
MINUTES

COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

March 14, 2013

Metropolitan Community College – Fort Omaha Campus
MCC (Mule Barn) Instructional Facility – 32nd & Sorensen Parkway
Omaha, 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 MARCH 14, 2013. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 8:30 A.M. AND ADJOURN AT APPROXIMATELY 3:00 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 8:35 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Ron Hunter called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. and asked for introductions.

Commissioners Present

Colleen Adam	Eric Seacrest
Clark Anderson	Dr. Joyce Simmons
Riko Bishop	W. Scott Wilson
Dr. Deborah Frison	John Winkleblack
Dr. Ron Hunter	Carol Zink
Mary Lauritzen	

Commission Staff Present

Ben Civic	Ritchie Morrow
Dr. Kathleen Fimple	Dr. Carna Pfeil
Dr. Marshall Hill	Helen Pope
Jason Keese	Mike Wemhoff
Dr. Barbara McCuen	

Dr. Randy Schmailzl, President of MCC

GREETING BY DR. RANDY SCHMAILZL, PRESIDENT OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dr. Randy Schmailzl, President of Metropolitan Community College welcomed the Commissioners, staff and guests. He stated that the Fort Omaha Campus was purchased from the federal government in the late

1970's for \$1. Metropolitan is one of six state community colleges and serves four counties: Douglas, Sarpy, Dodge and Washington. Dr. Schmailzl noted that with 800,000 people in these four counties, recruiting outside of those counties is not necessary. The culinary institute is nationally renowned, with close to 1,100 students currently in that program. He introduced Stan Horrell, Director of Campus Planning and Sustainability, to speak on current projects.

Stan Horrell, from MCC

Mr. Horrell briefed the Commissioners on current master planning efforts and progress that has been made in the past two years. Metro has been concentrating on creating areas of specialization similar to the Culinary Arts Building. Two projects in the works are the Creative Arts Center at Elkhorn, and the Construction Education Center at the Fort Omaha Campus. The Creative Arts Center will have an arts education focus, including community performance space, labs and studios for all of the arts disciplines, and classrooms for general education. The Construction Education Center at the Fort Omaha Campus will be a new center for advanced and emerging technologies. In working with local industries MCC has found there is a need for technicians who operate businesses around the clock, including hospitals, manufacturing plants and data centers. The skill set that is required is more specialized than in the past, so MCC wants to give students the hands-on training needed to qualify for the jobs in those areas.

*Minutes of January 24, 2013
Commission meeting approved*

MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2013 COMMISSION MEETING

Commissioner Wilson moved that the January 24, 2013 minutes be approved. Commissioner Bishop seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioners Adam, Anderson, Lauritzen, Simmons, and Winkleblack abstained, with all other Commissioners present voting yes.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Wednesday evening, March 13, 2013, a dinner meeting was held at CRAVE restaurant in Omaha. The meeting was attended by Commissioners, Marshall Hill, Executive Director, and Dennis Jones, President of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems.

*Chair Hunter announced 2013
committee assignments*

Chair Hunter announced the committee assignments for 2013.

Executive Committee

Dr. Ron Hunter (Chair)
Riko Bishop (Vice Chair)
Dr. Joyce Simmons
Mary Lauritzen

Academic Programs Committee

Mary Lauritzen
Carol Zink

Committee assignments
continued

Scott Wilson
Eric Seacrest
Dr. Deborah Frison

Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee

Riko Bishop
Dr. Joyce Simmons
John Winkleblack
Eric Seacrest
Clark Anderson

Planning and Consumer Information Committee

Dr. Deborah Frison
Mary Lauritzen
Colleen Adam
Dr. Ron Hunter
Scott Wilson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Dr. Marshall Hill, Executive Director, reported that the following out-of-service area applications have been authorized:

1. 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
 - SPCH 1110 Public Speaking (3 cr.)
-January 3, 2013 – May 17, 2013

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
 - ENGL 2100 Introduction to Literature (3 cr.)
-January 3, 2013 – May 17, 2013

3. Offered by Northeast Community College
Interactive two-way video originated from Bancroft-Rosalie High School in Bancroft, NE
Delivered to Arcadia High School in Arcadia, NE
 - ENGL 2200 Survey of English Literature (3 cr.)
-January 3, 2013 – May 23, 2013

4. Offered by Wayne State College
Traditional Delivery at St. Patrick's Catholic Elementary School in Elkhorn, NE
 - EDU 568-93 A-Z Phonics (3 cr.)
-July 8, 2013 – July 12, 2013

5. Offered by Wayne State College
Traditional Delivery at St. Patrick's Catholic Elementary School in Elkhorn, NE

- EDU 568-94 A-Z Writing and Comprehension (3 cr.)
-July 15, 2013 – July 19, 2013

6. 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.)
-January 4, 2013 – May 23, 2013

Jason Keese reports on current legislative bills of interest

Jason Keese, Public Information and Special Projects Coordinator, briefed the Commissioners on current legislative bills of interest. A summary sheet was distributed to the Commissioners outlining the information discussed. He stated the Commission has offered testimony on most of these bills, with public hearings scheduled for three more bills next week. They have met with seven of the eight education committee members, five of the appropriation committee members, Speaker Adams, and several other senators regarding these bills.

Dr. Hill notes Roger Breed retirement

Dr. Hill noted that Nebraska Commissioner of Education Roger Breed announced he will retire June 30. During his time in this job Mr. Breed oversaw the implementation of the state's new standardized testing system that measures students' academic proficiency. Members of the State Board of Education will immediately begin the process of selecting his replacement.

Ben Civic update on CACG and Western Rural Initiative programs

Ben Civic, College Access Challenge Grant Program Director, gave a brief update on the College Access Challenge Grant and Western Rural Initiative programs. He noted that two evaluators from UNL will be working with him and Dr. Pfeil to review the proposals for the Western Rural Initiative.

Mr. Civic discusses MCC CACG sub-grantee

Mr. Civic stated that Metropolitan Community College is one of our current College Access Challenge Grant sub-grantees, noting that the STEM Academy, Men of Distinction Conference, and Young Gifted Black Girls Conference have been some of their very successful programs. Mr. Civic showed a news clip that KETV recently aired featuring MCC's successful nine-month Parent Involvement Program (PIP) that also is funded by CACG grant dollars.

Dr. Cynthia Gooch from MCC

Dr. Cynthia Gooch, Associate Vice President for Equity and Diversity at Metropolitan Community College, spoke on the Parent Involvement Program, STEM Academy, and answered questions from the Commissioners.

Mr. Elmer Crumbly, PIP coordinator

Mr. Elmer Crumbly, a former public school principal and current PIP coordinator, spoke briefly about his dedication and participation in the Parent Involvement Program.

Dr. Pfeil talks on CACG funds affected by federal sequester

Dr. Carna Pfeil reported that the College Access Challenge Grant program funds will be affected by the federal sequester, with a decrease of funds for the 2013-2014 year.

~~Meeting adjourned for break~~ **Chair Hunter called for a break at 10:10 a.m.**
Meeting resumed at 10:20 a.m.

Commissioner Frison did not return to the meeting after break.

Public Comment on Matters of General Concern

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS OF GENERAL CONCERN

There was no testimony regarding Matters of General Concern.

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

Public Hearing on Academic Programs Committee

David Ho from MCC

PUBLIC HEARING ON ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE ITEMS

David Ho, Vice President of Academic Affairs at Metropolitan Community College, introduced himself and offered to answer any questions the Commissioners may have regarding the Critical Facilities Operation Program.

Dr. Hesham H. Ali from the University of Nebraska at Omaha

Dr. Hesham H. Ali, Professor of Computer Science, College of Information Science and Technology from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, stated he was present to speak for the proposed Joint MS/PhD in Biomedical Informatics.

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

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

MCC – Critical Facilities Operation (AAS)

Dr. Fimple presents the application

Metropolitan Community College – Proposal for New Instructional Program: Critical Facilities Operation (AAS)

Dr. Kathleen Fimple, Academic Programs Officer, presented the proposal to Commissioners, noting the demand for this program came from local businesses. No new facilities or equipment would be required and, since all courses are currently in place, no new information resources would be needed.

Thomas Pensabene from MCC

Thomas Pensabene, Dean of Information Technology and E-Learning, spoke briefly about the high demand for the proposed program. He indicated that the four-county area that Metropolitan Community College serves is very strong in data centers and especially strong in information technology.

MCC's Critical Facilities Operations approved

Commissioner Zink, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve Metropolitan Community College's new instructional program Critical Facilities Operations (AAS). A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

UNO and UNMC – Biomedical Informatics (Joint MS/PhD)

Dr. Fimple discusses the proposal

UNO and UNMC Biomedical Informatics (Joint MS/PhD) approved

UNL – Center for Brain, Biology, and Behavior (CB³)

Dr. Fimple presents the proposal

Dr. Dennis Molfese from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln

Dr. Susan Fritz from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln

UNL – Center for Brain, Biology, and Behavior (CB³) approved

UNO and UNMC – Proposal for New Instructional Program: Biomedical Informatics (Joint MS/PhD)

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal, noting that State Statute (§ 85-945) specifies that the University of Nebraska at Omaha may only offer doctoral programs subject to the approval of the Board of Regents, which has already occurred, and then, upon demonstration of compelling need in disciplines in which it has demonstrated capacity as authorized and approved by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. This isn't just approving a degree, Dr. Fimple stated, there is a special consideration in state statutes requiring this additional consideration.

Commissioner Zink, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and University of Nebraska Medical Center (joint program) Biomedical Informatics MS/PhD. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

Dr. Frison rejoined the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

University of Nebraska – Lincoln – Proposal for New Organizational Unit: Center for Brain, Biology, and Behavior (CB³)

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal, noting that this proposal came from five diverse departments, with a goal to deepen understanding of the interactions among social, biological and neurological factors that have an impact on individual and group behaviors - essentially research into the biological bases for social behavior.

Dr. Dennis L. Molfese, Director, Center for Brain, Biology, and Behavior at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln briefed the Commissioners on the proposal, noting this center is considered a statewide facility, as 33 departments have expressed interest in being directly involved. The center will be an academic and athletic collaboration designed so all 46 research rooms will be open for everyone to utilize.

Dr. Susan Fritz, Interim Provost & Executive Vice President, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, commented that this is an excellent example of what strategic investments can do over time. The campus and the system had made a commitment several years ago to move in this direction, so collaborating on investments for equipment, facilities, faculty, even training, will come to a crescendo resulting in the center being launched.

Dr. Molfese and Dr. Fritz answered questions from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Zink, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska – Lincoln's Center for Brain, Biology, and Behavior (CB³). A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.

Commissioner Zink congratulated Dr. Fritz on her recent appointment as a Commissioner for the Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC).

Dr. Fimple discusses
authorization to operate

Information Item: Annual Report for Institutions Holding a Recurrent Authorization to Operate In Nebraska

Dr. Fimple explained that “recurrent authorization to operate” means approval by the Commission to operate a postsecondary institution in Nebraska until a renewal of the authorization is required. Under legislation passed in 2011, institutions were required to seek a recurrent authorization by December 31, 2011. The documents were reviewed by the Commission during the last part of 2011 and the first few months of 2012. Most authorizations were approved for a five-year period with an annual reporting requirement. Dr. Fimple presented a summary table of the annual reports submitted through January 2013. Reports received after January will be summarized at a later Commission meeting. No action is required.

Information Items

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

Discontinued Programs

Discontinued Programs

1. UNO – Elementary Education (MA)*
2. UNO – Secondary Education (MA)*
3. UNO – Speech-Language Pathology (MA)*
4. UNK – French (MA)
5. UNK – German (MA)

*UNO is retaining the MS in these areas

Reasonable and moderate
Extension

Reasonable and Moderate Extension

1. UNO – Psychology (Graduate Certificate)

Program Renaming

Renaming of Program

1. UNK – Bachelor of Arts in Music Education K-12 to
Bachelor of Music in Music Education K-12

Dr. Valerie Cisler from UNK

Dr. Valerie Cisler, chair and professor, UNK Department of Music & Performing Arts, briefed the Commissioners on the renaming of the Bachelor of Music in Music Education K-12 program.

Program Consolidation

Program Consolidation

1. UNL – Master’s programs in Engineering Mechanics and Mechanical Engineering to
Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics

Renaming of Organizational Unit

Renaming of Organizational Unit

1. UNO – Department of Finance, Banking and Law to
Department of Finance, Banking and Real Estate

Jim Vokal from the Platte
Institute

NATIONAL CENTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Dr. Hill introduced Jim Vokal, Executive Director of the Platte Institute for Economic Research. Mr. Vokal stated that the Platte Institute is a non-

*Jim Vokal from the Platte
Institute continued*

partisan, free-market think tank. One of the pillars of the Institute is research on education issues. The needs of the state are growing and the population is not. The challenge is using data to take the necessary steps to improve the output of diplomas and educated individuals in our state. Another item of great importance to the Platte Institute is resource allocation policy, specifically tying that to goals. Mr. Vokal noted the importance of having commissioned tax payer funds tied to achievement. The Platte Institute Policy Study, *“Getting it Right: Public Policy & Nebraska Higher Education”*, which was distributed to Commissioners. The entire study is on the Institute’s website, www.platteinstitute.org. Copies have been distributed to the governor, all state senators, and the legislative policy office. The governor has asked Mr. Vokal to meet with University of Nebraska President J.B. Milliken to discuss the report. Dr. Hill asked that presidents of all Nebraska public institutions receive a copy of the study.

*Presentation by Dennis Jones,
President NCHEMS*

Dennis Jones, President of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, is the author of the report. He provided a PowerPoint presentation that accompanied his handout, *“Needed in Nebraska, A New Approach to Higher Education Policymaking at the State Level”*. Mr. Jones noted that this is his report, supported and commissioned by the Platte Institute. He emphasized that the Platte Institute did not try to influence what he included in the report.

Historically there has been a view of the relationship between state and higher education focusing on building institutional capacity and being about money - an institution-driven agenda. In the absence of goals the big issues do not get on the table to create conversations about resource allocation and accountability. Nebraska lags behind most other states in having that perspective and conversation. Putting data on the table is useful for creating concrete goals. Mr. Jones noted there is nothing in this report about any single Nebraska institution, rather it is about the state, its citizens, and the sectors of higher education.

It is not just about the relationship between educational attainment and personal income, it is also about health and other social issues. The better educated a population, the healthier the population. There is a huge social benefit to being educated. Nebraska is well above the national average in the percentage of its population that has some form of college degree. The state has a long history of supporting and putting value on education.

Mr. Jones stated that looking forward, however, several things need to be done at the policy level. Goals must be developed. Existing policies should be reviewed, including regulations and procedures and eliminating those that block goal progression. Financial mechanisms should be developed that link allocation of funds to goals. An annual report must be created. Focused analyses for sustaining the agenda, and meetings held that place emphasis on strategies and progress. Lastly, the state needs to invest in data and analytic capacity.

*Commissioner Lauritzen speaks
on Native American challenges*

Commissioner Lauritzen stated she lives in northeast Nebraska, where Native Americans are a small population with a big challenge to get kids to

go on to higher education. Mr. Jones replied that these policies are devices to shine a light on a problem. When people acknowledge there is a problem, they will find ways to create solutions.

Earl Smith from THG Benefits

Earl (John) Smith, founder and Vice President of THG Benefits, offered to address Commission Lauritzen's comment on Native American challenges. A solution to the Indian nations issue is to create environments where there is a safe harbor for those students who excel and not be brought back down by the norm. These students need to feel safe about their excellence and differences.

Dennis Jones answered questions from Commissioners and in conclusion stated that without education there is not much life chance.

Certificate of Appreciation presented to Dennis Jones

Dr. Hill presented Dennis Jones with a certificate of appreciation for coming to speak to the Commissioners. He also thanked the people from the Platte Institute for commissioning the report, as it is performing a needed service to the state of Nebraska. The Commission is going to do what it can to be involved and carry this forward.

~~Meeting adjourned for lunch~~ **The meeting broke for lunch** at 12:22 p.m. Following lunch and a tour of the Culinary Arts Building, the meeting resumed at 1:40 p.m.

Commissioner Seacrest did not return to the meeting following lunch.

Public Hearing on Planning and Consumer Information Committee Items

PUBLIC HEARING ON PLANNING AND CONSUMER INFORMATION COMMITTEE ITEMS

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

Chair Hunter closed the Public Hearing on Planning and Consumer Information items.

Dr. McCuen presents 2013 Nebraska Higher Education Progress Report

2013 Nebraska Higher Education Progress Report

Dr. Barbara McCuen, Research Coordinator, presented the *2013 Nebraska Higher Education Progress Report*, and answered questions from the Commissioners.

2013 Nebraska Higher Education Report approved

Commissioner Lauritzen, on behalf of the Planning and Consumer Information Committee, moved to approve the report and its distribution. 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 Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee items.

Chair Hunter closed the public hearing on Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee items.

BUDGET, CONSTRUCTION AND FINANCIAL AID COMMITTEE

Mr. Morrow presents the 2011-2012 Nebraska Opportunity Grant Year-End Report

Information Item: 2011-2012 Nebraska Opportunity Grant Year-End Report

Ritchie Morrow, Financial Aid Coordinator, presented the 2011-2012 Nebraska Opportunity Grant Year-End Report.

Dr. Hill noted that Mr. Morrow is the current President of the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs. He also took this opportunity to thank the entire CCPE staff for the enormous amount of work done recently.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Next Commission Meeting April 25, 2013

The next Commission meeting will be held Thursday, April 25, 2013 at Southeast Community College, Lincoln, NE.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.