



Board of Governors Meeting Minutes

Board of Governors-Northeast Community College Area

8/21/2025 9:30 AMCDT

@ Northeast Community College, Lifelong Learning Center, Suite O197, 801 E. Benjamin Ave., Norfolk, NE 68701

Attendance

Present:

Members: Del Ames, Steve Anderson, Diane Davies, Donovan Ellis, Terry Nelson, Dirk Petersen, Julie Robinson, Jeffrey Scherer, Nicole Sedlacek, Carol A. Sibbel, Pat Wojcik

Staff:

Leah Barrett, David Cone, Scott Gray, Jerry Guenther, Tracy Kruse, Amanda Nipp, Diane Reikofski, Lindsay Spiegel, Charlene Widener

Guests: Stacy Dieckman, Director of Financial Aid; Avery Carl, *Norfolk Daily News*; Tee Bush, Faculty Association president; Kristi Rastede, Faculty Association president-elect; Wendy Swenson, Faculty Association secretary; Brandon Keller, Faculty Association treasurer

1. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING (Presenters: Jeffrey Scherer)

The Northeast Community College Board of Governors met for its regular session Board Meeting on Thursday, August 21, 2025, in Suite O197 of the Lifelong Learning Center, 801 E. Benjamin Avenue. Norfolk, NE.

Chairperson Scherer convened the meeting at 9:37 a.m. with a quorum present.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Presenters: Jeffrey Scherer)

Chairperson Scherer led the assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. OPEN MEETINGS ACT

Pursuant to Nebraska Statute Section 84-1412, the public is advised that a copy of today's agenda and all reproducible printed material which will be discussed at today's meeting is located in Suite O197 of the Lifelong Learning Center, located on the Northeast Community College website. Also available in Suite O197 is a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act which is accessible to members of the public.

4. CONSENT AGENDA (Presenters: Jeffrey Scherer)

APPROVE the Consent Agenda including:

- **Adopt** the Agenda of the August 21, 2025 meeting. Official Notice of the meeting is posted on the Northeast Community College website, and published in the Norfolk Daily Newson Saturday, August 16, 2025.
- **APPROVE** Minutes of the [June 12, 2025](#) Board of Governors meeting.

 [Board of Governors Meeting-06.12.2025 Minutes.pdf](#)

 [Consent Agenda](#)

Motion:

MOTION to APPROVE the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion moved by Pat Wojcik and motion seconded by Del Ames. Voting Yes: Ames, Anderson, Davies, Ellis, Nelson, Petersen, Robinson, Scherer, Sedlacek, Sibbel, and Wojcik. Voting No: None. Absent: None. MOTION CARRIED.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

5.1. President's monthly update (Presenters: Leah Barrett)

President's [Monthly Update 08.2025](#)
[FTE-REU \(June 2025 and 2024\) Final](#)

 [FTE-REU \(June 2025 and 2024\) Final.pdf](#)

 [President's Monthly Update 08.2025.pdf](#)

Dr. Leah Barrett introduced and welcomed the new reporter from the *Norfolk Daily News*, Avery Carl.

Dr. Barrett provided a preview of fall enrollment numbers and reported that summer enrollment was up 10% in headcount and 4% in credit hours, noting increases in non-degree and Early College students. She discussed the college's approach to student loan default prevention through training and targeted communications to students at different stages of delinquency, provided a federal and state legislative update, highlighted campus events and community engagement, and advised of upcoming initiatives.

5.2. Monitoring Report(s) (Presenters: Leah Barrett)

EL-04, [Planning](#)

 [EL-04 Planning.pdf](#)

Evidence within monitoring report, EL-04, [Planning](#), certifies compliance, ensuring resource allocation avoids fiscal jeopardy and aligns with the Board's Ends.

The Board of Governors assessed monitoring report, EL-04, Planning, and determined that there is ample evidence of compliance with a reasonable interpretation.

6. BOARD EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

6.1. Administrative Services Report

6.1.1. Budget discussion (Presenters: Scott Gray)

- Preliminary discussion of proposed general fund and capital fund budgets.

Scott Gray provided a review of the general fund five-year planning document, noting a decrease in tuition revenue due to declining credit hours despite increased dual enrollment, and discusses a small decrease in state aid because larger community colleges with higher enrollment are receiving more funding.

Review was given to the capital fund budget, building fund budget, and the five-year facilities plan. Additional review and discussion will be held in September.

Request was made for the Excel budget documents to be made available as a separate file before meetings to allow board members to review it in advance.

Mr. Gray stated that he appreciates having the August board meeting later in the month as his office received certified property valuations over the last few days and noting a 14.23% increase in property valuations across the 20-county service area.

6.1.2. Budget limit authority (Presenters: Scott Gray)

Consider an additional one percent (1%) increase in the total 2025-2026 restricted funds authority.

☑ [Additional one percent \(1%\) increase in the total 2025-2026 restricted funds authority](#)

Scott Gray advised that it is fiscally prudent to approve the one (1) percent increase in the total 2025-2026 restricted fund budget limit authority to assure that Northeast continues to have the authority to receive all the restricted funds for which the College is eligible.

Motion:

Motion moved by Diane Davies and motion seconded by Nicole Sedlacek.
Voting Yes: Ames, Anderson, Davies, Ellis, Nelson, Petersen, Robinson,
Scherer, Sedlacek, Sibbel, and Wojcik. Voting No: None. Absent: None.
MOTION CARRIED.

6.1.3. Monthly Financial Report and Paid Bills Report (Presenters: Scott Gray)

CONSIDER the [Monthly Financial Report](#) for July 31, 2025, and the [Paid Bills Report](#) for July 2025. Board members who received reimbursement during the month abstain from voting on those items only:
Petersen, Dirk - \$325.80

 [Monthly Financial Report-July 31, 2025.pdf](#)

 [Paid Bills-July 2025.pdf](#)

 [Monthly Financial Report and Paid Bills](#)

Scott Gray presented the Monthly Financial Report, noting that the General Fund balance typically declines in July and August due to the absence of state aid and Future Fund payments during these months. As part of the paid bills report, payments to Ellucian and Carnegie, LLC were reviewed. Ellucian provides the College's web and enterprise systems, while Carnegie, LLC supports the Marketing department with advertising services.

Motion:

MOTION to APPROVE the [Monthly Financial Report](#) for July 31, 2025, and the [Paid Bills Report](#) for July 2025 with board members who received reimbursement during the month abstain from voting on those items only.

Motion moved by Carol A. Sibbel and motion seconded by Diane Davies.
Voting Yes: Ames, Anderson, Davies, Ellis, Nelson, Petersen, Robinson,
Scherer, Sedlacek, Sibbel, and Wojcik. Voting No: None. Absent: None.
MOTION CARRIED.

6.1.4. Review, discuss, and consider the 2025-2026 Board of Governors budget (Presenters: Scott Gray)

[2025-05-20 - BOG Budget](#)

 [2025-05-20 - BOG Budget.pdf](#)

 [Board of Governors budget](#)

Review given to the Board of Governors proposed budget, noting that the NCCA dues didn't increase as anticipated when the budget was prepared in June.

Motion:

MOTION to approve the 2026 Board of Governors proposed budget as presented.

Motion moved by Terry Nelson and motion seconded by Donovan Ellis. Voting Yes: Ames, Anderson, Davies, Ellis, Nelson, Petersen, Robinson, Scherer, Sedlacek, Sibbel, and Wojcik. Voting No: None. Absent: None. MOTION CARRIED.

6.1.5. JED Campus update (Presenters: Amanda Nipp)

[JED Campus](#)

 [JED Campus.pdf](#)

Amanda Nipp reported that Northeast Community College became a JED Campus after several years of work with the JED Foundation, focusing on suicide prevention and student mental health. The initiative has led to increased mental health training for faculty and staff, more student screenings, and the creation of an Active Minds chapter on campus. Results include a 10% decrease in students keeping sad feelings to themselves, a 12% increase in students knowing where to access counseling, and 96% of students agreeing that administration listens to health concerns. Ongoing challenges include an increase in substance use, and the need to secure continued funding for the additional counselor position.

7. LUNCH

Lifelong Learning Center, Suites C & D

At 12:23 p.m., Chairperson Scherer declared the meeting recessed for lunch. As part of the Ownership Linkage activities, officers of the Faculty Association, Professional/Managerial Association, and the Classified Staff Association joined the Board of Governors for lunch.

Chairperson Scherer declared the meeting back in session at 1:11 p.m.

8. BOARD EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

8.1. Development/External Relations Report

8.1.1. Achievement Award nominees (Presenters: Tracy Kruse)

Consider the 2025 Alumni Hall of Success and Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA) Distinguished Alumni [nominees](#).

📎 [Achievement Award Nominees](#)

Nominees for 2025 Alumni Hall of Success Awards and the Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA) Distinguished Alumni awards were discussed.

The Achievement Awards Ceremony is scheduled to be held September 25, 2025.

Motion:

MOTION to APPROVE the 2025 Alumni Hall of Success Awards and the Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA) Distinguished Alumni award nominees as presented.

Motion moved by Dirk Petersen and motion seconded by Nicole Sedlacek. Voting Yes: Ames, Anderson, Davies, Ellis, Nelson, Petersen, Robinson, Scherer, Sedlacek, Sibbel, and Wojcik. Voting No: None. Absent: None. MOTION CARRIED.

8.1.2. Foundation Board of Directors (Presenters: Del Ames, Terry Nelson)

Quarterly Foundation [Board of Directors update](#)

📎 [Foundation BoD-20250821notes for BoG Representatives.pdf](#)

Terry Nelson reported that this was his first time attending the Foundation Board of Directors meeting.

- Met on July 22, 2025.
- New board members include John Kozyra, Jeanne Reigle, and Brian Schwartz were each approved for three-year terms, 2025-2028.
- The Weller Foundation is now a subsidiary of the Northeast Community College Foundation.

- Celebrated that Northeast Community College Foundation provides \$1.2 million in scholarships annually. This does not include Weller Foundation scholarship dollars.

Chairperson Scherer shared that a few parents have expressed concerns regarding the impact of credit hour totals on their children's financial aid eligibility. Specifically, some students have accumulated credits through dual enrollment courses taken during high school, which may be affecting their current aid status. He noted this as a topic for further consideration.

8.1.3. Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA) Report (Presenters: Nicole Sedlacek, Pat Wojcik)

- The August meeting was held at Southeast Community College
- Their strategic planning focused on securing continued funding for community colleges and dual credit programs, with plans to introduce at least two bills in the upcoming legislative session.
- Nicole Sedlacek was selected as NCCA president for next year.
- NCCA budget was approved, noting that there is no increase in membership dues.
- The NCCA Annual Meeting will be held November 2-3, 2025, at Southeast Community College in Lincoln.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT on Monitoring Report or Board Education and Information

Individuals commenting on Monitoring Report or Board Education and Information are allowed three minutes each. Any member of the public wishing to address the Board of Governors may sign in and comment to the Board at this time.

No constituents were in attendance to address the Board of Governors with a public comment.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1. Governance Committee (Presenters: Dirk Petersen)

[Governance Committee Notes](#)-August 6, 2025

[Monitoring Report Summary](#)

 [Board Governance Committee Meeting - August 6, 2025 Notes.pdf](#)

The Governance Committee met via Zoom on August 6, 2025.
Content review as held on EL-09, [Organizational Integrity](#). Policy content was reviewed and there were no suggestions for revision.
Dirk Petersen expressed his appreciation for including the Monitoring Report Summary in the Governance Committee meetings, noting that it enables the committee to effectively follow up on any issues that may have arisen during the presentation of the monthly monitoring report.

10.1.1. FIRST READING

FIRST READING for the DELETION of:

- [BP-7244 Full-time Faculty Load Policy](#)
- [BP-7246 Adjunct Faculty Load Policy](#)
- [BP-7226 Instructional Day Policy](#)

The above three policies have been incorporated into [AP-7244.0 Faculty Load](#)

- [BP-7015 Workplace Threats & Violence Reporting Policy](#) (Incorporated into [AP-7015.0 Workplace Threats & Violence Reporting](#))
- [BP-7231 Continuation/Amendment/Termination of Employment-Faculty Policy](#) (Incorporated into [AP-7231.0 Continuation/Amendment/Termination of Employment-Faculty](#))
- [BP-7540 Workers' Compensation Policy](#) (Incorporated into [AP-7540.0 Workers' Compensation](#))
- [BP-7810 Reduction in Force Policy](#). (Incorporated into [AP-7810.0 Reduction in Force](#))

11. PUBLIC COMMENT on Committee Reports:

Individuals commenting on Committee Reports or Items for Decision are allowed three minutes each. Any member of the public wishing to address the Board of Governors may sign in and comment to the Board at this time.

No constituents were attendance to address the Board of Governors with the public comment.

12. OTHER

Other announcements and birthdays for the month.

Chairperson Scherer acknowledged staff members observing birthdays during the month of August.

13. Meeting Self-Evaluation (Presenters: Jeffrey Scherer)

Board Meeting [Self-Evaluation](#)-August 21, 2025

 [Board Meeting Self-Evaluation-August 21, 2025.pdf](#)

14. ADJOURNMENT

At 3:17 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, it was UNANIMOUSLY PASSED by VOICE VOTE to ADJOURN the meeting.