
MINUTES

COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
Apothecary/Ridnour Building
140 North 8th Street, Suite 300, Lincoln, NE
Friday, March 15, 2024
8:30 a.m. (CT) and Via Zoom

Public notice of meeting

Public notice of this meeting was given by posting notice on the Commission's website; posting notice on the State of Nebraska's online public meeting calendar; e-mailing news media; and keeping a current copy of the agenda in the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education's office, listing the date, time, and location of the meeting. A current copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted beside the table containing the documents for the meeting.

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION WILL HOLD A MEETING ON MARCH 15, 2024. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 8:30 A.M. AND ADJOURN AT APPROXIMATELY 12:30 P.M.

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

DR. PAUL VON BEHREN, CHAIR

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Von Behren called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and asked for introductions.

Commissioners Present

Tim Daniels	Dannika Nelson
Dr. Deborah Frison	Dr. Paul Von Behren
Dr. LeDonna Griffin	Tami Weber
Dr. Dennis Headrick	W. Scott Wilson
Mary Lauritzen	

Commissioners Absent

Molly O'Holleran

Commission Staff Present

Dr. Michael Baumgartner	Helen Pope
Dr. Kathleen Fimple	Matthew Roque
Jill Heese	Gary Timm
Kadi Lukesh	Joe Velasquez
J. Ritchie Morrow	

Chair's report

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Von Behren appointed Commissioner Frison to chair the Nominating Committee, along with Commissioners Daniels, Headrick, O'Holleran, and Wilson. The Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers to be voted upon at the May Commission meeting for 2024-2025.

Chair Von Behren asked that the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee report be next on the agenda.

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

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

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

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

Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee

Commissioner Lauritzen

Statewide Funding Priorities for use by the Commission in developing the 2025-2027 Biennial Public Postsecondary Operating Budget Recommendations

Gary Timm presented the priorities

BUDGET, CONSTRUCTION, AND FINANCIAL AID COMMITTEE

Commissioner Lauritzen, Committee Chair, acknowledged members of the committee who recently met to discuss the items on today's agenda.

Statewide Funding Priorities for use by the Commission in developing the 2025-2027 Biennial Public Postsecondary Operating Budget Recommendations

Gary Timm, Finance Officer, presented the four statewide budget priorities identified for the upcoming biennium: initiatives that respond to identified educational and workforce development needs in Nebraska, initiatives that increase college enrollment, initiatives that make postsecondary education more affordable, and initiatives that increase the postsecondary retention and graduation rates. Mr. Timm's report included background information on the budget process and listed the Commission's Statewide Budget Priorities History from 1995-1997 through the current proposed years of 2025-2027. If approved, these issues and initiatives will be communicated to the public institutions through the operating and state aid budget request outline procedures.

Committee Recommendation

Committee Recommendation: The Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee recommends approval of the Statewide Funding Priorities for the 2025-2027 Biennial Budget Process.

Statewide Funding Priorities for use by the Commission in developing the 2025-2027 Biennial Public Postsecondary Operating Budget Recommendations approved

Commissioner Lauritzen, on behalf of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee, moved to approve the Statewide Funding Priorities for use by the Commission in developing the 2025-2027 Biennial Public Postsecondary Operating Budget Recommendations. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Lauritzen, Nelson, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. The motion carried.

Guidelines – Career Readiness and Dual-Credit Education Grant Program

J. Ritchie Morrow presented the Guidelines

Committee Recommendation

Guidelines – Career Readiness and Dual-Credit Education Grant Program approved

Guidelines – Door to College Scholarship

Mr. Morrow presented the program proposal

Committee Recommendation

Guidelines – Door to College Scholarship approved

Prioritization Process for Capital Construction Budget Requests 2025-2027 Biennium

Matthew Roque presented the process

Guidelines – Career-Readiness and Dual-Credit Education Grant Program

J. Ritchie Morrow, Financial Aid Officer, presented the program guidelines, noting that the purpose of the Career-Readiness and Dual-Credit Education Grant Program is to provide tuition and fees for a teacher employed by a high school who is pursuing undergraduate or graduate course work, a faculty member currently employed by a postsecondary institution seeking a teaching permit, or an individual seeking to teach in a career or technical field who will be employed by a high school or two-year institution. The start date of the program is July 1, 2024, with application materials becoming available May 1, 2024.

Committee Recommendation: That the Commission approve the Career-Readiness and Dual-Credit Education Grant Program Guidelines as presented in the document and authorize Commission staff to make updates and adjustments to the Guidelines as necessary.

Commissioner Lauritzen, on behalf of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee, moved to approve the Guidelines for the Career-Readiness and Dual-Credit Education Grant Program. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Lauritzen, Nelson, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. The motion carried.

Guidelines – Door to College Scholarship

Mr. Morrow presented the Door to College Scholarship, stating the purpose of this program is to provide financial assistance to undergraduate students enrolled at a Nebraska postsecondary institution who had been placed in a Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center (YRTC) and graduated from the YRTC or their home school. The student will be able to apply for up to \$5,000 assistance per year for full-time students; for a part-time student, the amount will be prorated. The program starts July 1, 2024, and application materials will be released April 1, 2024.

Committee Recommendation: That the Commission approve the proposed Door to College Scholarship Program Guidelines as presented in the document and authorize Commission staff to make updates and adjustments to the Guidelines as necessary.

Commissioner Lauritzen, on behalf of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee, moved to approve the Guidelines for the Door to College Scholarship. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Griffin, Headrick, Lauritzen, Nelson, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. Commissioner Frison abstained. The motion carried.

Prioritization Process for Capital Construction Budget Requests – 2025-2027 Biennium

Matthew Roque, Capital Project & Financial Analyst, presented the prioritization process for the next biennium. The Commission is responsible by statute to develop a unified prioritization of individual capital construction budget requests for which it has recommended approval. Those priorities

will be submitted to the Governor and the Legislature for their consideration. Mr. Roque noted there are ten criteria used within the prioritization process and a facilities category rankings table that is used in developing capital construction budget requests.

Minutes of January 26, 2024, approved

MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2024, COMMISSION MEETING
Commissioner Wilson made a motion to approve the January 26, 2024, minutes as written. Commissioner Frison seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Lauritzen, Nelson, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. The motion carried.

Executive Director's Report

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Out-of-service area application

The following out-of-service area application request was approved by the executive director:

- Offered by Central Community College
Interactive two-way video, from Arcadia High School, Arcadia, NE, to Loup County Public Schools, Taylor, NE
 - HLTH 1060 – Comprehensive Medical Terminology – 3 credits
January 16, 2024 – May 9, 2024

Mr. Morrow presented an update on FAFSA process and changes

Dr. Baumgartner asked Mr. Morrow to provide updated information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) process and changes. Mr. Morrow stated the current year FAFSA applications are slowly being processed due to issues that are being addressed by Federal Student Aid, which is a division of the U.S. Department of Education.

Legislative report

Dr. Baumgartner provided an update on bills of interest to the Commission that are moving in the legislature.

MHEC visit

Visitors from the Midwestern Higher Education Compact came to Nebraska last week and met with Dr. Baumgartner, Commissioner Frison, Sen. Murman, and several others to discuss MHEC programs and potential federal regulatory changes that will affect the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA).

Staff happenings

Dr. Baumgartner commented on staff happenings. He noted that the CCPE staff provided an orientation for Commissioner Griffin on February 27. Mr. Timm, Mr. Morrow, and Dr. Baumgartner continue to meet weekly with the Nebraska Department of Education staff and their application developers who are building the application and tracking system for the Excellence in Teaching loan forgiveness program. Joe Velasquez, Database Manager, is developing the application system for the Career-Readiness and Dual-Credit Education Grant. Mr. Morrow plans to attend the Nebraska Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators meeting next week and will participate in EducationQuest's biennial symposium on April 16. Matthew Roque recently attended the American Planning Association Nebraska Chapter annual meeting. Dr. Kathleen

Fimple will be attending the upcoming Nebraska Postsecondary Education Consortium meetings with Dr. Baumgartner. These meetings are related to requirements for prison education programs that can serve Pell-eligible students.

Public Hearing on Matters of General Concern

PUBLIC HEARING ON MATTERS OF GENERAL CONCERN

There was no testimony on Matters of General Concern.

Chair Von Behren closed the public hearing on Matters of General Concern.

Public Hearing on Academic Programs Committee Items

PUBLIC HEARING ON ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE ITEMS

Mr. Ray Ravaglia, Chief Academic Officer at Ricketts Great Books College, came forward and gave an overview of the application to operate in Nebraska.

Mr. Ray Ravaglia, Ricketts Great Books College

Dr. Jodi Kupper, NSCS

Dr. Jodi Kupper, Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs at the Nebraska State College System, stated there were representatives from Peru, Chadron, and Wayne State Colleges to provide information and answer questions regarding the Master of Arts in Teaching new degree program proposed.

Dr. David Jackson, University of Nebraska

Dr. David Jackson, Vice Provost for the University of Nebraska, spoke in support of the three new program proposals from the University of Nebraska institutions on the agenda.

Chair Von Behren closed the public hearing on Academic Programs Committee Items.

Academic Programs Committee

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Headrick, Committee Chair, introduced Dr. Kathleen Fimple, Academic Programs Officer, to present and provide information on the academic agenda items.

Ricketts Great Books College, Omaha – Application for a Recurrent Authorization to Operate – Administrative Office Only

Ricketts Great Books College, Omaha - Application for a Recurrent Authorization to Operate - Administrative Office Only

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal, stating the core of the curriculum is to focus on the great books. The program has developed videos that precede the instruction, which will be entirely online. To make getting a degree more affordable, the Ricketts “Harder You Work Scholarship” program would refund up to 80% of a student’s tuition each semester upon successful completion of the semester’s courses.

Committee recommendation

Committee Recommendation: That the Commission approve the recurrent authorization to operate for:

Institution:	Ricketts Great Books College
Owner:	The Great Books College LLC
Level of authorization:	Authorized to establish in the state an administrative office

Length of authorization: Five years (valid through March 15, 2029)

Conditions of authorization:

- 1) Ricketts Great Books College submits an application to DEAC and becomes accredited following DEAC procedures,**
- 2) financial statements are included with the required annual reports, and**
- 3) Ricketts Great Books College complies with the assessment and surety bond requirements of Neb. Rev. Stat. §85-2423 through §85-2427, with a surety bond or other security agreement of \$20,000 to remain in effect until the Guaranty Recovery Cash fund reaches the minimal fund level, currently \$250,000.**

Ricketts Great Books College, Omaha – Application for a Recurrent Authorization to Operate – Administrative Office Only approved

Commissioner Lauritzen left the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln – Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Social Entrepreneurship, Undergraduate Certificate

Dr. Fimple Presented the proposal

Committee recommendation

University of Nebraska-Lincoln – Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Social Entrepreneurship, Undergraduate Certificate approved

University of Nebraska at Omaha – Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Internal Audit, Fraud, and Control, Undergraduate Certificate

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal

Commissioner Headrick, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the Ricketts Great Books College in Omaha’s Application for a Recurrent Authorization to Operate an administrative office only. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Lauritzen, Nelson, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. The motion carried.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln – Proposal for a New Instructional Program - Social Entrepreneurship, Undergraduate Certificate

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal, stating this certificate would be offered in person and housed in the School of Global Integrative Studies. There are no undergraduate certificates in social entrepreneurship at any Nebraska Institution.

Committee Recommendation: That the Commission approve the Undergraduate Certificate in Social Entrepreneurship at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Commissioner Headrick, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Social Entrepreneurship, Undergraduate Certificate. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Nelson, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. The motion carried.

University of Nebraska at Omaha – Proposal for a New Instructional Program - Internal Audit, Fraud, and Control, Undergraduate Certificate

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal, reporting that this certificate will be offered online and is to provide undergraduate students with the knowledge and skills to become a certified internal auditor. The skills provided by this certificate were in high demand, and there are no other undergraduate certificates in Internal Audit, Fraud, and Control at any Nebraska institution.

Committee recommendation

University of Nebraska at Omaha – Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Internal Audit, Fraud, and Control, Undergraduate Certificate approved

University of Nebraska Medical Center – Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Nutrition and Dietetics, DrND

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal

Committee recommendation

University of Nebraska Medical Center – Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Nutrition and Dietetics, DrND approved

Chadron, Peru, and Wayne State Colleges – Proposal for a New Degree Program – Master of Arts in Teaching

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal

Dr. Adam Fette, Chadron State College, Dr. Jodi Kupper, NSCS, and Dr. Baumgartner spoke

Committee recommendation

Chadron, Peru, and Wayne State Colleges – Proposal for a New Degree Program – Master of Arts in Teaching approved

Committee Recommendation: That the Commission approve the Undergraduate Certificate in Internal Audit, Fraud, and Control at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Commissioner Headrick, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska at Omaha’s Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Internal Audit, Fraud, and Control, Undergraduate Certificate. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Nelson, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. The motion carried.

University of Nebraska Medical Center – Proposal for a New Instructional Program - Nutrition and Dietetics, DrND

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal, stating this program would fill the need in the community for advanced skill and knowledge levels of registered dietitian nutritionists. The program would be offered online. Students are required to have a master’s degree with 3 years of experience or 5 years of experience without a master’s degree. Dr. Fimple noted there is no doctor of practice degree in nutrition and dietetics in Nebraska.

Committee Recommendation: That the Commission approve the Doctor of Nutrition and Dietetics degree at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Commissioner Headrick, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska Medical Center’s Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Nutrition and Dietetics, DrND. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Nelson, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. The motion carried.

Chadron, Peru, and Wayne State Colleges – Proposal for New Degree Program - Master of Arts in Teaching

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal, stating that with the current teacher shortage, this program would provide an alternative pathway to certification. The proposed program would provide a graduate program to individuals while they teach full-time and could be completed in two years. This program would be offered in all three of the Nebraska state colleges.

Mr. Adam Fette, College Professor at Chadron State College, along with Dr. Kupper and Dr. Baumgartner, discussed the program and answered questions from the Commissioners.

Committee Recommendation: That the Commission approve the Master of Arts in Teaching degree at Chadron, Peru, and Wayne State Colleges.

Commissioner Headrick, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve Chadron, Peru, and Wayne State

Colleges' Proposal for a New Degree Program – Master of Arts in Teaching. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Nelson, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. The motion carried.

Existing Program Review

Commissioner Headrick spoke

Existing Program Review

Commissioner Headrick discussed the recent review of existing programs.

Information Items:

Central Community College

- Hospitality Management and Culinary Arts, AAS, Diploma, Certificate
- Environmental Health and Safety, AAS, Diploma, Certificate
- Criminal Justice, AAS, Diploma, Certificate

Metropolitan Community College

- Culinary Arts and Management/Hospitality, AAS, Certificate
- Fire Science Technology, AAS
- Criminal Justice, AAS

Mid-Plains Community College

- Fire Science Technology, AAS, Diploma

Northeast Community College

- Food Service Dietary Management, Certificate
- Criminal Justice, AAS, AA/AS

Southeast Community College

- Culinary/Hospitality, AAS, Diploma, Certificate
- Radiologic Technology, AAS
- Criminal Justice, AA, AAS

Western Nebraska Community College

- Powerline Construction & Maintenance, AOS, AAS, Diploma, Certificate
- Surgical Technology, AAS
- Criminal Justice, AA, AAS, Certificate

Chadron State College

- Justice Studies, BA
- Organizational Management, MSOM
- Social Science, BSE

Peru State College

- Criminal Justice, BA/BS
- Organizational Management, MSOM

- Social Science, BA/BS
- History, BA/BS
- Social Science Teaching, BA/BS
- History Teaching, BA/BS
- Public History, Undergraduate Certificate

Wayne State College

- Criminal Justice, BA/BS
- Organizational Management, MSOM
- Social Sciences, BA/BS

University of Nebraska at Kearney

- Criminal Justice, BS
- Criminal Justice Comprehensive, BS

University of Nebraska at Omaha

- Criminology and Criminal Justice, BS, BMS, MA/MS, PhD
- Managing Juvenile and Adult Populations, Graduate Certificate
- Emergency Management, BS, BMS
- Tribal Management and Emergency Services, Undergraduate Certificate

University of Nebraska Medical Center

- Physician Assistant – Texas, BS

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

- Civic Engagement, Undergraduate Certificate
- Fine and Performing Arts, Interdisciplinary Studies, BA

*Report on Institutional Activities
Related to Existing Programs*

Report on Institutional Activities Related to Existing Programs

Commissioner Headrick presented discontinued programs and name changes received from the University of Nebraska institutions.

Discontinued Programs

Discontinued Programs

UNK – Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Science (BS) in Geography, the Bachelor of Science in Geography and Geographical Information Science, and the Bachelor of Arts in Geography 7-12 Teaching Endorsement

UNK – Bachelor of Science (BS) in Recreation, Outdoor, and Event Management Comprehensive and the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Recreation Management

UNK – Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Theatre and the Bachelor of Music (BM) in Musical Theatre Comprehensive

Name Changes

Name Changes

UNO – Bachelor of Science (BS) in IT Innovation to *Bachelor of Science (BS) in Applied Computing and Informatics in the College of Information Science and Technology*

UNO – Department of Foreign Languages and Literature to the *Department of World Languages and Literature*

Chair Von Behren called for a break at 10:33 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:43 a.m.

Public Hearing on Planning and Consumer Information Committee Items

PUBLIC HEARING ON PLANNING AND CONSUMER INFORMATION COMMITTEE ITEMS

There was no testimony on Planning and Consumer Information Items.

Chair Von Behren closed the public hearing on Planning and Consumer Information Committee Items.

Commissioner Nelson left the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Planning and Consumer Information Committee

Commissioner Wilson

PLANNING AND CONSUMER INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Commissioner Wilson, Committee Chair, stated the Planning Committee recently met and introduced Jill Heese, Research Director, to present the *2024 Nebraska Higher Education Progress Report*.

2024 Nebraska Higher Education Progress Report

Jill Heese presented the report

2024 Nebraska Higher Education Progress Report

Ms. Heese presented PowerPoint slides of the Progress Report. She stated there are three key priorities the Commission is required to evaluate in the report: increase the number of students who enter postsecondary education in Nebraska; increase the percentage of students who persist and successfully complete a degree; and reduce, eliminate, and reverse the net out-migration of Nebraskans with high levels of educational attainment.

Dr. Baumgartner spoke

Ms. Heese noted what is new in the 2024 report and provided details on the three priorities. Given the findings of the report, more work needs to be done for Nebraskans to enroll in college and complete degrees. Dr. Baumgartner discussed the recommendations for improvement at the high school, postsecondary, and state government levels listed in the report.

Committee recommendation

Committee Recommendation: That the Commission approve the *2024 Nebraska Higher Education Progress Report*.

2024 Nebraska Higher Education Progress Report approved

Commissioner Wilson, on behalf of the Planning and Consumer Information Committee, moved to approve the *2024 Nebraska Higher Education Progress Report*. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. The motion carried.

*Next Commission meeting is May 17,
2024*

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Commission meeting will be Friday, May 17, 2024, at Central Community College, Columbus Campus, Columbus, Nebraska.

Meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Von Behren adjourned the meeting at 12:18 p.m.