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# MINUTES

## COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION December 3, 2015 The Cornhusker Marriott Hotel Lincoln, Nebraska

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.

*Public notice of meeting*

### NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION WILL HOLD A MEETING ON DECEMBER 3, 2015. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 9:30 A.M. AND ADJOURN AT APPROXIMATELY 12:30 P.M.

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

CAROL ZINK, CHAIR

*Meeting called to order at 9:40 a.m.*

### **CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Carol Zink called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m., noting that the Commissioners had a joint breakfast earlier this morning with the Nebraska State Board of Education.

Chair Zink welcomed back Commissioner Warner after a brief absence and commented that she is pictured on the cover and is featured in *Siouxland Magazine*.

Chair Zink asked for introductions.

### **Commissioners Present**

Colleen Adam  
Dr. John Bernthal  
Dr. Deborah Frison  
Dr. Ron Hunter  
Mary Lauritzen  
Dwayne Probyn

Eric Seacrest  
Dr. Joyce Simmons  
Lori Warner  
W. Scott Wilson  
Carol Zink

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Commission Staff Present

Dr. Michael Baumgartner  
Dr. Kathleen Fimple  
Jill Heese  
Jason Keese

J. Ritchie Morrow  
Helen Pope  
Gary Timm  
Mike Wemhoff

*Chair Zink presents Commissioner Seacrest with resolution*

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Zink read and presented a framed resolution to confer on Commissioner Eric Seacrest the title of Honorable Commissioner Emeritus of Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. Commissioner Seacrest has served on the Commission for over 29 years. After the Commission meeting there will be a retirement luncheon honoring Commissioner Seacrest.

*Dr. Baumgartner reports on out-of-service area authorization*

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dr. Michael Baumgartner, Executive Director, reported that the following out-of-service area application has been authorized:

1. Offered by Mid-Plains Community College  
Traditional delivery at Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff, NE
  - Paramedic program (13 courses for 42 credit hours)  
1/18/16 – March 2017

*Dr. Baumgartner discusses previous budget recommendations review*

Dr. Baumgartner reported on unfinished business from last fall's budget recommendations. The University of Nebraska's 2015-2017 budget request included facility operation and maintenance funding for projects for which the University did not request funds when previously reviewed. The attorney general reviewed the statute and a previous informal opinion and determined that the Commission's process was correct. The institutions have one opportunity to make the determination to seek or not seek Commission review. If they choose not to seek review, they must wait 10 years after building completion to make a request. We have informed the University staff of the attorney general's decision.

*Dr. Baumgartner talks about attending MHEC Annual Commission meeting in November*

Dr. Baumgartner and Chair Zink attended the Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC) Annual Commission Meeting November 16-17 in Chicago. Much of the meeting was spent on accreditation issues. Dr. Barbara Gellman-Danley, president of the Higher Learning Commission, was a guest presenter during MHEC's policy forum on accreditation. She addressed the roles of boards, campuses, and legislatures; pressing questions; and the future of accreditation. A panel of MHEC commissioners and one guest presenter shared their experiences on accreditation. Dr. Baumgartner mentioned that one of the other topics that is related to this is the MHEC review of the faculty qualifications policy of the Higher Learning Commission.

*Dr. Baumgartner speaks about upcoming Legislative session*

Dr. Baumgartner said preparations for the 2016 Legislative session have begun. Recently he and Jason Keese, Public Information and Special

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Projects Coordinator, have been meeting with senators. The Legislative session begins January 6 and ends April 20, 2016. There are a number of ongoing bills of interest to the Commission that we will be tracking.

*Dr. Fimple reports on NC-SARA meeting*

Dr. Baumgartner introduced Dr. Kathleen Fimple, Academic Programs Officer, to discuss the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) meeting that she attended earlier this week. Dr. Fimple reported that the NC-SARA board of directors and coordinators from each state that deals with the SARA initiative were brought together for the meeting. The initiative has been very successful, with 36 states and 528 institutions participating and \$1.9 million in revenue collected since its inception two years ago.

*Minutes of October 15, 2015  
Commission meeting approved*

**MINUTES OF OCTOBER 15, 2015, COMMISSION MEETING**

**Commissioner Adam moved that the October 15, 2015, minutes be approved. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes. The motion carried.**

*Public Comment on Matters of  
General Concern*

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS OF GENERAL CONCERN**

There was no testimony on Matters of General Concern.

**Chair Zink closed the public hearing on Matters of General Concern.**

*Public Hearing on Academic  
Programs Committee Items*

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE ITEMS**

*Dr. David Jackson, University of  
Nebraska*

Dr. David Jackson, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Nebraska, came forward to answer any questions the Commissioners might have on the University of Nebraska's new instructional program proposals.

*Dr. Ronald Rosati, NCTA – Curtis*

Dr. Ronald Rosati, Dean, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture – Curtis, introduced himself and briefly spoke on the two NCTA programs: Agricultural Welding and Agricultural Chemical Application. He offered to answer questions regarding these program proposals.

*Dr. A. Ross Taylor, University of  
Nebraska at Kearney*

Dr. A. Ross Taylor, Associate Professor at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, discussed his support of the Software Quality Assurance program proposal.

*Dr. Dan Monaghan, University of  
Nebraska Medical Center*

Dr. Dan Monaghan, Professor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, gave a brief overview of the Biomedical Sciences program proposal and stated he will be available to answer questions from the Commissioners.

**Chair Zink closed the public hearing on Academic Programs Committee Items.**

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## **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Probyn, Committee Chair, acknowledged Commissioners and staff who participated in the Academic Programs committee conference call.

*Nebraska College of Technical  
Agriculture*

*Commissioner Probyn presents the  
program*

### **Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture – Proposal for a New Instructional Program– Agricultural Chemical Application (undergraduate certificate)**

Commissioner Probyn presented the program proposal, noting the program would be offered at Curtis, and that NCTA is developing a partnership to offer the certificate to York High School students as dual credit in cooperation with Central Valley Agriculture Co-op. Commissioner Probyn stated the level of technology is noteworthy, and current NCTA students have expressed an interest for this program.

*Nebraska College of Technical  
Agriculture – Agricultural Chemical  
Application (undergraduate  
certificate) approved*

**Commissioner Probyn, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture’s Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Agricultural Chemical Application (undergraduate certificate). A roll call vote was taken. All 11 Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

*Nebraska College of Technical  
Agriculture*

*Commissioner Probyn and Dr.  
Fimpe present the program*

### **Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture – Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Agricultural Welding (undergraduate certificate)**

Commissioner Probyn and Dr. Fimpe presented the program proposal. Commissioner Probyn stated this program differentiates agricultural welding from traditional welding. Dr. Baumgartner added there are more welding jobs available in Nebraska than are reflected in labor statistics reports.

*Nebraska College of Technical  
Agriculture – Agricultural Welding  
(undergraduate certificate) approved*

**Commissioner Probyn, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture’s Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Agricultural Welding (undergraduate certificate). A roll call vote was taken. All 11 Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

*University of Nebraska Medical  
Center*

*Commissioner Probyn and Dr.  
Fimpe present the program*

### **University of Nebraska Medical Center – Proposal for a New Instructional Program– Biomedical Sciences (interdisciplinary PhD)**

Commissioner Probyn and Dr. Fimpe presented the program proposal. Dr. Fimpe commented that the goals UNMC stated were clearly identified in the proposal and summarizes well the need for the program.

*University of Nebraska Medical  
Center – Biomedical Sciences  
(interdisciplinary PhD) approved*

**Commissioner Probyn, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska Medical Center’s Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Biomedical Sciences (interdisciplinary PhD). A roll call vote was taken. All 11 Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

*University of Nebraska at Kearney*

*Commissioner Probyn and Dr.  
Fimpe present the program*

### **University of Nebraska at Kearney – Proposal for a New Instructional Program - Software Quality Assurance (undergraduate certificate)**

Commissioner Probyn and Dr. Fimpe presented the program proposal. Dr. Fimpe pointed out that the target populations for this proposal are working professionals in related areas with no experience in the field, working

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*Dr. A. Ross Taylor, University of  
Nebraska at Kearney*

*University of Nebraska at Kearney –  
Software Quality Assurance  
(undergraduate certificate) approved*

*Existing Program Review*

*Multi-State Collaborative on Military  
Credit*

*Dr. Fimple reports on MCMC  
meeting*

professionals with some experience in software quality assurance, and existing students who might benefit from the program in their current program of study. Dr. Taylor spoke briefly about the need and demand for the program and answered questions from the Commissioners.

**Commissioner Probyn, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska at Kearney's Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Software Quality Assurance (undergraduate certificate). A roll call vote was taken. All 11 Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

**Existing Program Review**

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

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Educational Administration – MA, MEd, 6 year certificate, EdD

Special Education – MA, MEd

Autism Spectrum Disorders & Severe Disabilities – graduate certificate

Early Childhood – graduate certificate

Intellectual Sensory & Developmental Disabilities – graduate certificate

Speech Language Pathology & Audiology – BA, BS, MS

Speech-Language Pathologist – BSEH

Audiology and Hearing Science – AuD

Special Education & Communication Disorders – EdS

Teaching of Writing – graduate certificate

University of Nebraska at Kearney

Educational Administration – MAE, EdS

Special Education – BAE, MAE

Communication Disorders – BSE

Speech Pathology – MSE

University of Nebraska at Omaha

Special Education – MS, MA

Speech-Language Pathology – BSED, MS

Educational Leadership – MS, EdS, EdD

Chadron State College

Educational Administration – MEd

Special Education – BSE

Wayne State College

School Administration – MSE, EdS

Special Education – BS, BS

**Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit (MCMC)**

Dr. Fimple reported that on November 19 a meeting of interested parties from across the state was held at Central Community College in Grand Island to discuss Nebraska's participation in the Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit to assist veterans, military personnel and their families

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MCMC report continued

with their transition to higher education. A Lumina Foundation grant to the Midwest Higher Education Compact is funding this 13-state project, and they require a mission and vision statement along with objectives and strategies. The vision of the plan is to recognize the value of the training and experience that military students bring to campus. She noted the Nebraska project plan is in its infancy, but the goal of the meeting was to get input on what we need to do as a state. Dr. Fimple provided a list of meeting participants, an overview of the meeting, project plan, and plans for future MCMC efforts.

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

*Reasonable and Moderate Extension*

**A. Reasonable and Moderate Extension**

CCC – Reimbursement Specialist within Health Information Management (diploma)

*Discontinued Program*

**B. Discontinued Program**

UNO – Early Childhood Auditory Oral Education for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing (graduate certificate)

*Name Change*

**C. Name Change**

NU – Nebraska Advanced Biomedical Technology and Discovery Institute (NABID) to *UNeTech with the tagline: Nebraska's Biomedical Technology Institute*

Chair Zink called for a break at 11:10 a.m. The meeting resumed at 11:20 a.m.

*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 Zink closed the public hearing on Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee Items.**

*Facility Operating and Maintenance Costs Inflationary Adjustment*

**BUDGET, CONSTRUCTION, AND FINANCIAL AID COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Simmons, Committee Chair, acknowledged Commissioners and staff who participated in the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid committee conference call.

*Mike Wemhoff presents the proposal*

**Facility Operating and Maintenance Costs Inflationary Adjustment**

Mike Wemhoff, Facilities Officer, reported that the Commission has two triggers for review of capital construction projects: \$2 million in tax funds used for construction or acquisition of a facility, or at least \$85,000 in tax funds in a fiscal year as determined by the institution for facilities

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operations and maintenance (O&M). The first trigger is not subject to adjustment for inflation. The second is adjustable for inflation over a two-year cycle, which we have completed. Over the past six years inflation on the \$85,000 threshold has increased 3.7 percent. It is recommended that the facility O&M costs threshold for review be adjusted to \$90,000/year for the next biennial period of January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2017.

*Facility Operating and Maintenance Costs Inflationary Adjustment approved*

**Commissioner Simmons, on behalf of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee, moved to approve the biennial inflationary adjustment to the statutory threshold for an incremental increase in facility operating and maintenance costs. A roll call vote was taken. All 11 Commissioners voted yes. The motion carried.**

*Access College Early Scholarship AY 2014-2015 Year-End Report*

**Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship AY 2014-2015 Year-End Report**

*J. Ritchie Morrow presents the ACE report*

J. Ritchie Morrow, Financial Aid Officer, presented the year-end report on the Access College Early Scholarship. He noted a revision was made to the number of recipients for 2010-11 and 2011-12 on page 2 of the report. A revised page was distributed to Commissioners. He noted the ACE program has received good support from the Legislature, as seen in the growth of the amount awarded. Students find out about the scholarship from counselors or teachers at their school. He stated this report goes out to the high schools and a contact person that he works with at each college. Commissioner Simmons noted this report will be voted on since it is submitted to the Legislature.

*Commissioner Simmons speaks on the ACE report*

**Commissioner Simmons, on behalf of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee, moved to approve the Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship AY 2014-2015 Year-End report. A roll call vote was taken. All 11 Commissioners voted yes. The motion carried.**

*Access College Early Scholarship AY 2014-2015 Year-End Report approved*

**Nebraska Opportunity Grant (NOG) AY 2014-2015 Year-End Report**

*Nebraska Opportunity Grant AY 2014-2015 Year-End Report*

*Mr. Morrow presents the NOG report*

Mr. Morrow presented the NOG report, noting the number of Pell Grant students that attend participating institutions is tracked. The majority of those students attend the community colleges, which has been the trend over the years. The students' unmet need for low-income Pell Grant students is also tracked, which comes close to \$230 million. This is the amount the student has to come up with to attend college after financial aid. Mr. Morrow reviewed the NOG process and how institutions are notified. In 2014-2015, \$16,455,722 was awarded, with 15,943 students receiving the funds. The average grant awarded was \$1,032.13. Mr. Morrow answered Commissioners' questions.

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*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 Committee Items.

**Chair Zink closed the public hearing on Planning and Consumer Information Committee Items.**

*Commissioner Lauritzen discusses  
NECC Advisory Committee 2014  
Graduate Employment Report*

**PLANNING AND CONSUMER INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Lauritzen, Committee Chair, stated that she serves on the Northeast Community College Advisory Committee and distributed the Graduate Employment Report 2014 to the Commissioners. Data collected in the report are from the graduating classes during the 2013-2014 academic year.

*2015 Factual Look at Higher  
Education in Nebraska – Enrollment*

*Jill Heese presents the Factual Look  
report*

**2015 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska – Enrollment**

Commissioner Lauritzen introduced Jill Heese, Research Coordinator, who gave a PowerPoint presentation on the enrollment section of the *2015 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska*. Ms. Heese stated that the Coordinating Commission is required by statute to report IPEDS data. The *Factual Look* is used by institutional researchers, Legislative staff and Commission staff, and is currently an online publication. Between 2004 and 2014, total fall enrollment increased 12.0%. Fall enrollments increased within the University of Nebraska (13.5%), the Nebraska State College System (17.7%), and the independent sector (32.0%) but decreased within the community college sector (-1.9%) and the for-profit/career school sector (-7.9%). While undergraduate enrollments increased 6.5%, graduate enrollments increased 45.4%. Ms. Heese answered questions from the Commissioners.

*Next Commission Meeting  
January 21, 2016*

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next Commission meeting will be Thursday, January 21, 2016, at Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska.

*Commissioner Frison announces  
opportunity to attend event at White  
House*

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Frison commented that she is excited to be representing the Commissioner of Education at an event at the White House in Washington, D.C. on Monday, December 7, 2016.

*Meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Zink adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.