



MEETING MINUTES
Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
NET, Room 132
1800 N. 33rd Street, Lincoln, NE
Wednesday, March 24, 2010
9:30 a.m. (CST)

Videoconference locations:

Chadron: Chadron State College – Burkheiser (far east building on campus) Room 109, 10th & Main Streets

Hastings: Hastings Public Library, 2nd Floor, 517 West 4th Street

McCook: McMillen Hall, Room 208, 1205 E. 3rd Street

Norfolk: Northeast Community College, MaClay Bldg., Room 122, 801 E. Benjamin Ave.

Valentine: Cherry County Extension Office, 132 S. Hall Street

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Public notice of the time and place of the regular meeting was posted to the state's public meeting calendar and was given to Commission members, institutional representatives, news media, the Legislative Fiscal Office and the Department of Administrative Services. A copy of the Open Meetings Act was made available at each location and its location was announced.

Commissioners Present:

Colleen Adam (Hastings)
Clark Anderson
Riko Bishop
Dr. Dick C. E. Davis
Dr. Ron Hunter (Chadron)
Mary Lauritzen (Norfolk)
Eric Seacrest (McCook)
Dr. Joyce Simmons (Valentine)
W. Scott Wilson
John Winkleblack (Norfolk)
Carol Zink

Commissioners Absent:

None.

Commission Staff Present:

Angela Dibbert, Executive Assistant
Katherine Green, Planning and Policy Coordinator

Dr. Marshall Hill, Executive Director
Jason Keese, Public Information, and Special Projects Coordinator
Dr. Carna Pfeil, Associate Director for Finance & Administration
Mike Wemhoff, Facilities Officer

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commission Chairman Dr. Joyce Simmons called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. from the Valentine, Nebraska site on March 24. Attendance is indicated above.

II. WELCOME

Introductions

III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS OF GENERAL CONCERN

No testimony.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET, CONSTRUCTION, AND FINANCIAL AID COMMITTEE

Mr. Ron Withem, Director of Government Relations, University of Nebraska Central Administration, gave a few general comments and said that Mr. David Lechner, Vice President for Business and Finance, and Ms. Rebecca Koller, Assistant Vice President/Director Facility Planning Management, both with the University of Nebraska Central Administration, were present to answer questions.

Mr. Bill Conley, Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance, University of Nebraska at Omaha, spoke and provided three main points concerning why Scott Village II should be purchased: 1) provides needed housing for future students in the Bright Futures and Avenue Scholarship Programs, 2) provides additional housing right now for UNO students, and 3) the location is ideal.

V. BUDGET, CONSTRUCTION, AND FINANCIAL AID COMMITTEE

A. Revenue bond project proposal

Mr. Mike Wemhoff explained that the role of the Commission is to make a recommendation to the Legislature for either approval or disapproval of the issuance of revenue bonds for University of Nebraska at Omaha, Pacific Street location – Scott Village II purchase. He also answered questions from Commissioners.

Mr. Conley and Mr. Lechner addressed comments/concerns about the financing and answered questions from Commissioners.

1. Action item University of Nebraska at Omaha, Pacific Street location – Scott Village II purchase

Motion Motion by Commissioner DAVIS on behalf of the Committee to recommend that the Legislature approve the university's proposal to issue revenue bonds for the acquisition of Scott Village II facilities and furnishings on the University of Nebraska at Omaha's Pacific Street location as outlined in the university's proposal and finance plan provided for review.

Discussion: Questions were asked about the means of financing, the amount of development fees to be paid by University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) over a 30-year period, possible alternate approaches to financing the proposed (or smaller) project, the ability of UNO to self-finance the project, the effects of various approaches on UNO's overall debt service coverage ratio, ways in which the Scott Foundation has supported UNO, and other issues.

Result A roll-call vote was taken, and the motion passed 8-3, with Commissioners Simmons, Winkleblack, and Zink voting no. Motion carried.

VI. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Commission meeting will be May 13, 2010 and will be held at BryanLGH College of Health Sciences, Lincoln, Nebraska.

VII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT of regular Commission meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.