
MINUTES

COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION January 22, 2015

Video Conference sites:
Chadron State College, Chadron, NE
NET Building, Lincoln, NE
ESU #16, North Platte, NE
State Office Building, Omaha, NE
UNO Eppley Administration Building, Omaha, NE
City Hall, South Sioux City, NE

Public notice of meeting

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.

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION WILL HOLD A MEETING ON JANUARY 22, 2015. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 9:00 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.

COLLEEN ADAM, CHAIR

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Adam called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked for introductions.

Commissioners Present

Colleen Adam*	Eric Seacrest (No. Platte)
Dr. John Bernthal*	Dr. Joyce Simmons*
Dr. Deborah Frison (UNO)	Lori Warner (So. Sioux City)
Dr. Ron Hunter (Chadron)	W. Scott Wilson (UNO)
Mary Lauritzen (So. Sioux City)	Carol Zink*
Dwayne Probyn (Omaha)	

(*Lincoln site)

Commission Staff Present

Dr. Michael Baumgartner	Kadi Lukesh
Dr. Kathleen Fimple	Gary Timm
Helen Pope	Mike Wemhoff
Jason Keese	

*Minutes of December 4, 2014
Commission meeting approved*

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 2014 COMMISSION MEETING

Commissioner Simmons moved that the December 4, 2014 meeting minutes be approved. Commissioner Zink seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Wilson abstained and all other Commissioners present voted yes.

Chair Adam notes Commissioner Bernthal's confirmation hearing

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Adam reported that Commissioner Bernthal will be appearing before the Education Committee next week for his confirmation hearing. He has already been sworn in as a Commissioner.

Dr. Baumgartner speaks about out-of-service area authorizations

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Michael Baumgartner, Executive Director, reported that the following out-of-service-area applications have been approved:

1. Offered by University of Nebraska at Omaha
Traditional delivery at McCook High School in McCook, NE
 - ENGL 1010 Introduction to Genre Studies: Prose (3 cr.)
Spring 2015
2. Offered by University of Nebraska at Omaha
Traditional delivery at McCook High School in McCook, NE
 - ENGL 1020 Introduction to Genre Studies: Poetry, Drama, and Film (3 cr.)
Spring 2015
3. Offered by University of Nebraska at Omaha
Traditional delivery at Crete High School in Crete, NE
 - SPANISH 2120 Intermediate Spanish II (3 cr.)
Spring 2015
4. Offered by Mid-Plains Community College
Traditional delivery at Hyannis High School in Hyannis, NE
 - FACS 1120 Child Development (4 cr.)
1/12/15 – 5/22/15
5. Offered by Central Community College
Interactive two-way video originated at CCC
Delivered to Yutan High School in Yutan, NE
 - MATH 1150 College Algebra (3 cr.)
1/12/15 – 5/7/15

Kadi Lukesh gives second-quarter budget report

Kadi Lukesh, Office Manager/Bookkeeper, gave the second-quarter budget report, noting that we are halfway through the fiscal year. Data processing expenses are higher due to an Access College Early scholarship program portal enhancement. Food expense is high due to it being our turn to host the Board of Education at the December Commission meeting. Commissioner

travel and lodging is also high since there were evening events we asked the Commissioners to participate in before the Commission meetings. Ms. Lukesh noted that the mileage reimbursement for 2015 has increased as the State of Nebraska follows the federal guidelines. Ms. Lukesh answered questions from the Commissioners

Dr. Baumgartner discusses Education Committee's 2025 Vision Report

Dr. Baumgartner reported that in December the Education Committee released its Vision for 2025 Report and its Lottery Study. Both reports are important to the Coordinating Commission. The Education Committee's vision is that every Nebraskan be educated for success, with a mission of providing Nebraskans the opportunity to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to be productive citizens. There are four goals: provide quality educational opportunities; establish high expectations for educators, parents, students, and educational institutions; create positive and successful learning environments; and develop collaborative educational relationships with the entire community. Dr. Baumgartner stated that each goal has a number of objectives. The report set 2025 as an overall target date for the vision but did not set specific goals or dates for completion of its goal or objectives. Much of the work is intended to be carried out by the proposed Nebraska Council for Education Success, which would be created by LB 371, a new bill sponsored by Senators Sullivan and Mello. Dr. Baumgartner noted that whether or not the council is created, there may be different processes to accomplish the same goals. The implementation of the Vision report could affect portions of the CCPE's Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education.

Dr. Baumgartner comments on Education Committee's Lottery Study

The Education Committee's Lottery Study was released at the same time as the Vision report. The study contains a history of the constitutional and statutory provisions that have governed the use of the lottery proceeds. Two subsequent bills have been introduced by Senator Sullivan. LB 519 would change how the education portion of lottery funds is distributed. The Nebraska Opportunity Grant (NOG), which has been funded since fiscal year 2003-04 from lottery funds, would no longer receive lottery funds. LB 520, an alternative bill, would gradually reduce the amount of lottery funding for NOG and request that the Legislature replace lottery funding with General funds as it is reduced.

Jason Keese gives Legislative update

Dr. Baumgartner asked Jason Keese, Public Information and Special Projects Coordinator, to brief the Commissioners on current Legislative bills of interest. A summary sheet was distributed to Commissioners outlining information discussed. Mr. Keese stated that yesterday, January 21st, was the filing deadline for new bills. There are 28 bills related to higher education that he will be tracking, and several that the Coordinating Commission will be testifying on. Mr. Keese answered questions from the Commissioners.

Public Hearing on Matters of General Concern

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS OF GENERAL CONCERN

There was no testimony regarding Matters of General Concern.

Chair Adam closed the public hearing on Matters of General Concern. PUBLIC HEARING ON ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE ITEMS

Public Hearing on Academic Programs Committee Items

Richard Ferguson, University of Nebraska – Lincoln

Richard Ferguson, Professor of Soil Science and Associate Head of the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, came forward in support of the merger of the department’s PhD programs. He discussed the difference between agronomy and horticulture and the rationale behind the integration of these programs. He offered to answer any questions the Commissioners might have.

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

Commissioner Probyn thanks fellow APC members

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Probyn thanked Dr. Kathleen Fimple, Academic Programs Officer, and the members of the Academic Programs Committee for their involvement in the committee conference call.

ITQ State Grant Program Recommendations

Commissioner Probyn and Dr. Fimple present the ITQ recommendations

Improving Teacher Quality State Grant Program Recommendations for 2014-2015 Awards

Commissioner Probyn and Dr. Fimple presented the program proposal. The ITQ program provides grants to partnerships comprised of Nebraska institutions of higher education and high-need local educational agencies for projects to improve the skills of teachers, paraprofessionals, and principals. Eight proposals were submitted to the panel for evaluation. The total amount of funds available for awards in 2014-2015 is \$275,855. The five proposals that were chosen and recommended for funding are:

- Strengthening Mathematics Instruction for Teachers of Primary Grades in the Nebraska Panhandle – UNL and Scottsbluff Public Schools
- Engaging Math: Professional Development through the Flipped Classroom Model – UNK and Grand Island Public Schools
- Building Teacher Competency in World Language Classrooms through Authentic Performance Based Assessment – UNL and Grand Island Public Schools
- Water for Elementary Teachers of Science Nebraska – UNL and Hastings Public Schools
- Improving Social Studies Instruction Using the Student Atlas of Nebraska – Wayne State College and Omaha Public Schools

ITQ State Grant Program Recommendations for 2014-15 Awards approved

Commissioner Probyn, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the Improving Teacher Quality State Grant Program recommendations for 2014-2015 Awards. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

University of Nebraska (UNO
and UNMC)

Commissioner Probyn presents
the proposal

Donald Leuenberger, UNMC,
answers Commissioner
questions

University of Nebraska (UNO
and UNMC) Nebraska Advanced
Biomedical Technology
Innovation and Discovery
Institute approved

University of Nebraska – Lincoln

Commissioner Probyn presents
the program

UNL – Horticulture PhD merger
approved, and MS degree
continued

Nebraska College of Technical
Agriculture

Commissioner Probyn and Dr.
Fimple present the program

**University of Nebraska (UNO and UNMC) Proposal for a New
Organizational Unit – Nebraska Advanced Biomedical Technology
Innovation and Discovery Institute**

Commissioner Probyn presented the proposal, noting the institute would be located in Omaha and provide biomedical research and technologies. The research and resulting products would enhance health care delivery and have a positive impact on the state. The institute would collaborate with UNL, UNK, STRATCOM and other venture groups and private and public institutions. Dr. Scott Snyder, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research at UNO, Dr. Jennifer Larsen, Vice Chancellor for Research at UNMC, and Donald Leuenberger, Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance at UNMC, were available at the Eppley Administration building video conference site and answered questions from the Commissioners. Mr. Leuenberger stated the institute would be much more than a research effort; it would provide an opportunity to commercialize technology that is developed in the state and use this as part of a new economic engine in the region for biotechnology development.

Commissioner Probyn, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska’s (UNO and UNMC) proposal for a New Organizational Unit: Nebraska Advanced Biomedical Technology Innovation and Discovery Institute. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

**University of Nebraska - Lincoln – Follow-up Report on an Existing
Instructional Program – Horticulture (MS, PhD)**

Commissioner Probyn presented the report, stating that horticulture plays an increasingly important role in the future of society because of the need for secure and reliable food supplies. He noted that because of concern expressed by the Commission in 2011 over the number of graduates, the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources merged the PhD programs in Agronomy and Horticulture. A combined agronomy/horticulture PhD would meet Commission thresholds while providing a doctoral degree option for horticulture students.

Commissioner Probyn, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to accept the University’s decision to merge the PhD horticulture program with agronomy, discontinuing the freestanding PhD in horticulture, and to continue the MS degree program. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

**Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture – Follow-up Report on an
Existing Instructional Program – Horticulture (AS, AAS, Certificate)**

Commissioner Probyn presented the proposal, commenting that the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture will deactivate the Horticulture Systems program in January 2015. The low productivity despite significant recruitment efforts supports NCTA’s decision. Programs in horticulture are currently offered at Central, Metropolitan, Northeast, and Southeast Community Colleges to serve Nebraska students. Dr. Fimple noted that when an institution initiates discontinuing a program, the Commission does

NCTA's decision to deactivate Horticulture Systems program approved

2013-2014 Existing Program Review approved by the Executive Director

SARA Institutional Applications Approved by the Executive Director

not act upon that decision; rather it concurs with the institution and supports its decision.

Commissioner Probyn, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to concur with Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture's decision to deactivate the Horticulture Systems program (discontinuing the free-standing AS, AAS, and certificate in horticulture). A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

2013-2014 Existing Program Review

Commissioner Probyn presented the Existing Program Review approved by the Executive Director.

University of Nebraska at Kearney

History – BS, BAE, MA
Political Science – BA, BS, BAE
Public Administration – BS
Social Science – BS, BAE

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

History – BA, BS, BJ, MA, PhD
Political Science – BA, BS, BJ, MA, PhD

University of Nebraska at Omaha

Global Information Operations – Graduate Certificate
History – BA, BS, BGS, MA
Political Science – BA, BS, BGS, MS

Chadron State College

History – BA, BSE

Peru State College

Psychology – BA/BS
Social Science – BA/BS

Wayne State College

History – BA, BS
Political Science – BA, BS

SARA Institutional Applications Approved by the Executive Director

Commissioner Probyn reported that 16 Nebraska institutions have been approved for participation in SARA, with three more making inquiries. Dr. Fimple noted there are no applications pending at this time. There are 18 states participating, with New Hampshire being the latest and Minnesota expected to be approved soon.

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

Program Name Change

Program Name Change

WNCC – Applied Technology (AOS) to
Technical Studies (AOS)

*Reasonable and Moderate
Extension*

Reasonable and Moderate Extension

NECC – Diversified Manufacturing Technology (diploma)

Renaming of Center

Renaming of Center

UNO – Center for Research in Biomechanics to
Center for Research in Human Movement Variability

Discontinued Program

Discontinued Program

UNL – University Studies (BA, BS)

New Program Location

New Program Location

UNMC – As a result of the Regional West Medical Center (RWMC) in Scottsbluff closing its hospital-based Radiologic Technology School (AS in association with WNCC), the School of Allied Health Professions will be expanding its Radiography Education Program (BS) to the RWMC campus

*Commissioners Zink and
Lauritzen share articles*

Commissioners Zink and Lauritzen Share Articles of Interest

Commissioner Zink shared a Lincoln Journal Star article from January 21, 2015 titled *UNMC, Community Colleges Announce Joint Nursing Program*. The paper stated the reason admissions in the state and particularly the Lincoln area will not expand is because of the lack of enough clinical sites. She noted that in the past, Commissioners have discussed this topic in depth.

Commissioner Lauritzen shared an article from the January 19, 2015 Omaha World-Herald, *A Quick Report on Higher Education* by Kate Howard. She noted Wayne State College will offer a lecture on suicide prevention January 29th that is open to the public, and UNO is offering a farm and food ethics lecture on February 5th. These are items that tie into recently discussed issues.

*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.

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

*Commissioner Simmons
identifies and thanks fellow BCF
committee members*

BUDGET, CONSTRUCTION, AND FINANCIAL AID COMMITTEE

Commissioner Simmons, Chair of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee, identified and thanked the members of the committee: Commissioners Adam, Wilson, Zink, and Seacrest.

*Metropolitan Community College
– Fort Omaha Campus*

*Commissioner Simmons and
Mike Wemhoff present the
project proposal*

*Jim Grotrian, and Stan Horrell,
Metropolitan Community College*

*Metropolitan Community College
– Fort Omaha Campus
Academic Skills Center approved*

*Gary Timm presents the
Nebraska Community Colleges
State Aid Enrollment FTE/REU
Guidelines for 2015*

*Nebraska Community Colleges
State Aid Enrollment FTE/REU
Guidelines for 2015 approved*

*Gary Timm presents the
Nebraska Community Colleges
State Aid Enrollment Audit
Guidelines*

Capital Construction Project Proposal – Metropolitan Community College – Fort Omaha Campus – Academic Skills Center

Commissioner Simmons stated that the Academic Skills Center is one of three projects being planned concurrently at the Fort Omaha Campus. She introduced Mike Wemhoff, Facilities Officer, to discuss the proposal. Mr. Wemhoff stated the Academic Skills Center would be the first of several projects developed from Metropolitan Community College’s master plan for the Fort Omaha Campus. The new building would have a number of functions, including a new method of providing student services, lounge and food spaces, classrooms and collaborative learning study spaces. One of the main functions of the building would be to create a new team-centered approach to providing student services.

Jim Grotrian, Executive Vice President, and Stan Horrell, Director of Facilities Planning and Sustainability, from Metropolitan Community College spoke in support of the proposal and answered questions from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Simmons, on behalf of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee, stated, that pursuant to the Nebraska Revised Statutes, Section 85-1414, the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee of the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education recommends approval of Metropolitan Community College’s proposal to use \$8.59 million in capital improvement property taxes for a new Academic Skills Center as outlined in the program statement approved by the MCC Board of Governors on December 16, 2014 and supplemental information provided. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

Nebraska Community Colleges State Aid Enrollment FTE/REU Guidelines for FY 2015

Commissioner Simmons introduced Gary Timm, Chief Finance and Administrative Officer, to present the guidelines. Mr. Timm stated this is the first year the community college audit guidelines were divided into two separate documents. The original guideline document was created by the community colleges to provide a uniform way to identify the courses and course weighting requirements in order to be used in a way the previous formula worked to allocate state aid. Commissioner Lauritzen requested the institutions and their locations be named in the document.

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 2015 with the inclusion of names and locations of the institutions.* A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

Nebraska Community Colleges State Aid Enrollment Audit Guidelines

Mr. Timm stated this document provides guidance to outside independent auditors who audit the accuracy of the community colleges’ reported full-time equivalents (FTEs) and reimbursable educational units (REUs). The

*Nebraska Community Colleges
State Aid Enrollment Audit
Guidelines approved*

only change in this document is the omission of specific dates, with the intent that the document will not come before the Commission in the future unless there are changes. Chair Adam added that each college is free to choose its own auditor. Commissioner Lauritzen requested the institutions and their locations be named in the document.

Commissioner Simmons, on behalf of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee, moved to approve the *Nebraska Community Colleges State Aid Enrollment Audit Guidelines*, with the inclusion of names and locations of the institutions. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

*Next Commission meeting
March 12, 2015*

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Commission meeting will be Thursday, March 12, 2015 at Central Community College in Columbus, Nebraska.

Chair Adam comments

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chair Adam thanked Commissioners and guests who were located at remote sites for their attendance and participation.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.