

**NEBRASKA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
First Quarter Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2015**

1. PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

All NCCA Board of Directors, Area Presidents, and the general public having been duly notified the first quarter meeting of the NCCA Board of Directors was held January 23, 2015, at Southeast Community College Continuing Education Center in Lincoln. President Perkins stated that the public meeting notice was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on January 13, 2015. He also stated that the rules for the Nebraska Public Meeting Laws were available for public viewing. The public meeting notice is attached to these minutes.

2. ATTENDANCE

Directors Present:

President Tom Perkins – Western Nebraska
Vice President Sandra Borden – Central
Secretary Steve Anderson – Northeast
Treasurer Robert Feit – Southeast
Merlyn Gramberg – Western Nebraska
Diane Keller – Central
Ernie Mehl – Mid-Plains
Kent Miller – Mid-Plains
Shirley Petsche – Northeast
Edward Price – Southeast (arrived at 10:15 a.m.)

Staff Present:

Dennis Baack – Executive Director
Melanie Williams – Administrative Assistant

Also present: Dr. Greg Smith – Central, Ryan Purdy – Mid-Plains, Dr. Michael Chipps and John Davies – Northeast, Dr. Paul Illich – Southeast, and Dr. Todd Holcomb – Western Nebraska.

3. CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM DETERMINATION

President Perkins called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. and asked for roll call and quorum determination. Present and responding were nine board members representing their respective area governing boards. It was determined that a quorum was present.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Perkins asked for any additions or changes to the agenda. There were none.

MOTION BY ERNIE MEHL AND SECOND BY MERLYN GRAMBERG that the NCCA Board of Directors approve the meeting agenda as presented.

President Perkins asked for any objections or discussion. There were none.

A roll call vote was taken.

Voting Aye: Anderson, Borden, Feit, Gramberg, Keller, Mehl, Miller, Perkins, Petsche

Voting Nay: None

Absent: Price

RESULT: Motion carried nine (9) ayes, no nays, and one (1) absent.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Perkins asked for any corrections or changes to the November 4, 2014, meeting minutes. There were none.

MOTION BY MERLYN GRAMBERG AND SECOND BY ERNIE MEHL that the NCCA Board of Directors approve the November 4, 2014, meeting minutes as presented.

President Perkins asked for any discussion. There was none.

A roll call vote was taken.

Voting Aye: Anderson, Borden, Feit, Gramberg, Keller, Mehl, Miller, Perkins, Petsche

Voting Nay: None

Absent: Price

RESULT: Motion carried nine (9) ayes, no nays, and one (1) absent.

6. 2015 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Baack stated that he would give a brief overview of each bill and answer any questions the Board may have prior to a position being taken.

LB 36 was introduced by Senator Bolz and would adopt the Community College Gap Assistance Program. Baack stated that this bill would set aside state dollars to provide some financial aid to students that may not qualify for federal financial aid, be part-time, or obtaining a certificate. Dr. Smith stated that this bill is for non-credit courses and

asked if it could be expanded. Baack stated that he would talk to Senator Bolz about this but that the primary purpose of this bill is to provide some financial aid to individuals that may only need a few technical courses for their job. It was decided to **support** this bill.

LB 54 was introduced by Senator Scheer and would change provisions relating to postsecondary education statewide transfer-of-credit policies. Baack stated that this bill would allow community college transfer students with an AA degree, not an AAS degree which we would like to be included, would meet the general education requirements of the new institution. Some concerns were allowing the Coordinating Commission, which would head the program, to be in a policy making role for higher education as well as the unused credits not being used by the new institution. Baack stated that he will be meeting with Senator Scheer prior to the bill hearing and to discuss some possible amendments. It was decided to stay **neutral** on this bill.

LB 56 was introduced by Senator Scheer and would provide procedures for donation of real property to the Northeast Community College Area. Baack stated that this bill would give the regional center land, which sits directly in the middle of Northeast's Norfolk campus, to the college. LB 57, an accompanying bill, would allocate one million dollars for land clean-up. It was decided to **support** this bill.

LB 100 was introduced by Senator Sullivan and would provide for allocation of state aid to tribally controlled community college. Baack stated that this bill would give better guidance to Northeast on how the tribal college would get the state funding which is funneled through the college. It was decided to **support** this bill.

LB 101 was introduced by Senator Sullivan and would change provisions relating to statewide assessment of student learning and reporting. Baack stated that this bill directs K-12 schools to inform students at an early age of careers available and the path they may need to take to achieve that career. It was decided to **stay neutral** this bill.

LB 102 was introduced by Senator Sullivan and would change provisions relating to the Access College Early Scholarship Program. Baack stated that Senator Harms originally created this federally funded program and this bill would extend it using state funds and expand the guidelines slightly. It was decided to **support** this bill.

LB 109 was introduced by Senator Crawford and would change residency requirements for veterans attending a public college or university. Baack stated that this bill specifies the criteria for veterans to receive free tuition. It was decided to **support** this bill.

LB 144 was introduced by Senator Davis and would reduce levy authority of community colleges and increase state aid to community colleges. This bill would decrease property tax by one cent every year until the property tax cap is 6.25 cents with the state making up the difference with a flat \$120 million in additional state aid for one year. Miller stated that the Executive Committee did meet with Senator Davis and did inform

him that the colleges will be revisiting the funding formula and suggested that he sit on the bill until after the formula discussion. President Perkins stated that the pressure for Senator Davis is coming from his constituents and that is something we should work on because bills like this will keep coming from his district even after he is out of office. It was decided to **oppose** this bill.

LB 153 was introduced by Senator Morfeld and would exempt college textbooks from sales and use taxes. Baack stated that he will attend the hearing and listen to the testimony but recommended that the Board stay neutral on the bill. It was decided to stay **neutral** on this bill.

LB 321 was introduced by Senator Bolz and would adopt the Nebraska Industrial New Job-Training Act and authorize certain payments and taxes. Baack stated that this bill is very complicated but the goal is to create a new way to pay for industry job training with bonds with repayment of those bonds coming from payroll taxes. This program has been very successful in Iowa but could be a tougher sell in Nebraska due to the bonding. It was decided to **support the concept** of this bill.

LB 343 was introduced by Senator Kolowski and would provide funding for schools offering certain programs and courses as prescribed in the bill. Baack stated this bill would provide funding to set-up career academies and curriculum. The original bill calls for schools to partner with ESU's to receive this funding but the CEO's believe it should include public schools and community colleges as well as ESU's. Baack will propose this amendment to Senator Kolowski. It was decided to **support** this bill with **amendments**.

LB 355 was introduced by Senator Morfeld and would change provisions relating to certain education funding as prescribed. Baack stated that all of the lottery funding for education was to end in 2016 and this bill would reinstate lottery funding for the Education Opportunity Grant. It was decided to **support** this bill.

LB 371 was introduced by Senator Sullivan and would create and provide duties for the Nebraska Council for Educational Success. This bill would formalize the P-16 committee and process, which has been in existence for approximately ten years, and put the Legislature in control of it. It would also put the Coordinating Commission as a co-chair of the committee and the CEO's believe they should not be in control of policy and disapprove of this portion of the bill. It was decided to remain **neutral** on this bill with **amendments**.

LB 380 was introduced by Senator Morfeld and would create and provide duties for the Higher Education Affordability Commission. Baack stated that this bill would create the commission and could be an avenue for the community colleges to bring up transferability. It was decided to **support** this bill.

LB 410 was introduced by Senator Sullivan and would change eligibility provisions relating to the Access College Early Scholarship Program Act. This bill would limit what programs, primarily academic transfer, would qualify for this program. It was decided to **support** this bill.

LB 519 was introduced by Senator Sullivan and would provide for school and student aid, grants, and assistance as prescribed in the bill. Baack stated that this bill would replace the lottery funding of financial assistance with general funding. It was decided to **oppose** this bill.

LB 520 was introduced by Senator Sullivan and would change provisions relating to transfers to certain education-related funds. This bill would extend the lottery funding but phase it out to general funding after four years. It was decided to **oppose** this bill.

LB 565 was introduced by Senator Kuehn and would state intent relating to appropriations for education and training in high-need fields. Baack stated that this bill would take funds from various sources to provide for support of training for high-need fields in the state. It was decided to **support** this bill.

MOTION BY KENT MILLER AND SECOND BY SANDRA BORDEN that the NCCA Board of Directors approve the 2015 legislative agenda as stated.

President Perkins asked for any further comments or questions. Petsche stated that Northeast is also watching a number of the property tax bills. Baack stated that he will be watching those bills as well to see what direction they will be taking.

A roll call vote was taken.

Voting Aye: Anderson, Borden, Feit, Gramberg, Keller, Mehl, Miller, Perkins, Petsche, Price

Voting Nay: None

RESULT: Motion carried ten (10) ayes and no nays.

7. ANNUAL AGENDA

President Perkins distributed policy 3015 to the Board so that each board member could review their responsibility and function to the NCCA Board. He also distributed a vision statement that the Executive Committee had reviewed and approved at their last meeting. The vision statement is as follows:

NCCA shall focus its attention on student success with special emphasis on assisting economically disadvantaged men and women to achieve a greater standard of living through a community college education.

MOTION BY KENT MILLER AND SECOND BY STEVE ANDERSON that the NCCA Board of Directors approve the 2015 Vision Statement as stated.

President Perkins asked for any further discussion. There was none.

A roll call vote was taken.

Voting Aye: Anderson, Borden, Feit, Gramberg, Keller, Mehl, Miller, Perkins, Petsche, Price

Voting Nay: None

RESULT: Motion carried ten (10) ayes and no nays.

Miller stated that the Executive Committee had discussed major topics for 2015 and came up with the following topics: Student Success, Funding Formula, and Safety and Concern of Students, which may be a topic at the annual meeting. President Perkins then stated that aspects of one or more of these topics will be brought to each board meeting for discussion. It was then stated that Vicki Ray Smith, a community college President near Chicago, was asked if she would be interested in giving a presentation at the annual meeting after a number of people heard her presentation on student safety. Chuck Underwood's name was then mentioned as a possible speaker for the annual meeting. His fee would be \$10,000 to \$15,000 and the suggestion of trying to solicit corporate sponsors was stated.

8. ANNUAL MEETINGS

Miller stated that the Executive Committee discussed and recommends moving the annual meeting to Scottsbluff this year and rotating the location to each area in the following years after hearing Dr. Holcomb's objections at the prior board meeting

MOTION BY KENT MILLER AND SECOND BY ROBERT FEIT that the NCCA Board of Directors move the location of the 2015 Annual Meeting to Scottsbluff and the location to be rotated amongst the areas each year.

President Perkins asked for any further discussion. There was none.

A roll call vote was taken.

Voting Aye: Anderson, Borden, Feit, Gramberg, Keller, Mehl, Miller, Perkins, Petsche, Price

Voting Nay: None

RESULT: Motion carried ten (10) ayes and no nays.

Miller then asked if the Board would like to change the locations of the second meeting from Lincoln and third quarter meeting from Lincoln or video conference. There were no comments.

President Perkins then asked if the Board had any objections to moving the date of the 2015 annual meeting to October 5 and 6. There were no objections.

9. SAFETY AND SECURITY OF STUDENTS

Nothing was reported at this time.

10. COMMUNITY COLLEGE FUNDING

It was stated that the CEO's will begin working on the funding formula in the near future.

11. ACCT 2015 NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR

Dr. Chipps suggested that one location be had for meeting with Nebraska's federal delegation so that everyone would be given the opportunity to meet with them. It was agreed to pursue this next year.

12. STUDENT SUCCESS

Borden suggested a seminar be had in the future that covers student success at a time other than the annual meeting, perhaps during the 2016 legislative session. Anderson also suggested that presentations be had outlining student safety and security at each area. Dr. Holcomb suggested expanding the annual meeting to accommodate this. Miller stated that the rationale behind another conference was to extend it to state senators so that they can also hear the message.

13. CREDIT TRANSFERABILITY

President Perkins shared an article from the Scottsbluff Herald which discusses the six community college and UNMC working together to develop a nursing program.

14. PRESIDENT OBAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROPOSAL

Dr. Smith stated that the concept is a good idea but that a community college education is already subsidized and the state would have to keep its current level of funding which may be difficult. The CEO's will continue to monitor the proposal.

15. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

President Perkins stated that the committee assignments were given at the prior board meeting. Miller stated that the strategic plan needs to be reviewed as well as the policy manual.

16. COUNCIL OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT

Purdy stated that they had spent quite a bit of time on legislation and will begin discussing the funding formula in the near future.

17. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Baack stated that the CEO's decided to not participate in the State Chamber Veteran's Event again this year due to lack of results.

18. TREASURER'S REPORT

Feit reviewed the report with the Board and asked for any questions or comments. There were none.

19. ACCT REPORT

Davies stated that Price will be running for a position on ACCT's Diversity Committee and asked each college to have at least one voting member at the conference in October. Since he was unable to attend the annual meeting, Davis thanked the Board for receiving the Governors Award in November.

Miller stated that ACCT has reached out to actor Tom Hanks to see if he would be interested in promoting community colleges after a speech he had given in New York explaining that he would not be where he is today without community colleges as well as participating in some way at the conference in October.

20. AREA BOARD REPORTS

Mehl stated that Mid-Plains is focusing on development of the Valentine area. Dr. Smith stated that Central is making progress on a new Kearney center. Dr. Illich told the Board that construction has now moved inside on the Career Academy. President Perkins asked the Board to review the Strategic Plan which was distributed.

21. COMMENTS AND CONCERNS OF GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

**NEBRASKA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
First Quarter Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2015**

Dr. M. Thomas Perkins, President

Steve Anderson, Secretary