
MINUTES

**Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
Concordia University - Thom Leadership Education Center, Room 113
800 N. Columbia Avenue, Seward, NE
Friday, May 16, 2025
9:00 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 copy of the current 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 MAY 16, 2025. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 9:00 A.M. AND ADJOURN AT APPROXIMATELY 2:00 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 9:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Von Behren called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked for introductions.

Commissioners Present

Tim Daniels
Dr. Deborah Frison
Dr. LeDonna Griffin
Dr. Dennis Headrick
Mary Lauritzen

Dannika Nelson
Molly O'Holleran (arrived at 9:06 a.m.)
Dr. Paul Von Behren
W. Scott Wilson

Commissioners Absent

Tami Weber

Commission Staff Present

Dr. Michael Baumgartner
Dr. Kathleen Fimple
Jill Heese
Kadi Lukesh

J. Ritchie Morrow
Helen Pope
Matthew Roque
Gary Timm

Dr. Bernard Bull, Concordia University

GREETING

Dr. Bernard Bull, President at Concordia University, welcomed the Commissioners and gave a brief history of the institution since it opened in 1894 as a teacher's school. Since then, Concordia University, a faith-based community, has grown and prepared students for lives of learning, service, and leadership. Dr. Bull stated the current enrollment is around capacity with 1200 undergraduate students.

Minutes of March 14, 2025, approved

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 14, 2025, COMMISSION MEETING

Commissioner Wilson made a motion to approve the March 14, 2025, Commission meeting minutes as written. Commissioner Frison seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Commissioners Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Nelson, Von Behren, Wilson. Abstain: Lauritzen. The motion carried.

Chair's Report

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Von Behren stated that most of what he has been working on will be presented in the Executive Committee's report.

Nominating Committee

Commissioner Lauritzen announced the slate of nominations for 2025-2026

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Commissioner Lauritzen reported that she, along with Commissioners Weber, Von Behren, Nelson, and Headrick, made up the nominating committee for Commission officers for 2025-2026. She presented the Committee's slate of nominations for Commission Chair, Vice Chair, and one other member to serve along with the past Chair on the 2025-2026 Executive Committee.

The Nominating Committee proposed approval of Commissioner Daniels to serve as Commission Chair from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Commissioner Daniels approved to serve as Chair for 2025-2026

Commissioner Lauritzen, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, moved to approve Commissioner Daniels to serve as Commission Chair from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Lauritzen, Nelson, O'Holleran, Von Behren, and Wilson. Abstain: Daniels. The motion carried.

The Nominating Committee proposed approval of Commissioner Headrick to serve as Vice Chair from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Commissioner Headrick approved to serve as Vice Chair for 2025-2026

Commissioner Lauritzen, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, moved to approve Commissioner Headrick to serve as Commission Vice Chair from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin Lauritzen, Nelson, O'Holleran, Von Behren, and Wilson. Abstain: Headrick. The motion carried.

Commissioner O'Holleran approved to serve along with past Chair Von Behren on the Executive Committee for 2025-2026

The Nominating Committee proposed approval of Commissioner O'Holleran to serve on the Executive Committee along with the past Chair Von Behren, the new Chair and Vice Chair from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Commissioner Lauritzen, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, moved to approve Commissioner O'Holleran to serve on the Executive Committee along with past Chair Von Behren, and the new Chair and Vice Chair, from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Lauritzen, Nelson, Von Behren, and Wilson. Abstain: O'Holleran. The motion carried.

Executive Director's Report

Approved out-of-service area requests

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The following out-of-service area application requests were approved by the executive director:

Offered by University of Nebraska at Omaha

In person at high school – dual enrollment, from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, to McCook Senior High School, McCook, NE

- English 1010 – Introduction to Genre Studies: Prose – 3 credits
Fall 2025
- English 1020 – Introduction to Genre Studies: Poetry, Drama & Film – 3 credits
Spring 2026

Offered by University of Nebraska at Omaha

In person at high school – dual enrollment from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, to Pius X Catholic High School, Lincoln, NE

- Physics 2110 – General Physics I – Calculus Level – 4 credits
Fall 2025
- Physics 2120 – General Physics – Calculus Level – 4 credits
Spring 2026

Offered by University of Nebraska at Omaha

In person at high school – dual enrollment from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, to Bishop Neumann High School, Wahoo, NE

- Biology 1450 – Biology I – 5 credits
Fall 2025
- Biology 1750 – Biology II – 5 credits
Spring 2026

Offered by Central Community College

Online course from Central Community College to North Bend High School, North Bend, NE, with lab components and a high school facilitator at North Bend High School.

- INDТ 1100 – Concepts of Electronics – 3 credit hours
- INDТ 1800 – Introduction to Instrumentation – 3 credit hours

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- INDT 1200 – Introduction to Programmable Controls – 3 credit hours
 - INDT 2410 – Applications of Industrial Sensors – 3 credit hours
Academic Year 2025/2026

Kadi Lukesh presented the Third Quarter Budget Report

Dr. Baumgartner introduced Kadi Lukesh, Office Manager/Bookkeeper, to present the Third Quarter Budget Report as of March 31, 2025. Ms. Lukesh gave updates on the status of Administrative Funds, the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Program (NOG), Higher Education Financial Aid (formerly the Community College Gap Assistance Program), Access College Early Scholarship (ACE), Guaranty Recovery Program, and the Community College ARPA Grants.

Dr. Baumgartner spoke on legislative bills of interest

Dr. Baumgartner provided a handout and reported that it has been a quiet year in the Legislature for our agency, with the budget being the main point of interest to the Commission, noting the budget is currently waiting for the Governor's signature or vetoes. He gave a brief update on budget funding for the state colleges, community colleges, and the university.

Dr. Baumgartner reported on staff meetings and activities

Dr. Baumgartner stated that staff have been active participants in several organizations and events recently and coming up. Dr. Kathleen Fimple, Academic Programs Officer, attended the Correctional Education Association Forum in Omaha several weeks ago. The Commission is part of Nebraska's Prison Education Program consortium. She will also be attending the Midwest-SARA meeting in Chicago in June.

J. Ritchie Morrow, Financial Aid Officer, will be attending the Financial Aid Learning Community Convening next week in Alexandria, VA., which will be followed by two days of meetings with the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs executive committee.

Mr. Morrow and Dr. Baumgartner recently attended the grand opening ceremony of the Louis LaRose Memorial Building at Little Priest Tribal College.

Gary Timm, Chief Finance Officer, and Matthew Roque, Capital Project & Financial Analyst, toured Southeast Community College's Beatrice and Lincoln campuses in conjunction with new upcoming construction requests. This summer they plan to make visits to UNMC's Project Health and ARPA projects at the community colleges.

Dr. Baumgartner discussed ARPA Grants

Dr. Baumgartner shared a handout on the Community College ARPA Grants. LB1014, Section 36 appropriated \$60 million in ARPA funding to the Commission to be used by the community colleges for capital projects or for offering courses or programs that meets the criteria established by the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 and the Commission. Each community college was to receive no more than \$10 million. The entire \$60 million in grant applications have been

Recent meetings and activities Dr. Baumgartner has been involved in

approved and disbursed to the community colleges. The handout lists each college and how the money is or will be spent.

Dr. Baumgartner noted he has been meeting often with a group of institutional representatives to address policy changes. They are mainly interested in how the U.S. Department of Education is carrying out its duties regarding financial aid programs, the budget reconciliation process, and the FFY26 budget.

Dr. Baumgartner stated he recently attended the SHEEO Community of Practice meeting on Strengthening Data Literacy Among Higher Education Stakeholders in Minnesota. He will be attending the MHEC Executive Committee meeting in Detroit in June.

Dr. Baumgartner commented that he has been asked to be on the planning committee for a College and Career Attainment Network supported by the Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation. The committee will include representatives from NDE, K-12 districts, higher education institutions, EducationQuest, Nebraska Chamber of Commerce, College Possible, and Nebraska Children and Families Foundation. They will be meeting over the next six months.

Public Hearing on Matters of General Concern

Stan Horrell, Metropolitan Community College

Dr. David Jackson, University of Nebraska

PUBLIC HEARING ON MATTERS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Stan Horrell, Director of Campus Planning and Sustainability at Metropolitan Community College, presented a PowerPoint progress update on the new Sarpy County Campus.

Dr. David Jackson, Interim Executive Vice President and Provost, Interim Dean of the Graduate College, from the University of Nebraska System, came forward to discuss steps the University is taking on accreditation status in the Higher Learning Commission. He also noted there were representatives from the University of Nebraska present in support of and ready to discuss items on the agenda.

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

There was no testimony on Academic Programs Committee Items.

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

*Academic Programs Committee
Commissioner Headrick*

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Headrick, in Commissioner Weber's absence, opened the Academic Programs Committee.

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln –
Proposal for a New Instructional
Program – Irrigation and Agricultural
Water Management, Undergraduate
Certificate*

Dr. Fimple

*Mark Stone, University of Nebraska-
Lincoln*

Committee recommendation

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln –
Proposal for a New Instructional
Program – Irrigation and Agricultural
Water Management, Undergraduate
Certificate approved*

*University of Nebraska Medical Center
– Proposal for a New Instructional
Program – Emergency Nurse
Practitioner, Graduate Certificate*

Dr. Fimple

*Dr. Lepaine Sharp-McHenry, and Dr.
Haley M. Hays, University of Nebraska
Medical Center*

Committee recommendation

*University of Nebraska Medical Center
– Proposal for a New Instructional
Program – Emergency Nurse
Practitioner, Graduate Certificate
approved*

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln – Proposal for a New Instructional
Program - Irrigation and Agricultural Water Management,
Undergraduate Certificate**

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal, stating this program will be in-person and online, preparing students to be managers of water resources, agricultural systems, and irrigation. The courses from the certificate could be applied toward a major in Agriculture Systems Technology or Agronomy.

Mark Stone, PhD, Department Head, UNL Department of Biological Systems Engineering, joined Dr. Fimple and presented additional information on the proposal.

Committee recommendation: That the Commission approve the Undergraduate Certificate in Irrigation and Agricultural Water Management 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 – Irrigation and Agricultural Water Management, Undergraduate Certificate. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Lauritzen, Nelson, O’Holleran, Von Behren, and Wilson. The motion carried.

**University of Nebraska Medical Center – Proposal for a New
Instructional Program - Emergency Nurse Practitioner, Graduate
Certificate**

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal, noting the proposed certificate is designed to equip Family Nurse Practitioners with advanced skills for delivering high quality emergency care. This program would increase access to emergency services across Nebraska, as the need and demand is high for certified practitioners, particularly in rural areas.

The following representatives came forward to discuss the proposal and answer questions from the Commissioners: Dr. Lepaine Sharp-McHenry, Dean and Professor, University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing, and Dr. Haley M. Hays, Interim Assistant Dean - West Nebraska Division (Scottsbluff), University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing

Committee recommendation: That the Commission approve the Graduate Certificate in Emergency Nurse Practitioner 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 – Emergency Nurse Practitioner, Graduate Certificate. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Lauritzen, Nelson,

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln –
Proposal for a New Center – Nebraska
Children's Justice and Legal Advocacy
Center*

Dr. Fimple

*Michelle Paxton, University of
Nebraska*

Committee recommendation

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln –
Proposal for a New Center – Nebraska
Children's Justice and Legal Advocacy
Center approved*

*Western Nebraska Community College
– Proposal for an Off-Campus Center
with Long-Term Commitment – WNCC
Construction Trades at the Eakes
Building*

Dr. Fimple

*Dr. Charles Gregory, Western Nebraska
Community College*

Committee recommendation

O'Holleran, Von Behren, and Wilson. The motion carried.

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln – Proposal for a New Center -
Nebraska Children's Justice and Legal Advocacy Center**

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal, reporting that this would integrate and expand the work of the Children's Justice Clinic and the Children's Justice Attorney Education Fellowship Program by unifying current program initiatives. Dr. Fimple noted that when reviewing this proposal, the Academic Committee commented that UNL stated that shifting both programs under a single title will simplify communication and make the program more accessible to participants, partners, and funders.

Michelle Paxton, JD, Schmid Professor for Excellence in Service, Director of the Children's Justice Clinic and the Children's Justice Attorney Education Program, UNL College of Law, answered Commissioners' questions and provided additional information on the proposed center.

Committee recommendation: That the Commission approve the Nebraska Children's Justice and Legal Advocacy Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The Commission is interested in the mission of the center and requests an update in mid-year 2028 on its progress.

Commissioner Headrick, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Proposal for a New Center - Nebraska Children's and Legal Advocacy Center, with an update in mid-year 2028 on its progress. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Lauritzen, Nelson, O'Holleran, Von Behren, and Wilson. The motion carried.

**Western Nebraska Community College – Proposal for an Off-
Campus Center with Long-Term Commitment - WNCC
Construction Trades at the Eakes Building**

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal, noting that recently the Commission approved the associate degree in construction technology at Western Nebraska Community College. Currently there is not adequate space to house the new program. WNCC proposes to enter into a three-year lease with a facility owned by a local industry partner. A long-term commitment requires approval from the Commission.

Dr. Charles Gregory, Dean of Instruction at Western Nebraska Community College, spoke about the proposal and answered the Commissioners' questions.

Committee recommendation: That the Commission approve the proposal from Western Nebraska Community College for an off-campus center with a long-term commitment in Scottsbluff, Nebraska

*Western Nebraska Community College
– Proposal for an Off-Campus Center
with Long-Term Commitment – WNCC
Construction Trades at the Eakes
Building approved*

*Presentation of 25-year service plaque
to Commissioner Lauritzen*

*North Park Theological Seminary,
Chicago, IL – Postsecondary Institution
Renewal Application for a Recurrent
Authorization to Operate in Nebraska*

Dr. Fimple

Committee recommendation

*North Park Theological Seminary,
Chicago, IL – Postsecondary Institution
Renewal Application for a Recurrent
Authorization to Operate in Nebraska*

*Annual Reports from Out-of-state and
Private Institutions*

(WNCC Construction Trades at the Eakes Building).

Commissioner Headrick, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve Western Nebraska Community College’s Proposal for an Off-Campus Center with Long-Term Commitment – WNCC Construction Trades at the Eakes Building. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Lauritzen, Nelson, O’Holleran, Von Behren, and Wilson. The motion carried.

Chair Von Behren called for a break at 10:55 a.m. The meeting resumed at 11:05 a.m.

Dr. Baumgartner congratulated Commission Lauritzen and presented her with a plaque for her 25 years of service on the Commission.

North Park Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL - Postsecondary Institution Renewal Application for a Recurrent Authorization to Operate in Nebraska

Dr. Fimple presented the renewal application for North Park Theological Seminary, stating that out-of-state institutions that want a local presence need Commission approval, which was granted in 2020. This is the five-year renewal of authorization for North Park.

Committee Recommendation: That the Commission approve the renewal of the recurrent authorization to operate for North Park Theological Seminary.

Institution:	North Park Theological Seminary
Owner:	North Park University
Level of authorization:	Authorized to offer master’s degrees in Christian Formation and Christian Ministry
Length of authorization:	Five years (valid through May 1, 2030)

Reporting requirements: Annual reports are required in a form available on the Commission website. The next report is due May 1, 2026.

Commissioner Headrick, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve North Park Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL., Postsecondary Institution Renewal Application for a Recurrent Authorization to Operate in Nebraska. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Lauritzen, Nelson, O’Holleran, Von Behren, and Wilson. The motion carried.

Annual Reports from Out-of-state and Private Institutions

Dr. Fimple presented information on the following institutions that required annual reporting:

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- Ricketts Great Books College, Omaha, NE
 - Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, FL, (at Offutt AFB, NE)
 - University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD
 - Osiri University, Lincoln, NE
 - Life Chiropractic College West, Hayward, CA (at Bellevue University)

Report on Institutional Activities Related to Existing Programs

Reasonable and Moderate Extensions

Reasonable and Moderate Extensions

- MCC – Community Health Career Certificate
- MCC – Healthcare Leadership Career Certificate
- MCC – Clinician to Coder Career Certificate
- CCC – Multimedia Diploma
- CCC – Audio Production Certificate
- SCC – Water Quality and Wastewater Treatment Operator Certificate
- UNL – Artificial Intelligence Expedited Graduate Certificate

Program Name Changes

Program Name Changes

- MCC – Human Services Chemical Dependency Counseling, AAS to *Alcohol and Drug Counseling*, AAS
- MCC – Language Interpretation, Certificate of Achievement to *Medical Language Interpretation, Certificate of Achievement*
- UNO – Graduate Certificate in Advanced Writing to *Graduate Certificate in Creative Writing, Editing, and Publishing*

Discontinued Programs

Discontinued Programs

- CCC – Graphic Arts Basic Certificate
- CCC – Digital Production Certificate
- CCC – Digital Broadcasting Certificate
- CCC – Broadcast Announcing Certificate
- CCC – Multimedia Certificate
- UNL – Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Geology (BS will remain)

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.

*Planning and Consumer Information
Committee*

Commissioner O'Holleran

*2025 Community College Peer Group
Report*

Jill Heese

Committee recommendation

*2025 Community College Peer Group
Report approved*

*Comprehensive Statewide Plan for
Postsecondary Education Updates*

Dr. Baumgartner

Committee recommendation

*Comprehensive Statewide Plan for
Postsecondary Education Updates
approved*

PLANNING AND CONSUMER INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Commissioner O'Holleran, Committee Chair, thanked the Planning and Consumer Information Committee and introduced Jill Heese, Research Director, to present the report.

2025 Community College Peer Group Report

Ms. Heese used a PowerPoint presentation to report on the community college peers for 2025. The Commission is required by statute to identify peer institutions for each public postsecondary education institution in Nebraska. Ms. Heese discussed the evaluation process, how the 10 peers and two alternate peers for each community college were chosen, and displayed maps of peer locations for each institution along with graphs that illustrate discipline cluster comparison. Ms. Heese answered questions the Commissioners brought up.

Committee recommendation: The Planning and Consumer Information Committee recommends approval of the Peer Report: Nebraska Community Colleges.

Commissioner O'Holleran, on behalf of the Planning and Consumer Information Committee, moved to approve the 2025 Community College Peer Group Report. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Lauritzen, Nelson, O'Holleran, Von Behren, and Wilson. The motion carried.

Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education Updates

Dr. Baumgartner presented updates to the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education brought about by recent actions of Nebraska public postsecondary institutions to adapt to policies, federal executive orders, the U.S. Department of Education guidance letters, and Governor Pillen's Executive 23-16.

After discussion, one addition was requested by Commissioners. On page 1-3, 3rd bullet, add "*of underrepresented populations*" at the end of the sentence. It will read "*Institutions will develop new strategies and support programs for attracting, retaining, and graduating students of underrepresented populations.*"

Committee recommendation: That the Commission approve the revisions to the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education, with one correction on page 1-3, 3rd bullet.

Commissioner O'Holleran, on behalf of the Planning and Consumer Information Committee, moved to approve the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education Updates, with one correction; on page 1-3, 3rd bullet, add "*of underrepresented populations*" at the end of the sentence. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick,

2025 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska – Degrees and Other Awards Conferred

Ms. Heese

Executive Committee

Chair Von Behren

Approve Salary Range Adjustments for July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027

Gary Timm

Committee recommendation

Salary Range Adjustments for July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027, approved

Proposed Agency Budget FYE 6/30/2026

Mr. Timm

Committee recommendation

Lauritzen, Nelson, O’Holleran, Von Behren, and Wilson. The motion carried.

2025 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska - Degrees and Other Awards Conferred

Ms. Heese delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the *2025 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska: Degrees and Other Awards Conferred*. The report provides a statewide statistical analysis that focuses on the latest 10-year trends by sector, award level, gender, race/ethnicity, discipline cluster, and age group. Ms. Heese stated total degrees and awards were up 5.7% over the previous year. Ms. Heese provided a demonstration on how to use the dashboard on the CCPE website. The full report and dashboards are available online at <https://ccpe.nebraska.gov/reports>

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair Von Behren introduced Gary Timm, Chief Finance Officer, to present two items on the agenda.

Approve Salary Range Adjustments for July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027

Mr. Timm reviewed the policy for the compensation of Commission staff, and the Executive Committee’s recommended salary ranges by position of Commission staff. He noted the Appropriations committee is recommending a 3.25 percent salary increase for each year of the biennium.

Committee recommendation: That the Commission approve of the Salary Range Adjustments for July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027.

Chair Von Behren, on behalf of the Executive Committee, moved to approve the Salary Range Adjustments for July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Lauritzen, Nelson, O’Holleran, Von Behren, and Wilson. The motion carried.

Proposed Agency Budget FYE 6/30/2026

Mr. Timm presented the Proposed Agency Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, noting that the state appropriates funding for agencies on a two-year basis. For budgeting purposes, the Commission is divided into six programs: Administration, Nebraska Opportunity Grant (NOG), Access College Early Scholarship (ACE), Higher Education Financial Aid, Guaranty Recovery Cash Fund, and the Community College ARPA Workforce Grants.

Committee recommendation: That the Commission approve the July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, Agency Budget and also authorize the Executive Director to make minor revisions to the budget based on Legislative amendments.

*Proposed Agency Budget FYE
6/30/2026 approved*

*Approval of the 2025-2026 Salary of
the Executive Director*

*Commissioners go into closed session to
discuss the executive director's salary*

Closed session began at 1:25 p.m.

Closed session ended at 1:35 p.m.

*2025-2026 executive director salary
increase approved*

*Next Commission meeting is Friday,
July 25, 2025*

*Commissioner Wilson presented
Commissioner Lauritzen with memory
book*

Chair Von Behren, on behalf of the Executive Committee, moved to approve the Proposed Agency Budget FYE 6/30/2026. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Lauritzen, Nelson, O'Holleran, Von Behren, and Wilson. The motion carried.

Approval of the 2025-2026 Salary of the Executive Director

Chair Von Behren made a motion to enter into closed session as authorized by the Nebraska Revised Statutes, Section 84-1410, for the protection of the public interest and to prevent needless injury to the reputation of Dr. Michael Baumgartner, who has not requested a public hearing, for the purpose of discussing the executive director's salary. Commissioner Daniels seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Lauritzen, Nelson, O'Holleran, Von Behren, and Wilson. The motion carried.

Chair Von Behren requested that staff and guests leave the room while the Commissioners go into closed session to discuss the salary of the executive director recommended by the Executive Committee.

The Commission entered into closed session at 1:25 p.m.

The Commission ended the closed session at 1:35 p.m. by a unanimous vote.

Chair Von Behren stated that formal action must be taken in open session on the executive director's salary recommendation, which is a 3.25 percent increase.

Commissioner Headrick made a motion to approve the proposed 3.25 percent salary increase for 2025-2026 for Executive Director Baumgartner. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, Lauritzen, Nelson, O'Holleran, Von Behren, and Wilson. The motion carried.

FUTURE MEETING

The next Commission meeting will be Friday, July 25, 2025, 8:30 a.m. at McCook Community College Campus, McCook, Nebraska. On Thursday, July 24, 2025, there will be a tour at 1:00 p.m. of Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) in Curtis and a Work Session at the McCook College Campus at 6:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Wilson presented Commissioner Lauritzen with a book filled with pictures and memories and Commissioner Lauritzen shared some stories of her 25 years on the Commission. Following the

Meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

meeting, everyone enjoyed a brief celebration with a toast and cake in her honor.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Von Behren adjourned the meeting at 1:42 p.m.