MINUTES

COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

July 21, 2011
St. Gregory the Great Seminary
Seward, Nebraska

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 JULY 21, 2011. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 8:30 AM. AND ADJOURN AT APPROXIMATELY 11:30 A.M.

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

DR. JOYCE D. SIMMONS, CHAIR

Meeting called to order at 8:38 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Joyce Simmons called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m. and asked for introductions.

Commissioners Present

Colleen Adam	Clark Anderson
Riko Bishop	Dr. Dick Davis
Dr. Ron Hunter	Mary Lauritzen
Eric Seacrest	Dr. Joyce Simmons
W. Scott Wilson	Carol Zink

Commissioners Absent

John Winkleblack

Commission Staff Present

Miste Adamson-DaMoude	Dr. Kathleen Fimple
Katherine Green	Dr. Marshall Hill
Jason Keese	Kadi Lukesh
Dr. Barbara McCuen	Mike Wemhoff

Rev. Msgr. John Folda greets Commissioners

GREETINGS BY REVEREND MONSIGNOR JOHN FOLDA, RECTOR AT ST. GREGORY THE GREAT SEMINARY

The seminary has just completed its 13th year in operation as an undergraduate seminary to the Catholic Diocese of Lincoln.

Dr. Kathleen Fimple congratulated Rev. Msgr. Folda on the seminary's recent accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission.

Minutes of May 19, 2011 Commission meeting approved

MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2011 COMMISSION MEETING

Commissioner Anderson moved that the May 19, 2011 minutes be approved. Commissioner Lauritzen seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Commissioner Zink abstained with all other Commissioners present voting yes.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair Simmons had nothing to report for this meeting.

Dr. Waller reported on the success of the veterinary program and other unique programs within the School of Natural Resources

UNL COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND NATURAL RESOURCES UPDATE

Dr. Steven Waller, Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, reported some of the recent highlights of the Veterinary program. The partnership program with Iowa State University received full accreditation last fall. This May was the first graduating class; three of the top four graduates at Iowa State were from the Nebraska program. The intent of this program was to develop practitioners and bring them back to Nebraska. To date, nine students from the Iowa State program have signed contracts to return to Nebraska. This is a significant improvement from the one or two students that historically returned from the Kansas State program.

The PGA Golf Management program is having great success with 157 current students. The Forensic Science program has 107 students. Both programs are quite rare, but able to maintain a high student base.

Commissioner Adam asked whether moving the veterinary program from Kansas State to Iowa State has affected recruiting. Dr. Waller stated that the success of the program has taken away any skepticism from area veterinarians, and a robust scholarship program supported by the Nebraska Veterinary Association proves that.

Dr. Waller explained that the Great Plains Veterinary Education Center is a facility located in Clay Center that was designed for hands-on practitioner work with access to thousands of animals. It is a learning laboratory alternative to building a veterinary college in the state.

Commissioner Seacrest asked whether Jim Goeke's position with the School of Natural Resources-Survey Division is going to be replaced since professor Goeke's retirement. Dr. Waller stated that the position will now be affiliated with the Water for Food Institute focusing on water, as a complement to professor Goeke's old position. The Conservation Survey Division is hiring more positions that will serve the data base and interpretation of the water data.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Dr. Marshall Hill pointed out the numerous out-of-service area authorizations granted to various colleges and noted each authorization is a potential source of internal squabbles between institutions. Commission staff have been very successful with keeping these to a minimum and/or resolving issues quickly.

Kadi Lukesh speaks about 4th quarter budget report

Ms. Kadi Lukesh, Budget Coordinator, briefed Commissioners on the Commissions fourth quarter/final budget report for fiscal year 2010-11. Ms. Lukesh reported that the Commission will carryover a balance of $6,736.34 to the new fiscal year. A portion of these funds will be used to encumber June expenses that are billed in July. The total remaining funds are higher than originally estimated due to a $1,500 rebate from DAS-Materiel for copy machine charges, and vacancy savings due to the early departure of Angela Dibbert.

Dr. Hill speaks about upcoming Commission tasks and committee appointments

Dr. Hill listed many of the Commission staff's upcoming tasks to be completed this year. Several of these tasks are very time consuming, and will be even more challenging because of recent staffing reductions.

Dr. Hill shared insights and information gained during the SHEEO Annual Meeting and Policy Seminar. There have been many significant changes in several states around the country.

Nebraska is a small state, but, we are receiving a great deal of attention. Gov. Heineman was elected Chair, National Governor's Association; Lt. Gov. Sheehy, Chair, Lt. Governor's Association; Kathleen Fimple, panelist at SHEEO Higher Ed Policy Conference; Ritchie Morrow, Chair-elect, National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs; and Marshall Hill, Chair-elect for SHEEO.

Dr. Hill speaks about AG opinion letter

Dr. Hill discussed the attorney general's opinion letter that was just received regarding capital construction funding by community colleges. Current statutes allow the University of Nebraska and state colleges to comingle funds from tuition and fees, but community colleges do not have that option.

Dr. Hill encourages use of consent agenda in the future

Dr. Hill encouraged Commissioners to consider using a Consent Agenda to expedite non controversial issues and keep future meetings shorter.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Tip O'Neill speaks about federal budget concerns

Tip O'Neill, President, Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Nebraska, spoke about federal budget issues that have significant ability to impact colleges of all sectors. There is a bill for students who are too poor to even make it with a Pell grant. This will have a significant impact on recruiting of the poorest students. Another issue of interest is the elimination of the in-school interest subsidy. This would ultimately cause student debt to increase by the time students graduate from college. And finally, there is a proposal to eliminate charitable deductions from income taxes. This could have a huge impact on amounts of donations made to colleges.

Chair Simmons closed the public hearing on Matters of General Concern.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE ITEMS

Ilze Zigurs from UNO

Systems Development and Data Management (Undergratuate Certificates) at University of Nebraska at Omaha

Ilze Zigurs, Chair, Department of Information Systems and Quantitative Analysis at University of Nebraska at Omaha, spoke in favor of the proposed Undergraduate Certificates at UNO in Systems Development and Data Management. Both are unique programs expected to reach a wide variety of traditional and non-traditional students. These programs will help students stand out in an increasingly competitive workplace.

Nancy Edick from UNO

Public Health (BS) at University of Nebraska at Omaha

Nancy Edick, Dean, College of Education at University of Nebraska at Omaha spoke in favor of the proposed BS in Public Health at UNO. This is a tremendous opportunity because there is not another bachelor's degree offered in Public Health in the state of Nebraska. The closest offering is in Indiana.

Linda Pratt from University of Nebraska

Emergency Preparedness, Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Maternal and Child Health, and Community Oriented Primary Care (Professional Certificates) at University of Nebraska Medical Center

Linda Pratt, Executive VP and Provost at University of Nebraska-Lincoln spoke in favor of the proposed Post-baccalaureate Professional Certificate programs at University of Nebraska Medical Center. They represent an effort to take courses already being taught and focus them on particular audiences working within the community. The College of Public Health recently received full accreditation and is working toward bringing higher levels of public health training to the state of Nebraska.

Commissioner Zink closed the public hearing on Academic Programs Committee items.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Sioux Falls Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD proposal to offer programs in Nebraska

Sioux Falls Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakotas proposal to Offer Programs in Nebraska

The Academic Programs Committee recommended approval of the request to offer programs in Nebraska, with the following conditions: 1) the seminary shall submit its annual audited financial statements for a period of five years, 2) the seminary shall notify the Commission of any significant event, either positive or negative, that may affect the financial and/or accreditation status of the institution, and 3) approval is received from the Higher Learning Commission and the Association of Theological Schools Commission on Accrediting and that students are informed of the status of accreditation for the Omaha location.

Dr. Fimple presents the proposal

Dr. Kathleen Fimple, Academic Programs Officer, presented the proposal to Commissioners and introduced the representatives present from Sioux Falls Seminary: Jason Klein, Chief Financial Officer, and Nate Helling, Director of Enrollment.

Dr. Hill comments on the proposal

Dr. Marshall Hill stated Commission staff's only real concern with this proposal is the financial stability of the institution and the impact on students if they go out of business. If that were to happen, there are ample opportunities for students to complete the programs elsewhere. Commission staff believes that this endeavor in Omaha could possibly strengthen the seminary's financial stability. The downside risk is minimal for both the institution and the students.

Proposal for Sioux Falls Seminary to offer programs in Nebraska approved

Commissioner Zink, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the proposal from Sioux Falls Seminary to offer Master of Divinity (MDiv) and Doctor of Ministry (DMin) programs in Omaha with the conditions as listed above. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

University of Missouri-Columbia

University of Missouri-Columbia's request to Extend Approval to Offer a Program in Nebraska

The Academic Programs Committee recommended approval of the proposed request to extend authorization to offer a program in Nebraska through 2011.

Dr. Fimple discusses the request

Dr. Fimple provided background information regarding the request to Commissioners.

Proposal to extend University of Missouri-Columbia's authorization approved

Commissioner Zink, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the request from University of Missouri-Columbia to extend approval to offer a program in Nebraska through 2011. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

UNMC Emergency Preparedness

University of Nebraska Medical Center's proposal for a new instructional program: Emergency Preparedness (Professional Certificate)

The Academic Programs Committee recommended approval of the proposed request to offer a new instructional program, Emergency Preparedness (Professional Certificate).

Dr. Fimple reviews the proposal

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal to Commissioners.

Motion to consider all UNMC proposals as one item

Commissioner Bishop moved to consider all four proposals from University of Nebraska Medical Center as one vote to approve. Commissioner Seacrest seconded the motion. A roll call vote on that motion was taken with all Commissioners present voting yes.

UNMC Infectious Disease Epidemiology

University of Nebraska Medical Center's proposal for a new instructional program: Infectious Disease Epidemiology (Professional Certificate)

The Academic Programs Committee recommended approval of the proposed request to offer a new instructional program, Infectious Disease Epidemiology (Professional Certificate).

Dr. Fimple presents the proposal

Dr. Fimple stated that this program represents an expanded demand which would include not only doctors and nurses, but also veterinarians, laboratory professionals, etc..

UNMC Maternal and Child Health

University of Nebraska Medical Center's proposal for a new instructional program: Maternal and Child Health (Professional Certificate)

The Academic Programs Committee recommended approval of the proposed request to offer a new instructional program, Maternal and Child Health (Professional Certificate)

Dr. Fimple discusses the proposal

Dr. Fimple noted that this program will not only look at the status of maternal and child health, but also any inequalities that may exist across different populations.

UNMC Community Oriented Primary Care

University of Nebraska Medical Center's proposal for a new instructional program: Community Oriented Primary Care (Professional Certificate)

The Academic Programs Committee recommended approval of the proposed request to offer a new instructional program, Community Oriented Primary Care (Professional Certificate).

Dr. Fimple comments on the proposal

Dr. Fimple stated that this program is one that looks at primary care through a holistic approach. There is only one other program like this one in the country, located at George Washington University.

Proposals from UNMC approved

Commissioner Zink, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the four proposals from UNMC for new instructional programs: Emergency Preparedness, Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Maternal and Child Health, and Community Oriented Primary Care. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

University of Nebraska – Buffett Early Childhood Institute

University of Nebraska's proposal for a new organizational unit: Buffett Early Childhood Institute

The Academic Programs Committee recommended approval of the proposed new organizational unit: Buffett Early Childhood Institute.

J.B. Milliken discusses the proposed institute

James B. Milliken, President of the University of Nebraska, spoke about the importance of this new institute. He said that it will build upon great strengths across the entire University of Nebraska system. He has received calls and letters from across the world from people who are interested in this effort. This is an area where Nebraska can make a huge difference. The funding donor has many goals in mind for this institute: 1) focus on vulnerable children between ages of zero and eight, 2) to have an impact nationally, it needs to add value to current efforts, 3) it has to have a significant impact on Nebraska-it needs to be a game changer. This in an opportunity for Nebraska to create a model for how early childhood is addressed across the country. There is no excuse for us not to be involved in the research and training of new practitioners and educators on this subject.

This is an opportunity for Nebraska to innovate the way land grant universities address the challenges of early childhood development in education.

EduCare Center philosophy includes working with parents. These centers are for children who are vulnerable and at risk. They are community based with high-quality, research-based instruction and activity for students to attempt to close the gap between cognitive development and vocabulary development to prepare young children for school.

Dr. Fimple comments on the Buffet Early Childhood proposal

Dr. Fimple commented that this proposal is looking at key factors that influence learning in young children. That research will identify unemployed single parents, etc., which then has great potential for off-shoots of other research to identify causes and effects of those situations.

Proposal for Buffett Early Childhood Institute approved

Commissioner Zink, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the proposal from University of Nebraska for a new organizational unit: Buffett Early Childhood Institute. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

UNL Microbiology

University of Nebraska-Lincoln's proposal for a new instructional program: Microbiology (BS)

The Academic Programs Committee recommended approval of the proposed request to offer a new instructional program, Microbiology (BS). The Committee would also like to remind UNL of the Commission's expectation that the program reach productivity thresholds after its first several years.

Dr. Fimple discusses the proposal

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal to Commissioners. This is a good example of inter-college cooperation at UNL.

Proposal for Microbiology (BS) approved (UNL)

Commissioner Zink, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the proposal from University of Nebraska-Lincoln for a new instructional program: Microbiology (BS). A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

UNO Public Health

University of Nebraska at Omaha's proposal for a new instructional program: Public Health (BS)

The Academic Programs Committee recommended approval of the proposed request to offer a new instructional program, Public Health (BS). The Committee would also like to remind UNO of the Commission's expectation that the program reach productivity thresholds after its first several years.

Dr. Fimple presents the proposal

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal to Commissioners. This program could possibly help students get to a master's degree more quickly through an agreement with UNMC.

Proposal for Public Health (BS) approved (UNO)

Commissioner Zink, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the proposal from University of Nebraska at Omaha

for a new instructional program: Public Health (BS). A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

UNO Systems Development

University of Nebraska at Omaha's proposal for a new instructional program: Systems Development (Undergraduate Certificate)
The Academic Programs Committee recommended approval of the proposed request to offer a new instructional program, Systems Development (Undergraduate Certificate).

Dr. Fimple presents the proposal

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal to Commissioners. The initial proposed start date was Spring 2011, but because of legislative gaps the Commission was unable to act upon the proposals when originally submitted. The passage of LB 637 clarified language so UNO resubmitted the proposals. The new start date will be as soon as the Commission approves the program.

Dr. Hill comments on the proposal

Dr. Hill commented that the idea of post-baccalaureate certificates is quite common around the country and this is a reasonable request.

Proposal for Systems Development (Undergraduate Certificate) approved (UNO)

Commissioner Zink, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the proposal from University of Nebraska at Omaha for a new instructional program: Systems Development (Undergraduate Certificate). A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

UNO Data Management

University of Nebraska at Omaha's proposal for a new instructional program: Data Management (Undergraduate Certificate)
The Academic Programs Committee recommended approval of the proposed request to offer a new instructional program, Data Management (Undergraduate Certificate).

Dr. Fimple comments on the proposal

Dr. Fimple stated that this proposal had the same criteria as the previous proposal.

Proposal for Data Management (Undergraduate Certificate) approved (UNO)

Commissioner Zink, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the proposal from University of Nebraska at Omaha for a new instructional program: Data Management (Undergraduate Certificate). A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

NECC Wind Energy Technology

Northeast Community College's proposal for a new instructional program: Wind Energy Technology (AAS)
The Academic Programs Committee recommended approval of the proposed request to offer a new instructional program, Wind Energy Technology (AAS). The Committee would also like to remind NECC of the Commission's expectation that the program reach productivity thresholds after its first several years.

Dr. Fimple reviews the proposal

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal to Commissioners. Employers in the area are requesting a degree program in this field.

Lyle Kathol comments on the proposal

Lyle Kathol, Dean of Applied Technology Division at Northeast Community College, discussed the current and proposed wind farm properties in Nebraska.

Proposal for Wind Energy Technology (AAS) approved (NECC)

Commissioner Zink, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the proposal from Northeast Community College for a new instructional program: Wind Energy Technology (AAS). A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

Adjourned for break at 10:30 a.m. Meeting resumed at 10:44 a.m. with Commissioner Davis absent.

UNL Philosophy

Existing Program Review: Philosophy (MA, PhD) at University of Nebraska-Lincoln

The Academic Programs Committee recommended continuation of the program, with a report on need and demand for the master's and doctoral programs due October 31, 2014.

Dr. Fimple reviews the program

Dr. Fimple presented the program information and additional information as requested by the Academic Programs Committee.

UNL Philosophy program continued

Commissioner Zink, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to continue the program at University of Nebraska-Lincoln: Philosophy (MA, PhD). A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

Commissioner Davis returned to the meeting.

ITQ Request for Proposals

Improving Teacher Quality state grant program Request for Proposals 2011-2012

The Academic Programs Committee recommended approval of the 2011-2012 Request for Proposals for the ITQ program.

Dr. Fimple discusses ITQ available funds

Dr. Fimple stated that less money is available for this program in the year 2011-2012. Current projects are enjoying great success.

RFP approved

Commissioner Zink, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to accept the 2011-2012 Request for Proposals for the Improving Teacher Quality state grant program. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

Institutions "Authorized to Operate on a Continuing Basis"

Institutions "Authorized to Operate on a Continuing Basis"

The Academic Programs Committee recommended authorization of the following institutions to operate on a continuing basis pursuant to Neb. Laws 2011, LB 637 §10: Bellevue University, Clarkson College, College of St. Mary, Concordia University, Creighton University, Doane College, Grace University, Hastings College, Midland University, Nebraska Christian College, Nebraska Methodist College, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Summit Christian College, Union College, and York College.

Dr. Hill speaks about authorizing institutions to operate in Nebraska

Dr. Hill provided background information regarding this action. New rules issued by the U.S. Department of Education last fall contain certain requirements that institutions must meet in order to participate in federal financial aid programs. One of those expectations is that a state must have "a process to review and appropriately act on complaints concerning the institution including enforcing applicable State laws . . ." LB 637, as enacted by the Nebraska Legislature and signed by Governor Heineman this past session, brings Nebraska into compliance with that provision.

A second requirement is that the institution is established or authorized "*by name*" (italics added) by a State to operate educational programs beyond secondary education. The state has established its existing public institutions through the Nebraska Constitution and state statutes. Many institutions, both for-profit and non-profit, have been authorized by the Commission *by name*. However, most of Nebraska's independent, non-profit institutions have not been authorized by name as an educational institution by previous state action. For state purposes, LB 637 granted most of these institutions the "authorization to operate on a continuing basis" as long as they have been in operation in the state for 20 years. The new federal rules still require the further step that these institutions be authorized *by name*, which is the reason for the action by the Commission.

Institutions are approved to operate in Nebraska on a Continuing Basis

Commissioner Zink, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the institutions as listed above to Operate on a Continuing Basis. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

Reasonable and Moderate Extension

Information Items: Reasonable and Moderate Extension
WNCC – Business Technology-option in Medical Office Management (AAS)

Program Name Changes

Program name changes

UNL – College of Law degree program in Space and Telecommunications Law to *Space, Cyber and Telecommunication Law*
CCC – Commercial Art to *Visual Communications*

New Minor program

New minor program

PSC – Exercise Science

PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET, CONSTRUCTION AND FINANCIAL AID COMMITTEE ITEMS

Surplus Fund and Revenue Bond Proposals at UNK and UNL

Rebecca Koller from University of Nebraska

Rebecca Koller, Assistant Vice President/Director Facility Plan Management from the University of Nebraska, offered herself and others present in the audience to answer any questions regarding the housing proposals.

Commissioner Davis closed the public hearing on Budget, Construction and Financial Aid Committee items.

BUDGET, CONSTRUCTION AND FINANCIAL AID COMMITTEE

UNK Centennial Towers West capital improvements

University of Nebraska at Kearney – Centennial Towers West capital improvements
The Budget, Construction and Financial Aid Committee recommended approval of the surplus fund proposal.

Mike Wemhoff presents the proposal

Mr. Mike Wemhoff, Facilities Officer, presented the proposal information and answered general questions from Commissioners.

Lee McQueen from UNK

Lee McQueen, Director of Facilities, Facilities Management & Planning from University of Nebraska at Kearney, spoke about asbestos removal and answered other general questions from Commissioners regarding the improvements proposed.

Proposal for Centennial Towers West capital improvements at UNK approved

Commissioner Davis, on behalf of the Budget, Construction and Financial Aid Committee, moved to recommend approval of the proposal to the Legislature. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

UNL 18th/19th & R Street Residence Hall

University of Nebraska-Lincoln / City Campus 18th/19th & R Street Residence Hall
The Budget, Construction and Financial Aid Committee recommended approval of the revenue bond and surplus fund proposal.

Mike Wemhoff discusses the proposal

Mr. Wemhoff presented the proposal and answered general questions from Commissioners.

Proposal for 18th/19th & R Street Residence Hall approved

Commissioner Davis, on behalf of the Budget, Construction and Financial Aid Committee, moved to recommend approval of the proposal to the Legislature. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PLANNING AND CONSUMER INFORMATION COMMITTEE ITEMS

There was no testimony regarding Planning and Consumer Information Committee items.

Commissioner Lauritzen closed the public hearing on Planning and Consumer Information items.

Adjourned for break at 11:35 a.m. Meeting resumed at 11:45 a.m.

PLANNING AND CONSUMER INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Dr. McCuen presents section B of the Factual Look

Dr. Barbara McCuen, Research Coordinator, presented Section B of the 2010-2011 *Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska* and answered general questions from Commissioners.

Dr. Hill comments on reports and data collection at the Commission office

Dr. Hill discussed the reports and data that Commission staff analyze and gather and the importance of those reports. He also stated that Nebraska is

the only state without a postsecondary education data system. The lack of a data system is standing in the way of Nebraska receiving specific federal funds.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Sports Arena Facility Financing Act

Ratification of the appointment of a designee to the board established by the Sports Arena Facility Financing Act

The Executive Committee recommended ratification of the appointment of Dr. Eric C. Thompson to a two-year term as the Commission's designee to the board established by the Sports Arena Facility Financing Act.

Dr. Hill discusses appointment of a designee

Dr. Hill presented information and answered general questions from Commissioners regarding appointment of this designee.

Appointment of Dr. Thompson ratified

Chair Simmons, on behalf of the Executive Committee, moved to ratify the appointment of Dr. Thompson to a two-year term as the Commission's designee to the board established by the Sports Arena Facility Financing Act. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

ACE Plus Scholarship

Adjust ACE Plus Scholarship award amounts for the 2011-2012 year

The Executive Committee recommended approval of the proposed changes.

Katherine Green discusses the proposed change

Katherine Green, College Access Challenge Grant Program Director, explained the need for this one-time adjustment to the ACE Plus Scholarship award amounts and answered questions from Commissioners.

ACE Plus Scholarship award amount adjustment approved

Chair Simmons, on behalf of the Executive Committee, moved to approve the proposed change. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

Dr. Hill comments on the large amount of paperwork ACE generates

Dr. Hill commented on the huge amount of paperwork that is involved in the ACE Scholarship programs. The Commission applied for a state grant to help fund an electronic system to handle the applications but was denied. Because of the denial, Commission staff anticipates bringing a deficit request before Commissioners for approval to develop a new system.

CACG Funding recommendations

2011 College Access Challenge Grant Funding recommendations

The Executive Committee recommended approval of the proposed subgrantee funding.

Katherine Green presents the recommendations

Katherine Green discussed the grant and the recommendations for funding to subgrantees. She also informed Commissioners that outside evaluators have been contracted to evaluate the performance of subgrantees. These evaluators will present a report at the September 29, 2011 Commission meeting.

Dr. Hill overviews a proposed program

Dr. Hill discussed the proposed program through Metropolitan Community College entitled "Prepare – Lead – Enroll – Succeed".

CACG Funding proposal approved

Chair Simmons, on behalf of the Executive Committee, moved to approve the proposed 2011 College Access Challenge Grant subgrantee funding. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

2011-2012 Operating Budget

2011-2012 Operating Budget

The Executive Committee recommended approval of the proposed 2011-2012 Operating Budget.

Dr. Hill reviews the proposed budget

Dr. Hill discussed the proposed Operating Budget.

Kadi Lukesh comments on the budget request

Kadi Lukesh presented additional information and answered questions from Commissioners.

2011-2012 Operating Budget approved

Chair Simmons, on behalf of the Executive Committee, moved to approve the proposed 2011-2012 Operating Budget. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

FY 2011-2012 Salaries for Executive Director and Associate Director

Commissioners moved into a closed session to discuss salary proposals

Commissioner Bishop moved to enter into closed session as authorized by the Nebraska Revised Statutes, Section 84-1410, for the protection of the public interest and to prevent needless injury to the reputation of persons who have not requested a public hearing, for the purpose of discussing salary recommendations for the Associate Director and Executive Director. Commissioner Lauritzen seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

The Commission entered into closed session at approximately 1:00 p.m. to discuss the salary recommendations for the Associate Director and Executive Director. The Commission ended the closed session at 1:13 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Salaries approved

Commissioner Davis moved to approve the salary for Marshall Hill, Executive Director, and approve Dr. Hill's recommendation on the salary for Carna Pfeil, Associate Director for Finance and Administration. Commissioner Adam seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

Next Commission Meeting: September 29, 2011

FUTURE MEETINGS

The Next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Thursday, September 29, 2011. The meeting will be held at Grace University in Omaha, Nebraska.

Meeting adjourned 1:21 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:21 p.m.