the diploma in healthcare coding. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

Existing Program Review
approved by the Interim
Executive Director

Existing Program Review

Interim Executive Director Dr. Pfeil approved the continuation of the following existing programs, whose productivity fell within the Commission thresholds or where significant justification was provided if below the thresholds.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Advertising – BJ
Advertising & Public Relations – BJ
Broadcasting – BJ
Communication Studies – BA/BS, MA, PhD
Journalism & Mass Communication – MA
News and Editorial – BJ

University of Nebraska at Omaha

Broadcasting – BA, BS
Communication – MA
Human Resources & Management – Graduate Certificate
Technical Communication – Graduate Certificate

Journalism – BS, BA
Mass Communication – BGS
Speech Communication – BS, BGS, BA

Wayne State College
Mass Communication – BA, BS

Central Community College
Occupational Therapy Assistant – AAS

Southeast Community College
Physical Therapist Assistant – AAS

Northeast Community College
Physical Therapist Assistant – AAS

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

Program Deletions

Program Deletions and
Department Name Change

1. UNO – Broadcasting (BGS)
2. UNO – Communication (BGS)
3. MCC – Leadership & Supervision (AAS)

Department Name Change

1. UNK – Department of Computer Science and Information Systems
to *Department of Computer Science and Information Technology*

FUTURE MEETINGS

Next Commission Meeting
January 23, 2014

The next Commission meeting will be Thursday, January 23, 2014 via video conference at the State of Nebraska Executive Building in Lincoln, Nebraska.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Vice Chair Anderson comments

Vice Chair Anderson stated that he has chosen not to ask the Governor to be reappointed to serve on the Commission in 2014 due to his busy work schedule. He has enjoyed the people and the job for the past six years, and expressed his appreciation for fellow Commissioners and the CCPE staff.

Commissioner Simmons
distributes article

Commissioner Simmons distributed an article to the Commissioners from the current issue of Smithsonian Magazine regarding a scholarship awarded to Harvard students. She noted the interesting part of the scholarship program is the method by which they are identifying low income, rural students.

Commissioner Zink comments

Commissioner Zink wished everyone a very Merry Christmas.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.