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# MINUTES

**Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education  
Southeast Community College – Milford Campus  
Dunlap Center, Conference Room A/B, 600 State Street, Milford, NE  
Friday, October 11, 2024  
9:45 a.m. (CT)**

*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 OCTOBER 11, 2024. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 9:45 A.M. AND ADJOURN AT APPROXIMATELY 1:00 P.M.

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

DR. PAUL VON BEHREN, CHAIR

*Meeting called to order at 9:45 a.m.*

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Von Behren called the meeting to order at 9:45 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
Molly O'Holleran	

**Commissioners Absent**

Mary Lauritzen

**Commission Staff Present**

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

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*Dr. Paul Illich, Southeast Community College*

**WELCOME**

Dr. Paul Illich, President of Southeast Community College, welcomed the Commissioners to the SCC Milford Campus. President Illich and Ed Koster, Vice President for Research, Planning and Technology, and Milford Campus Director, provided a campus tour for the Commissioners and staff prior to the meeting.

*Minutes of September 13, 2024, approved*

**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2024, COMMISSION MEETING**

**Commissioner Wilson made a motion to approve the September 13, 2024, minutes as written. Commissioner Frison seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Nelson, O'Holleran, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. The motion carried.**

*Chair's Report*

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Von Behren stated that Commissioners have been given a copy of the *2025 Commission Meeting Calendar* and updated *2024-2025 Committee Roster* with new chairs listed.

*Executive Director's Report*

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dr. Baumgartner introduced Gary Timm, Chief Finance Officer, to present the First Quarter Budget Report.

*First Quarter Budget Report, Gary Timm*

Mr. Timm provided information on Administrative Funds, noting during the first quarter a large one-time payment has been made for MHEC dues. Mr. Timm gave brief overviews of the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Program (NOG), the Community College Gap Assistance Program, Higher Education Financial Aid, the Access College Early Scholarship (ACE), the Guaranty Recovery Program, the Community College American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grants, and the Community College ARPA Funds (Agency 83) - Dual Enrollment report. Mr. Timm answered questions from the Commissioners.

*FAFSA Update, J. Ritchie Morrow*

Dr. Baumgartner called on J. Ritchie Morrow, Financial Aid Officer, to give an update on FAFSA Completion activities. Mr. Morrow discussed the several rounds of beta testing being done and stated the task force is working with community-based organizations around the country to have the FAFSA ready for the public on December 1.

*Staff activities*

Recently, Mr. Morrow, along with Dr. Baumgartner, staffed an information table at the Educational Planning for Systems-Involved Youth Conference about the Door to College Scholarship Program.

Dr. Kathleen Fimple, Academic Programs Officer, and Dr. Baumgartner attended the UNO Future of Work Symposium on "A Skills-Based Approach for a Future-Ready Workforce."

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*Staff activities, continued*

Jill Heese, Research Director, attended the UNO Center for Public Affairs Research annual series on Data and Research for Community impact.

Mr. Morrow will be attending the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs annual conference in late October.

Dr. Fimple will be attending the annual Higher Learning Commission State Partner Agencies meeting in Chicago in November.

Commissioner Frison and Dr. Baumgartner will be attending the Midwest Higher Education Commission meeting in Overland Park in November.

Dr. Baumgartner noted he will attend a SHEEO Communities of Practice meeting on Improving Value and ROI Reporting through Strategic Partnerships in Minneapolis in late October.

In November Dr. Baumgartner, Ms. Heese, and Mr. Morrow will be meeting with the Susan Thompson Buffet Foundation to discuss next steps in a mixed-methods NOG evaluation. Dr. Baumgartner will be presenting a request to the NSWERS executive board later this month to study outcomes of ACE recipients and non-recipients.

*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**

*Dr. Nathan Barry and Mr. Stan Horrell, Metropolitan Community College*

Dr. Nathan Barry, Vice President for Strategic Operations and Initiatives, and Mr. Stan Horrell, Director of Campus Planning and Sustainability, from Metropolitan Community College, came forward and provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Sarpy County area for the New Branch Campus proposal listed on the agenda.

*Dr. David Jackson, University of Nebraska*

Dr. David Jackson, Interim Executive Vice President and Provost at the University of Nebraska, spoke briefly on the University's increasing effort on admitting graduate students at all campuses and focusing on their success. He also noted there are several programs on the agenda that will be under further review by the University of Nebraska.

*Rod Rhodes, Southeast Community College*

Rod Rhodes, Administrative Director – Work-Based Learning, from Southeast Community College, testified to raise awareness on micro-credentialing and digital badges.

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

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*Academic Programs Committee  
Commissioner Weber*

*Metropolitan Community College –  
Proposal for a Branch Campus  
Dr. Kathleen Fimple*

*Mr. Stan Horrell*

*Committee recommendation*

*Metropolitan Community College –  
Proposal for a Branch Campus  
approved*

*Monitoring Report for a Program  
Previously Reviewed – University of  
Nebraska at Omaha – Black Studies  
Dr. Fimple*

*Dr. Joseph Price, University of  
Nebraska at Omaha*

*Committee recommendation*

*Monitoring Report for a Program  
Previously Reviewed – University of  
Nebraska at Omaha – Black Studies,  
approved*

## **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Weber, Committee Chair, stated there were action items on the agenda, and introduced Dr. Fimple to provide information on each proposal.

### **Metropolitan Community College – Proposal for a Branch Campus**

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal, noting the growth in Sarpy County. Metropolitan Community College has purchased land in the northern part of the county for future expansion. The proposed branch campus would serve the growing need and demand of local business and industry for qualified workers. Suggested programs and services on the proposed campus could include but not be limited to first responder programs, hospitality management, and trucking training. Mr. Horrell answered questions from the Commissioners.

**Committee recommendation:** That the Commission approve the proposal from Metropolitan Community College to establish the Sarpy County Campus (a branch campus) in Papillion, Nebraska.

**Commissioner Weber, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve Metropolitan Community College’s proposal for a Branch Campus. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Nelson, O’Holleran, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. The motion carried.**

### **Monitoring Report for a Program Previously Reviewed – University of Nebraska at Omaha – Black Studies**

Dr. Fimple presented the monitoring report, stating UNO conducted an in-depth review of the program in 2021, with the Board of Regents approving continuation of the program. The summary of the 2024 report indicated progress on previous goals and some additional strategies to increase recruitment, expand community engagement, and future of the program.

Dr. Joseph Price, Assistant Dean of Administration in the College of Arts and Sciences at UNO, was present and along with Dr. Jackson answered Commissioners’ questions.

**Committee recommendation:** That the Commission continue the Black Studies program at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

**Commissioner Weber, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the Monitoring Report for a Program Previously Reviewed – University of Nebraska at Omaha – Black Studies. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Nelson, O’Holleran, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. The motion carried.**

### **Existing Program Review**

Information Items:

#### **Chadron State College**

- Physical Science, BS, BSE

#### **University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

- Anthropology, BA/BS
- Complex Biosystems, PhD
- Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, MS, PhD
- Geography, BA/BS
- Geology, BA/BS
- Global Studies, BA
- Anthropology, MA
- Geography, MA
- Global Integrative Studies, PhD
- Forensic Anthropology, Graduate Certificate
- Museum Studies, Graduate Certificate
- Geographic Information Science, Graduate Certificate
- Meteorology-Climatology, BS
- Philosophy, BA/BS
- Physics, BA/BS
- Physics and Astronomy, MS, PhD

#### **University of Nebraska at Omaha**

- Environmental Science, BS, BMS
- Philosophy, BA, BMS
- Physics, BA/BS

Existing Programs Requiring Further Review

### **Existing Programs Requiring Further Review**

Dr. Fimple discussed the following programs that require further review.

#### **University of Nebraska at Kearney**

- Astronomy & Astrophysics Comp, BS
- Physical Science, BA/BS
- Physics, BA/BS
- Physics Education 7/12, BSE
- Physics Comprehensive/Engineering, BS

#### **University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

- Philosophy, MA, PhD

#### **University of Nebraska at Omaha**

- Religion, BA

Committee recommendation

**Committee recommendation:** That the University of Nebraska conduct in-depth reviews for the programs listed above.

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*Existing Programs Requiring Further Review approved*

**Commissioner Weber, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the Programs Requiring Further Review with an in-depth review by the University of Nebraska. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Nelson, O’Holleran, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. The motion carried.**

*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*

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

Commissioner Wilson, in Commissioner Lauritzen’s absence, noted several action items to be voted upon and introduced Mr. Timm.

*Commissioner Wilson*

**Postsecondary Education Operating and State Aid Budget Recommendations for the 2025-27 Biennium**

*Postsecondary Education Operating and State Aid Budget Recommendations for the 2025-27 Biennium*

Mr. Timm presented the budget recommendations for the 2025-27 Biennium. The Commission reviewed 15 requests, four requests for new and expanded programs, and the community college state aid and dual enrollment request. After reviewing the requests from the University of Nebraska, the Nebraska State College System, and the community colleges the Commission recommended funding of the institution’s budget requests and that the state continue to concentrate on providing financial aid for students from low-income families and continue state support for public postsecondary institutions.

*Mr. Timm*

*Committee recommendation*

**Committee recommendation:** The Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee recommends approval of the *2025-2027 Operating Budget and State Aid Recommendations* report. The Committee also recommends authorizing the Executive Director to make minor revisions to the *2025-2027 Operating Budget and State Aid Recommendations* report.

*Postsecondary Education Operating and State Aid Budget Recommendations for the 2025-27 Biennium approved*

**Commissioner Wilson, on behalf of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee, moved to approve the Postsecondary Education Operating and State Aid Budget Recommendations for the 2025-27 Biennium, and authorized the Executive Director to make minor revisions to the report. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Nelson, O’Holleran, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. The motion carried.**

*2025-27 Capital Construction Budget Recommendation and Prioritization Report*

**2025-27 Capital Construction Budget Recommendation and Prioritization Report**

Matthew Roque, Capital Project & Financial Analyst, presented the report by reviewing the process and providing an overview of each section of the

*Matthew Roque*

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report. The Commission recommends to the Governor and the Legislature modification, approval, or disapproval of the requests from each institution, and develops a prioritization of approved individual capital construction budget request with the goal of protecting building occupants, completing partially funded projects, and preventing deterioration of existing physical assets. Mr. Roque noted that the Commission places high priority on providing safe, functional, and well-maintained facilities that support the institutions' efforts to provide exemplary programs

*Committee recommendation*

**Committee recommendation:** The Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee of the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education recommends approval of the Capital Construction Budget Recommendations and Prioritization 2025-2027 Biennium for the Nebraska State College System, University of Nebraska, and Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture. The Committee also recommends authorizing the Executive Director to make minor revisions to the Capital Construction Budget Recommendations and Prioritization 2025-2027 Biennium for the Nebraska State College System, University of Nebraska, and Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture.

*2025-27 Capital Construction Budget Recommendation and Prioritization Report approved*

**Commissioner Wilson, on behalf of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee, moved to approve the Capital Construction Budget Recommendations and Prioritization 2025-2027 Biennium for the Nebraska State College System, University of Nebraska, and Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Nelson, O'Holleran, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. The motion carried.**

Chair Von Behren called for a break at 11:45 a.m. The meeting resumed at 12:00 p.m.

*Title 281, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 1, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education – Rules and Regulations Governing The Excellence in Teaching Act*

*Mr. Morrow*

*Committee recommendation*

**Title 281, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 1, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education - Rules and Regulations Governing The Excellence in Teaching Act**

Mr. Morrow presented the Chapter 1 Rules and Regulations, noting the calendar timeline is the same for all three of the rules that will be voted on today.

**Committee recommendation:** That the Commission approve Chapter 1 – Rules and Regulations Governing The Excellence in Teaching Act.

*Title 281, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 1, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education – Rules and Regulations Governing The Excellence in Teaching Act approved*

**Commissioner Wilson, on behalf of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee, moved to approve Title 281, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 1, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education - Rules and Regulations Governing The Excellence in Teaching Act. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Nelson, O'Holleran, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. The motion carried.**

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*Title 281, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 5, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education – Rules and Regulations Concerning the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Act*

Mr. Morrow

*Committee recommendation*

*Title 281, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 5, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education – Rules and Regulations Concerning the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Act approved*

*Title 281, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 8, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education – Rules and Regulations Concerning the Guaranty Recovery Cash Fund*

Mr. Morrow

*Committee recommendation*

*Title 281, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 8, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education – Rules and Regulations Concerning the Guaranty Recovery Cash Fund approved*

*Community College GAP Assistance Program 2023-24 Annual Year-End Report*

Mr. Morrow

*Public Hearing on Planning and Consumer Information Committee Items*

**Title 281, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 5, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education - Rules and Regulations Concerning the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Act**

Mr. Morrow presented the Chapter 5 Rules and Regulations and noted changes made in the document are in red ink.

**Committee recommendation:** That the Commission approve the amendments to Chapter 5 – Rules and Regulations Concerning the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Act.

**Commissioner Wilson, on behalf of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee, moved to approve Title 281, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 5, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education - Rules and Regulations Concerning the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Act. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Nelson, O’Holleran, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. The motion carried.**

**Title 281, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 8, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education - Rules and Regulations Concerning the Guaranty Recovery Cash Fund**

Mr. Morrow presented the Chapter 8 Rules and Regulations.

**Committee recommendation:** That the Commission approve the amendments to Chapter 8 – Rules and Regulations Concerning the Guaranty Recovery Cash Fund.

**Commissioner Wilson, on behalf of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee, moved to approve Title 281, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 8, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education - Rules and Regulations Concerning the Guaranty Recovery Cash Fund. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Nelson, O’Holleran, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. The motion carried.**

**Community College GAP Assistance Program 2023-24 Annual Year-End Report**

Mr. Morrow presented the report, stating how the Gap Assistance Program for the community colleges is progressing both cumulatively and over the past year. The program is designed to provide financial aid to low-income community college students enrolled in credit or non-credit programs that do not qualify for federal Pell Grants, preparing them for jobs in high-need areas. Mr. Morrow discussed eligible programs, in-demand occupation areas, funding, and required reporting by the community colleges. The report also lists all the programs of study at each of the community colleges.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON PLANNING AND CONSUMER INFORMATION COMMITTEE ITEMS**

There was no testimony on Planning and Consumer Information Items.



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

*Planning and Consumer Information Committee*

*Commissioner O'Holleran*

*2024 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska – Enrollment*

*Ms. Heese*

*Next Commission meeting is December 13, 2024*

*Meeting Adjourned at 1:15 p.m.*

**PLANNING AND CONSUMER INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

Commissioner O'Holleran, Committee Chair, introduced Jill Heese, Research Director, to present the *2024 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska-Enrollment* report.

**2024 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska – Enrollment**

Ms. Heese delivered a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the Enrollment section of the *2024 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska*. The Coordinating Commission is required by statute to report Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) data. Total fall enrollment for all sectors was up 2.1 percent over the last year and down 0.4 percent over the 10-year period. The report includes graphs and details regarding enrollment for students by sector, student level, full-time/part-time classification, gender, race/ethnicity, age, and distance education status. Ms. Heese noted that a Key Takeaways summary is new this year.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next Commission meeting will be Friday, December 13, 2024, 8:30 a.m. at the Apothecary Building, 140 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, North Loft, Lincoln, Nebraska.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Von Behren adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.