
WORK SESSION MINUTES

COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
May 29, 2019
Mid-Plains Community College
W.W. Wood Building, Rooms 202/204
North Platte, Nebraska

Public notice of work session

Public notice of this work session 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 work session.

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION WILL HOLD A WORK SESSION ON MAY 29, 2019. THE WORK SESSION WILL BEGIN AT 7:30 P.M. AND ADJOURN AT APPROXIMATELY 9:00 P.M.

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

W. SCOTT WILSON, CHAIR

The work session was called to order at 7:43 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair W. Scott Wilson called the work session to order at 7:43 p.m. and welcomed Commissioners and staff. There were no guests present.

Commissioners Present

Colleen Adam
Gwenn Aspen
Dr. John Bernthal
Dr. Deborah Frison
Dr. Ron Hunter

Mary Lauritzen
Dwayne Probyn
Dr. Paul Von Behren
W. Scott Wilson

Commission Staff Present

Dr. Michael Baumgartner
Dr. Kathleen Fimple
J. Ritchie Morrow

Helen Pope
Gary Timm
Mike Wemhoff

*Chair Wilson and Dr. Baumgartner
opening remarks*

OPENING REMARKS

Chair Wilson reviewed the work session agenda and urged participation from those present. Dr. Baumgartner noted that Commissioners suggested the three items on the agenda.

*Review Capital Project Approval
Criteria*

*Commissioner Von Behren opened
discussion*

REVIEW CAPITAL PROJECT APPROVAL CRITERIA

Commissioner Von Behren, chair of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee, commented that being relatively new to the Commission, and coming from the business world, he wants to insure the validity of capital construction project proposals and have adequate justification submitted so that the funds for projects are well spent. Commissioner Von Behren noted previous instances of receiving marginally complete information, and suggested that the Commission hold itself to a higher standard by reexamining the review process.

*Mr. Wemhoff spoke on CCPE statutory
requirements*

Mike Wemhoff, Facilities Officer, presented a handout of the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, Article VII, which defines the authority and duties of the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. According to statutory requirements, the Commission must guarantee the project is in compliance with the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education statewide facilities plan and verify that it will not result in unnecessary duplication. Mr. Wemhoff discussed how capital construction projects are reviewed following these statutes and regulations.

Dr. Baumgartner concludes discussion

After discussion of ways to ensure institutions provide adequate information for the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee to make an informed decision, Dr. Baumgartner concluded that the consensus is no change to policy is needed at this time.

*Discuss Need for a Policy on Inactive
Academic Programs*

*Commissioner Bernthal and Dr. Fimple
opened discussion*

DISCUSS NEED FOR A POLICY ON INACTIVE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Commissioner Bernthal, chair of the Academic Programs Committee, along with Dr. Kathleen Fimple, Academic Programs Officer, opened discussion regarding inactive academic programs. If a program does not meet threshold and is placed on inactive status by the institution, often the program is still listed in the institution's program catalog. Commissioner Bernthal commented that this is problematic. After detailed discussion, it was agreed upon that as part of the monitoring process, the Academic Programs Committee would request that an institution report a program's inactive status to the Commission and the reason for that status change whenever it occurs within the seven-year review period.

Discuss Need for Awards Threshold for Graduate Certificates

Commissioner Bernthal comments

Dr. Fimple spoke on Commission Productivity Thresholds

Dr. Baumgartner comments

Commissioner Adam comments

Commissioner Adam comments

The work session adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

DISCUSS NEED FOR AWARDS THRESHOLD FOR GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

Commissioner Bernthal commented that in the past, graduate certificates have not generally involved new programs. He suggests that if a proposed graduate certificate is a stand-alone program we may want to apply enrollment thresholds. Dr. Fimple presented a handout of Commission Productivity Thresholds. She stated that if an institution proposes a graduate certificate that has all existing courses and reports it to the Commission, the Committee considers those a reasonable and moderate extension. Dr. Baumgartner stated that if we put a threshold on new graduate certificates, it should be for new programs that do not go directly into a master's degree.

Commissioner Adam noted it is misleading calling these thresholds and Dr. Baumgartner suggested, and it was agreed upon, that we change the wording from *productivity thresholds* to *minimum performance standards*.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Adam started discussion regarding Commission meeting call-in processes. The Commissioners agreed their preference is to have a representative from the institution present at the meeting to provide more information or to answer questions or concerns regarding their proposal on the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wilson adjourned the work session at 9:00 p.m.
