
MINUTES

COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

February 5, 2020
The Apothecary Building
140 North 8th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska

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.

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION WILL HOLD A MEETING ON FEBRUARY 5, 2020. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 8:30 A.M. AND ADJOURN AT APPROXIMATELY 1:00 P.M.

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

DR. DEBORAH FRISON, CHAIR

Meeting called to order at 8:35 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

Commissioners Present

Colleen Adam
Dr. John Bernthal
Tim Daniels

Dr. Deborah Frison
Dr. Paul Von Behren
W. Scott Wilson

Commissioners Absent

Gwenn Aspen
Charles Garman

Dr. Ron Hunter
Mary Lauritzen

Commission Staff Present

Dr. Michael Baumgartner
Dr. Kathleen Fimple
Kadi Lukesh

Helen Pope
Gary Timm
Mike Wemhoff

Jim Smith, Blueprint Nebraska

PRESENTATION

Dr. Baumgartner welcomed former State Senator Jim Smith, Executive Director of Blueprint Nebraska. Mr. Smith provided a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Smith gave background on Blueprint Nebraska noting that to continue growth and address challenges, a group of industry, civic

Mr. Smith's presentation continued

leaders, and businesses worked together to develop Blueprint Nebraska, a strategic plan for the state aimed at creating a new standard of prosperity for all Nebraskans. Based on feedback from participants across the state, high priority and supporting initiatives were formed. This effort will focus on key state needs, including creating a stronger economy; increasing the ability to retain young people and welcome newcomers; meeting affordable housing needs; and focusing on K-12 and higher education for state progress connecting to real-world business needs. Mr. Smith stated that education must be at the center of the set of solutions for Nebraska's future success. The full report is available online at blueprint-nebraska.org.

*Minutes of December 12, 2019
Commission meeting approved*

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 12, 2019, COMMISSION MEETING
Commissioner Bernthal made a motion to approve the December 12, 2019, minutes as written. Commissioner Adam seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Daniels abstained. The remaining five Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.

*Chair Frison's Report
Former Commissioner Probyn
resolution read*

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Frison reported that Commission Dwayne Probyn has served his term and chosen not to apply for reappointment. Chair Frison read a resolution thanking Mr. Probyn for his commitment and years of service to the Commission. Commissioner Wilson stated there is a vacancy on the Commission to be filled by someone in the Papillion area.

New appointments to committees

With Commissioner Probyn's departure, Chair Frison has appointed Commissioner Garman to the Planning and Consumer Information Committee and Commissioner Daniels to the Budget, Construction and Financial Aid Committee. The Planning Committee will elect a new chair at their next Committee meeting.

*Executive Director's Report
Out-of-service area applications
authorized*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Baumgartner reported the following out-of-service area applications have been authorized:

1. Offered by Mid-Plains Community College
Distance Learning from North Platte to Clarkson High School, Clarkson, NE
 - Math 1250 Trigonometry (3 cr.)
Spring 2020
2. Offered by Mid-Plains Community College
Distance Learning from Mid-Plains Community College to Pope John XXIII High School, Elgin, NE
 - Soci 1010 Introduction to Sociology (3 cr.)
Spring 2020

-
3. Offered by Central Community College
Telecommunications originated from Central Community College to Deshler High School, Deshler, NE
 - Math 2070 Calculus II (5 cr.)
Spring 2020

Kadi Lukesh presented second quarter budget report

Dr. Baumgartner introduced Ms. Kadi Lukesh, Budget Coordinator/Office Manager, who presented the Second Quarter Budget Report. Ms. Lukesh stated the second quarter ended December 31, 2019. We are beginning to plan for the next fiscal year. Staff attends national meetings such as SHEEO, so surplus from other categories will help pay for early conference registration fees and staff travel. One of the reasons staff travel is high in the second quarter is J. Ritchie Morrow, Financial Aid Officer, conducts institutional audits around the state. There is a surplus of Commissioner travel funds. Therefore unspent funds will be carried over this year into the next fiscal year. Ms. Lukesh gave an overview of the funds in the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Program (NOG), the Community College Gap Assistance Program, and the Access College Early Scholarship (ACE).

Dr. Baumgartner gave a legislative update

Dr. Baumgartner provided a handout and gave a legislative update on bills of interest to the Coordinating Commission. He stated that he has testified at hearings on several bills. LB 920 changes the distribution of lottery funds, and even with some reductions, the Commission supports those changes. Other bills that Dr. Baumgartner testified on are LB 950, which changes eligibility for the ACE program, and LB 1131, which would add CCPE's Executive Director and chair of the Education Committee to the Education Commission of the States. Sen. Bolz introduced LB 1076 that would allow the Gap Assistance Program to be expanded to other two-year colleges, such as tribal colleges. Other bills of interest include LB 1008, the budget bill including the Governor's Nebraska career scholarship program that would provide funding for community and state colleges and the University.

Dr. Baumgartner reminded Commissioner to return Statement of Financial Interest forms

Dr. Baumgartner reminded Commissioners to complete their Statement of Financial Interests and return them to the Accountability and Disclosure Committee on or before March 1, 2020.

Dr. Baumgartner reported on Washington DC "Reconnecting the Triad" meeting

Dr. Baumgartner reported that he was in Washington, DC, on Wednesday, January 29, for a meeting convened by the U.S. Department of Education for SHEEO agencies and accreditors. They called the meeting "Reconnecting the Triad" – the triad being the states, accreditors, and federal Department of Education. The department plans to make it an ongoing, annual process. The morning was busy meeting with the assistant secretary and staff from the Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education to discuss CTE, Perkins V Plans, and FIPSE programs, and a discussion with the COO of Federal Student Aid. In the afternoon, they heard from Secretary DeVos and spent time with Undersecretary Diane Jones discussing recent changes in accreditation, state authorization, borrower defense to loan repayment, and faith-based entities.

MHEC staff to meet with legislators and MHEC commissioners from Nebraska in February

Dr. Baumgartner stated that February 10 and 11 Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) staff will be meeting with legislators and MHEC commissioners from Nebraska. They visit every state annually during legislative sessions.

Public Hearing on Matters of General Concern

PUBLIC HEARING ON MATTERS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Dr. David Jackson, University of Nebraska

Dr. David Jackson, University of Nebraska Vice Provost, came forward to mention an item of interest to the Commission that is not on the agenda. It is a proposal that will likely pass the Board of Regents this week relative to the University of Nebraska's undergraduate admission standards. For automatic admission, they're proposing three standards: a 3.0 high school GPA, ACT score, and class rank.

Chair Frison 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

Dr. Jackson stated there are several representatives from the University of Nebraska present to speak about and answer questions on the program proposals.

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

Chair Frison called for a break at 10:06 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:17 a.m.

Academic Programs Committee

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Bernthal chaired the Committee in Commissioner Hunter's absence.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

University of Nebraska-Lincoln – Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Regional & Community Forestry, BS

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal

Dr. Kathleen Fimple, Academic Programs Officer, presented the proposal noting the purpose of the proposed degree is to provide academic training for students interested in urban forest management and related fields. She noted 70% of Nebraska's population is living in urban and suburban areas and discussed the need and demand for the program. The two major options are urban forestry management and tree care industry. Dr. Eric North, Assistant Professor of Practice, School of Natural Resources, and Dr. John Carroll, Director-School of Natural Resources, along with Dean Tiffany Heng-Moss spoke briefly on the program proposal and answered Commissioners' questions.

Dr. Eric North, Dr. John Carroll, and Dean Tiffany Heng-Moss, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

APC recommendation

Commissioner Bernthal stated the Committee recommendation is to approve the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Regional & Community Forestry, BS.

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Proposal for a New Instructional
Program – Regional & Community
Forestry, BS approved*

Commissioner Bernthal, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Regional & Community Forestry, BS. A roll call vote was taken. All six Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal

University of Nebraska-Lincoln – Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Plant Pathology, MS, PhD

Dr. Fimple presented the program proposal, stating plant pathology has been around since the late 1800s, being part of the College of Agriculture for research and experimentation while the Department of Botany in the College of Arts and Sciences provided instruction. In 2006 the two colleges agreed to provide a specialization within their degree programs in plant pathology. This proposal is to take what is currently a specialization and consolidate it into a single graduate program. All courses are in place, the need is evident, and no new faculty would be needed. Dr. Heng-Moss stated this program is important to the future success of the department as they will be more competitive in attracting graduate students if they have a credential in plant pathology. Dr. Loren Giesler, Department Head of Plant Pathology at UNL, answered questions from the Commissioners.

Dean Tiffany Heng-Moss

*Dr. Loren Giesler, University of
Nebraska-Lincoln*

APC recommendation

Commissioner Bernthal stated the Committee recommendation is to approve the Master of Science and PhD in Plant Pathology Proposal for a New Instructional Program.

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Proposal for a New Instructional
Program – Plant Pathology, MS, PhD
approved*

Commissioner Bernthal, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Plant Pathology, MS, PhD. A roll call vote was taken. All six Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal

University of Nebraska-Lincoln – Proposal for a New Organizational Unit – School of Global Integrative Studies

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal, noting the University of Nebraska proposes to create the School of Global Integrative Studies by merging anthropology, geography, and global studies within the College of Arts and Sciences. All the fields of study focus on human populations each with a different focus. Courses for the degrees are in place and new transdisciplinary courses would be added, including a capstone course. Dr. Sophia Perdikaris, Department Chair of Anthropology, and Dr. John Osterman, Associate Dean for Academic Programs, College of Arts and Sciences spoke on the proposal, and Dr. Jackson added that the Department of Anthropology will disappear, as this would combine three programs under one school.

*Dr. Sophia Perdikaris, Dr. John
Osterman, and Dr. David Jackson,
University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

APC recommendation

Commissioner Bernthal stated the Committee recommendation is to approve the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Proposal for a New Organizational Unit – School of Global Integrative Studies.

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Proposal for a New Organization Unit
– School of Global Integrative Studies
approved*

Commissioner Bernthal, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Proposal for a New Organizational Unit – School of Global Integrative Studies. A roll call vote was taken. All six Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.

2018-2019 Existing Program Review

2018-2019 Existing Program Review

*Dr. Fimple and Commissioner Bernthal
discussed the program review*

Dr. Fimple and Commissioner Bernthal presented the University and state college programs that were approved by the Executive Director for continuation.

University of Nebraska at Omaha

University of Nebraska at Omaha – Program Requiring Additional Review – Women's and Gender Studies, BA, Undergraduate Certificate

*Dr. Fimple and Commissioner Bernthal
presented the Review*

Dr. Fimple stated the University of Nebraska at Omaha is conducting an in-depth review and will report the results to the Commission by July 15, 2020.

APC recommendation

Commissioner Bernthal stated the Committee recommendation is to continue the BA and Undergraduate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Nebraska at Omaha with an in-depth review due in July.

*University of Nebraska at Omaha
Program Requiring Additional Review
– Women's and Gender Studies, BA,
Undergraduate Certificate approved*

Commissioner Bernthal, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to continue the University of Nebraska at Omaha Program Requiring Additional Review – Women's and Gender Studies BA, Undergraduate Certificate, with an in-depth review due July 15, 2020. A roll call vote was taken. All six Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.

*Delivering Courses Beyond Campus
Walls: A Focus on High Schools*

Delivering Courses Beyond Campus Walls: A Focus on High Schools

Dr. Fimple presented the report

Dr. Fimple stated that since the 1990s the Commission has reported on all courses offered at distance by public institutions in Nebraska. With many options for online delivery today, the Commission no longer asks the institutions to report everything, just courses that are offered for college credit primarily for high school students. Collecting information on dual credit courses creates a single depository of information for the state. Dr. Fimple noted this report includes tables of courses offered by institution, delivery method, and course offering. Dr. Baumgartner added this is terrific information, and thanked Dr. Fimple for putting it into this type of format. Distance education enrollment information for 2012 through 2018 for all Nebraska institutions by student level, distance education status, and location can be accessed on the Commission's website at ccpe.nebraska.gov/enrollment-dashboard.

Dr. Baumgartner comments

Report on Discontinued Programs and Reasonable and Moderate Extensions

Discontinued Program

Discontinued Program

UNMC – Community Oriented Primary Care, Graduate Certificate

Reasonable and Moderate Extensions

Reasonable and Moderate Extensions

UNL – Forensic Anthropology, Graduate Certificate

UNL – World Language Teaching: Spanish, Graduate Certificate

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

*Commissioner Von Behren chaired the
BCF Committee report*

BUDGET, CONSTRUCTION, AND FINANCIAL AID COMMITTEE

Commissioner Von Behren chaired the Committee since Commissioner Adam was unable to attend the Committee conference call.

Commissioner Von Behren acknowledged those Committee members that met via conference call on January 15, 2020.

*Southeast Community College – Lincoln
Campus*

Capital Construction Project – Southeast Community College / Lincoln Campus – Main Building Master Plan, Phases 2 & 3: Student and Academic Support Project

*Mike Wemhoff presented the project
proposal*

Mike Wemhoff, Facilities Officer, presented the project proposal, stating that Southeast Community College is proposing to construct a two-story 30,727 square foot addition, renovate, and address fire and life safety code issues for an additional 80,000 square feet, along with installing fire sprinklers in the gymnasium in the Lincoln Campus' Main Building at 88th & O Street. This would involve phases two and three of a multi-year plan to renovate and address fire and safety codes throughout the building that was built in 1979. The proposed project would affect all academic and student support spaces at the college. Having a centralized location would be a benefit for students and utilize existing space on campus. The cost of the project is \$30.7 million dollars which would be funded by capital improvement property tax dollars. Private donations or grants will help out with new equipment purchases.

*Dr. Paul Illich, Southeast Community
College*

Dr. Paul Illich, Southeast Community President, commented that he appreciates the partnership with Mr. Wemhoff and the Commission and they have a good relationship with all the SCC campuses. Currently they are working on rebuilding and transforming the college by forming useful spaces. This project will create an incredible facility.

BCF Committee recommendation

Commissioner Von Behren stated the Committee recommendation is to approve the Southeast Community College / Lincoln Campus Capital

Construction Project - Main Building Master Plan, Phases 2 & 3: Student and Academic Support Project.

Southeast Community College / Lincoln Campus Capital Construction Project – Main Building Master Plan, Phases 2 & 3: Student and Academic Support Project approved

Commissioner Von Behren, on behalf of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee, moved to approve the Southeast Community College / Lincoln Campus Capital Construction Project - Main Building Master Plan, Phases 2 & 3: Student and Academic Support Project. A roll call vote was taken. All six Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.

Biennial Inflationary Adjustment to the Statutory Threshold for an Incremental Increase in Facility Operating and Maintenance Costs

Biennial Inflationary Adjustment to the Statutory Threshold for an Incremental Increase in Facility Operating and Maintenance Costs

Mr. Wemhoff Presented the report

Mr. Wemhoff presented the Facility Operating and Maintenance Costs Inflationary Adjustment report for January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2021. He noted that statutes require the Commission to review this every two years. There are two thresholds for the Commission when reviewing capital construction projects, a total project cost with at least \$2 million in tax funds, and for operations and maintenance (O&M) cost, a project that would result in an increase of \$85,000 of tax dollars over any fiscal year, within a ten year period from the completion of the project. Mr. Wemhoff noted that the recommendation, due to the amount inflated by the Higher Education Price Index, is to increase the facilities O&M component to \$95,000/year for the biennial period of January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021.

BCF Committee recommendation

Commissioner Von Behren stated the Committee recommendation is to approve the Biennial Inflationary Adjustment to the Statutory Threshold for an Incremental Increase in Facility Operating and Maintenance Costs.

Biennial Inflationary Adjustment to the Statutory Threshold for an Incremental Increase in Facility Operating and Maintenance Costs approved

Commissioner Von Behren, 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 six Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.

2018-2019 ACE Scholarship Year-end Report

Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship AY 2018-2019 Year-end Report

Gary Timm, Chief Finance & Administrative Officer, presented the report

Gary Timm, Chief Finance & Administrative Officer, presented the report in J. Ritchie Morrow's absence. ACE is the financial aid program for high school students that are taking dual enrollment courses. The current year distribution is \$1.1 million, and if the lottery funding bill goes through it would add another \$460,000 of scholarship funds. For 2018-2019, ACE scholarships were awarded to 2,309 low-income Nebraska students from 223 high schools, who received 4,057 scholarships for a total amount awarded of \$995,417.66 with the average award per scholarship equaling \$245.35. The total number of credit hours that were paid for by the scholarship was 13,652.5 credit hours. Seventy-six percent of the grades from these students were a B or better.

*ACE Scholarship year-end report
continued*

Mr. Timm reviewed graphs that indicated the amount of scholarships awarded, credit hours taken, and grade level of recipients since the beginning of the ACE scholarship program in 2008-09. The report provided graphs of eligibility, gender, and race of recipients. The majority of the students that qualify for the scholarship are eligible for free and reduced fee lunches from their high school, and females are taking advantage of the program more than males are. There has been an increase in scholarships awarded to Hispanic students and a decrease in white students. Mr. Timm discussed the college continuation rate, participating colleges, and grades earned per course. The end of the report lists the number of scholarships awarded by high school, and the breakdown of courses taken by scholarship recipients at each college.

BCF Committee recommendation

Commissioner Von Behren stated the Committee recommendation is to approve the Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship AY 2018-2019 Year-end Report.

*Access College Early AY 2018-2019
Year-end Report approved*

Commissioner Von Behren, on behalf of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee, moved to approve Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship AY 2018-2019 Year-end Report. A roll call vote was taken. All six Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.

*2018-2019 NOG Year-end Report
Mr. Timm presented the report*

Nebraska Opportunity Grant (NOG) AY 2018-2019 Year-end Report

Mr. Timm presented the 2018-2019 year-end Nebraska Opportunity Grant report, commenting that it is a decentralized financial aid program. The Commission allocates state funding to participating institutions based on a formula. Participating institutions award NOG grants to eligible students subject to eligibility criteria, award limits, and available allocations. NOG is Nebraska's only need-based financial aid program for postsecondary students and is funded through General Fund appropriations and lottery funds. When compared to other states and analyzing national need-based amount of grant dollars per undergraduate enrollment Nebraska ranked 35th in the country in 2017-18, the same as in 2016-17. For the 2018-19 year, \$17,978,264 was awarded to 12,753 students, with an average grant award of \$1,409.73 per student.

Dr. Baumgartner comments

Mr. Timm discussed Nebraska Pell Grant-eligible students by sector and unmet need by sector. The report includes key events and the yearly process of NOG funding and distribution. Mr. Timm discussed graphs in the report showing NOG recipients by sector, family income, enrollment status, amount awarded, and funding by source. He noted that new for this year, first-time freshman students that received a NOG their freshman year, were tracked through the National Student Clearinghouse data to determine their cumulative graduation rates. Dr. Baumgartner added that the results of this table indicate that students graduated at about the same rate as non-recipients. Mr. Timm and Dr. Baumgartner answered questions from the Commissioners.

Chair Frison called for a break at 12:26 p.m. The meeting resumed at 12:33 p.m.

Executive Committee

Discussion of NDE/CCPE Joint Dual Credit Initiative Final Report

Dr. Baumgartner presented the report

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Discussion of NDE/CCPE Joint Dual Credit Initiative Final Report

Dr. Baumgartner presented the report, noting that the Joint Dual Credit Committee included Commissioners Lauritzen and Bernthal from the CCPE and Lisa Fricke and Patty Koch-Johns from the State Board of Education. The committee met four times over a period of five months, working with Education Commission of the States personnel. Dual enrollment allows students to access advanced (college) academic material and build up college credit prior to high school graduation. Identified barriers to dual credit include dual credit guidelines that do not have force of law, limited ACE scholarship funding, and educators having difficulty accessing and financing the coursework they need to become qualified to teach dual credit courses. Lastly, teachers, parents, students, and guidance counselors are not aware of dual credit opportunities available to them. The NDE/CCPE committee identified five priority areas – access, qualified instructors, credit transfer, affordability, and data collection and reporting. With other states for comparison and guest presentations, along with discussions and deliberations, sixteen specific recommendations for future policy action were developed.

In summary, the committee came up with an action plan for policy action. The CCPE and NDE are committed to work on making the recommendations a reality within the next two years, supporting the expansion of dual credit opportunities for all students across the state.

Education Commission of the States – Dual Enrollment Access Policy Snapshot

Dr. Baumgartner presented the report

Education Commission of the States – Dual Enrollment Access Policy Snapshot

Dr. Baumgartner presented the report, stating this informative report from the Education Commission of the States (ECS) is based on 2019 legislative activity regarding dual enrollment access. 108 Bills were introduced in 37 states in 2019. The report gives examples of enacted legislation at several of those states for reducing cost for students, removing barriers to participation, expanding student eligibility, and increasing qualified educators. Dr. Baumgartner noted other states are dealing with the same issues as Nebraska.

Next Commission meeting is Thursday, March 12, 2020

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Commission meeting will be Thursday, March 12, 2020, at Central Community College, Kearney Campus, Kearney, Nebraska. Dr. Baumgartner stated we will tour the campus before the Commission meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Frison adjourned the meeting at 1:14 p.m.