

**NEBRASKA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Second Quarter Meeting Minutes  
May 8, 2007**

**1. PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE**

All NCCA Board of Directors, Area Presidents, and the general public having been duly notified the second quarterly meeting of the NCCA Board of Directors was held May 8, 2007, at the Continuing Education Center of Southeast Community College in Lincoln, Nebraska. President Harvey stated that the public meeting notice was published in the Lincoln Journal Star and the rules for the Nebraska Public Meeting Law are available for public viewing. The public meeting notice is attached to these minutes.

**2. ATTENDANCE**

Directors Present:

President Keith Harvey – Northeast  
Vice President Jane Hornung – Mid-Plains  
Secretary Lynn Schluckebier – Southeast  
Treasurer Merlyn Gramberg – Western Nebraska  
Robert Feit – Southeast  
Steve Grabowski – Metropolitan  
Harold McClure – Central  
Tom Perkins – Western Nebraska  
Larry Poessnecker – Northeast  
Tim Potter – Metropolitan  
Roger Wilson – Mid-Plains

Directors Absent:

William Schneider – Central

Staff Present:

Dennis Baack – Executive Director  
Melanie Williams – Administrative Assistant

Also present were: Dr. LaVern Franzen – Central, Dr. JoAnn McDowell, Randy Schmailzl, and Dave Koebel – Metropolitan, Dr. Michael Chipps – Mid-Plains, Dr. Bill Path and Steve Schram – Northeast, Dr. Jack Huck – Southeast, and Dr. Eileen Ely – Western Nebraska.

**3. CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM DETERMINATION**

President Harvey called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and asked for roll call and quorum determination. Present and responding were eleven board members representing their respective area governing boards. It was determined that a quorum was present.

#### 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

**MOTION BY TOM PERKINS AND SECOND BY LYNN SCHLUCKEBIER that the NCCA Board of Directors approves the meeting agenda.**

A roll call vote was taken.

**Voting Aye:** Feit, Grabowski, Gramberg, Harvey, Hornung, McClure, Perkins, Poessnecker, Potter, Schluckebier, Wilson

**Voting Nay:** None

**Absent:** Schneider

**RESULT: Motion carried eleven (11) ayes, no nays, and one (1) absent.**

#### 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Harvey asked for any corrections to the March 7, 2007, meeting minutes. There were none.

**MOTION BY STEVE GRABOWSKI AND SECOND BY TIM POTTER that the NCCA Board of Directors approves the March 7, 2007, meeting minutes.**

A roll call vote was taken.

**Voting Aye:** Feit, Grabowski, Gramberg, Harvey, Hornung, McClure, Perkins, Poessnecker, Potter, Schluckebier, Wilson

**Voting Nay:** None

**Absent:** Schneider

**RESULT: Motion carried eleven (11) ayes, no nays, and one (1) absent.**

#### 6. TEAM 1 / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

##### A. 2007 Legislation Update

Baack began by stating that he personally believes that the association needs to do some soul searching. Senators have numerous ideas as to how the community college system can be fixed with the latest proposal gaining support is Senator Jansen's

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which would call for the state to take over the system. Baack continued to state that if the association does not get its act together and figure things out internally, there are individuals who will take control of the situation and the outcome would not be what the association wants. Now is the time in the legislative session when Senators will look at the organizations that cannot reach a resolution on their own and resolve the situation the way they see fit with or without consultation from the organization. Baack then stated that Senator Raikes will proceed with his proposal regardless of what position the association takes. He also stated that Senator Raikes believes there is additional money for the community colleges and he cannot understand why the system does not want to put more money into a formula for community colleges. Senator Raikes also asked Baack if nothing is resolved this session, could it be guaranteed that the association will have a formula proposal for presentation before the Legislature next session that every area could agree upon. Baack replied in the negative.

Baack stated that the association has faced many situations like this in the past but it has always been able to work through the obstacles to come to an agreement. The state statute which states that every community college area must belong to an association came about because in 1991, one area was lobbying against the system and Senator Warner took it upon himself to resolve the conflict by requiring every area to belong to an association and therefore making them work together. There can be consequences if the board does not come to some sort of consensus.

Baack then stated that he feels a general discussion must be had in regard to if the association can be effective anymore. His presence at the Legislature is also irrelevant if a consensus cannot be reached. Baack continued to state that he worries area board members don't care that much for the community college system and only care about what happens to their individual area. There have been numerous changes to the colleges in terms of new board members and presidents and since those changes have occurred, the association has not had to come to a point where it needed to really work together. He continued to state that he is concerned and doesn't know if a consensus can be reached in regard to what the system is going to do. Numerous meetings were held and negotiators were hired all in the last year and we were still unable to reach a unanimous decision. Baack stated that one thing he believes needs to happen is the NCCA board needs to take charge of the situation because the President's group is not functioning well right now and discussion needs to be had to get the group back on track.

President Harvey stated that the thing that bothers him the most is that the association took to the Legislature an equalization of the distribution of state aid and what we got in return was an equalization of tax levies. Senator Raikes did what he wanted to do and disregarded what the board asked to be done. President Harvey continued to state that we fought a long fight to get an equalization of this distribution of taxes and it is still not there. It is just as bad as it was before because Senator Raikes did not do what the board asked to be done.

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Potter stated that it is unfair for the state senators to accuse the board of being in disarray when the board did take a position on LB 342 as originally written. What has happened since then is because Senator Raikes made the decision to tinker with the formula. Potter then stated that if senators want to know what position the board took on LB 342, they can be shown the resolution. Baack stated that Senator Raikes is responding to is a shift in state policy in regards to property tax equalization. Under the new formula if additional money is not funded, it will skew the way it is distributed and Senator Raikes agrees with this and is willing to fight for the additional money.

President Harvey asked Baack why Senator Raikes has not addressed the problem of inequity of distribution. Baack replied that there is still some inequity but there is a change in distribution and Western does have a reduction in resources that they have access to of about \$1 million dollars. President Harvey then asked how Senator Raikes justifies that it takes twice as much money to teach a student in western Nebraska than it does in eastern Nebraska. Baack replied that it is exactly the same way it is in the school system. President Harvey then replied that the school system also has inequality. He then stated that personally he is ready to give control over to the state because we are getting nothing out of it. We are no better off with the new formula and he does not like the scare tactics.

(Schneider arrived at 9:20 a.m.)

Grabowski asked why can't we go back to LB 342 as originally written and want the board had originally agreed upon. A tremendous amount of time was spent to come up with the original plan and Senator Raikes expects the board in two weeks time to review the four scenarios and come up with a consensus on one of them. Senator Raikes was given a proposal which was worked on for over a year and he turned around and basically threw it away. Grabowski continued to state that Metro may take the issue to their senators and state that LB 342 as originally written was a consensus bill but if senators are unhappy with that bill, do an interim study and inform the system that they must present something next year.

Discussion was then had regarding Governor Heinemann's proposal for property tax relief and the different ways it would affect each area.

Feit then asked Baack if LB 342, as currently written, would need to be adjusted in the years to come. Baack replied in the affirmative and Senator Raikes does know this will occur. Baack continued to state that one of the reasons Senator Raikes is trying to get rid of the huge property tax disparity between the areas is because of the fear of a lawsuit being filed over the matter and the argument being made that the taxpayer does not have equal access to the same services. He then stated that he has sat down with Senator Raikes numerous times to try to convince him to go with LB 342 as originally introduced and in the interim, try to come up with new formula everyone can agree upon.

Potter asked Baack if a vote were to be taken today on some sort of action, would it have any impact on Senator Raikes plan. Baack replied that it would have some impact.

Discussion was then had regarding dynamics of the new formula proposed by Senator Raikes. Dr. Huck then gave a brief history of the current formula and the way the community college system worked with Senator Warner and the Legislature in addressing the concerns they had at the time.

Grabowski asked Baack if the four scenarios presented by Senator Raikes were what the community colleges were to choose from. Baack replied in the affirmative. Grabowski then stated that scenario four would work for Metro. If the system as a whole would decide to go to Senator Raikes and offer support for scenario four with the agreement that the colleges would get \$84 million dollars and we were able to get a veto override, Grabowski stated that he doesn't trust Senator Raikes to not pull the \$84 million dollars back. Baack stated that he does not mistrust Senator Raikes and believes he would fight for the \$84 million dollars. Potter stated that he doesn't know what the process was like in 1998 when the colleges were working with Senator Warner but Senator Raikes has not provided numbers for analyze until the bill is coming up for consideration and the entire process is what bothers Potter the most. The community colleges got 32 co-sponsors for the original LB 342 so that shows we had an enormous amount of support for the bill as it was originally written. Potter continued to state that he does not like being put in this position by Senator Raikes. If the system sticks with their original resolution supporting LB 342 and it fails, we still have a study resolution as well as next session. He then stated that he believes it would be a mistake to sign off on something when there is so much uncertainty.

Baack stated that he needs some guidance from the board on how to proceed in the Legislature. Potter stated that Baack does have guidance in the form of the original resolution supporting LB 342. Baack stated that LB 342 does not exist as originally introduced. Potter stated that a meeting can not be called every time an amendment is introduced to a legislative bill. Grabowski stated that a meeting is taking place right now where it can be discussed. Baack then asked if he is just supposed to endorse LB 342 as introduced and what kind of message does that send to the Legislature. Potter again stated the association can not call a meeting every time there is an amendment. McClure stated that the association knows what is before them right now and we need to take a position on what the bill is currently. Feit stated that the association needs to look at which scenario the system can live with or if none are acceptable, the reasoning behind that decision because the LB 342 as originally written does not exist anymore.

Grabowski asked if every board member had a copy of the proposed scenarios which were provided by Senator Raikes office. (Not every board member had a copy so a short break was had so copies could be made and each board member could review the handout.)

Grabowski asked if everyone had a chance to review the handout.

**MOTION BY STEVE GRABOWSKI AND SECOND BY TOM PERKINS that the NCCA Board of Directors show their support for scenario four as presented by Senator Raikes's office in his amendment to LB 342 and in the case of no Legislative support, support then shifts back to LB 342 as originally written.**

Grabowski stated that he believes if the board can come out of the meeting speaking with one voice, he thinks the 32 co-sponsors of the original bill will be in support of the amendment and will be able to override a Governor veto. Baack stated he feels the same way and he will encourage Senator Raikes to state in his introduction of the bill that the only way the system really wants the bill to pass is with the extra \$12 million dollars or the new formula will not work correctly. Grabowski stated that the system needs a fall back point and the original bill would be that point. Baack then stated he does not want the system to end up with nothing happening and going back to the original bill if necessary will give the system some base adjustments. Poessnecker stated that the one thing that is bothering him is the speed in which everything is happening. Baack stated that he does not like it either but once it moves off of general file, the system should have more time to run the numbers and make some adjustments if necessary.

A roll call vote was taken.

**Voting Aye:** Feit, Grabowski, Gramberg, Harvey, Hornung, McClure, Perkins, Poessnecker, Potter, Schluckebier, Schneider, Wilson

**Voting Nay:** None

**RESULT: Motion carried twelve (12) ayes, and no nays.**

Baack then stated that it was really important what the board just did and if in the future this formula is not in the best interest of the system, he will make every effort to make the adjustments as needed. This action will also help him tremendously when speaking with Senators.

Perkins then stated that Baack could convey to the Senators that a western area college and eastern area college were the colleges which made the motion and second.

## **7. TEAM 2 / BUDGET & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

### **A. Executive Director's Evaluation Process**

Gramberg stated that four members of Team 2 met via conference call on April 25, 2007. The committee reviewed the evaluation instrument and made only minor

changes. The evaluation form will be mailed to all NCCA board members and CEO's in mid June and should be returned to him mid-July.

**B. Review and Acceptance of Preliminary 2008 NCCA Budget**

Williams stated that there was one correction to the proposed budget and that was the increase of property tax expense by \$200 which would take care of the property taxes on the leased copier. Gramberg stated that Team 2 recommends the preliminary approval of the 2008 NCCA budget.

**MOTION BY HAROLD MCCLURE AND SECOND BY LYNN SCHLUCKEBIER that the NCCA Board of Directors accepts the preliminary 2008 NCCA budget as amended.**

A roll call vote was taken.

**Voting Aye:** Feit, Grabowski, Gramberg, Harvey, Hornung, McClure, Perkins, Poessnecker, Potter, Schluckebier, Schneider, Wilson

**Voting Nay:** None

**RESULT: Motion carried twelve (12) ayes and no nays.**

**C. Review and Acceptance of 2006 NCCA Financial Audit**

Gramberg stated that Team 2 reviewed the 2006 financial audit and recommends approval of the audit.

**MOTION BY MERLYN GRAMBERG AND SECOND BY TOM PERKINS that the NCCA Board of Directors approves the 2006 NCCA financial audit.**

A roll call vote was taken.

**Voting Aye:** Feit, Grabowski, Gramberg, Harvey, Hornung, McClure, Perkins, Poessnecker, Potter, Schluckebier, Schneider, Wilson

**Voting Nay:** None

**RESULT: Motion carried twelve (12) ayes and no nays.**

**8. COUNCIL OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS' REPORT**

Dr. Franzen began first by thanking Southeast, in particularly Dr. Huck and Ted Suhr, for all the work they put in to the new formula in regard to running the numbers each time new information was available. He then stated that at the previous CEO

meeting, Dr. Chipps was selected to represent the community colleges on the Education Committee of the Nebraska Information and Technology Council with Dr. Ely who is already a member.

**A. Approve FY 2007-2008 Financial Statement Guidelines**

Dr. Franzen stated that the CEO Council recommends approval of the FY 2007-2008 Financial Statement Guidelines with only minor changes being made.

Baack stated that with the possibility of new formula being implemented, the Audit Guidelines will not be presented at this meeting for approval. If a new formula is passed, the audit guidelines will need to be carefully reviewed and edited prior to the board being able to take action on them.

**MOTION BY TOM PERKINS AND SECOND BY ROBERT FEIT that the NCCA Board of Directors approves the 2007-2008 Financial Audit Guidelines.**

A roll call vote was taken.

**Voting Aye:** Feit, Grabowski, Gramberg, Harvey, Hornung, McClure, Perkins, Poessnecker, Potter, Schluckebier, Schneider, Wilson

**Voting Nay:** None

**RESULT: Motion carried twelve (12) ayes and no nays.**

**9. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Gramberg asked for any questions or comments regarding the treasurer's report. There were none.

**10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Baack stated that he will be visiting each area board in the fall.

**11. ACCT STATE CHAIR REPORT**

A written report was included in the board packet.

**12. NETV COMMISSION REPORT**

A written report was included in the board packet.

**13. COMMENTS AND CONCERNS OF GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS**

There were no additional comments or concerns.

#### **14. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. NCCA Third Quarter Meeting – August 11, 2007 – Milford
- B. NCCA Fourth Quarter Meeting – November 13, 2007 – Video Conference
- C. National Legislative Seminar – February 11 – 13, 2008 – Washington, D.C.
- D. AACC Annual Convention – April 5 – 8, 2008 – Philadelphia, PA
- E. National Legislative Seminar – February 9 – 11, 2009 – Washington, D.C.
- F. AACC Annual Convention – To Be Determined
- G. National Legislative Seminar – February 8 – 10, 2010 – Washington, D.C.
- H. AACC Annual Convention – April 17 – 20, 2010 – Seattle, WA

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

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Keith Harvey, President

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Lynn Schluckebier, Secretary