



Board of Governors Meeting Minutes

Board of Governors-Northeast Community College Area

10/9/2025 9:30 AMCDT

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

Attendance

Present:

Members: Del Ames - Member, Board of Governors, Steve Anderson - Member, Board of Governors, Donovan Ellis - Vice-Chairperson, Board of Governors, Terry Nelson - Member, Board of Governors, Dirk Petersen - Member, Board of Governors, Julie Robinson - Member, Board of Governors, Jeffrey Scherer - Chairperson, Board of Governors, Carol A. Sibbel - Member, Board of Governors, Pat Wojcik - Member, Board of Governors, Leah Barrett - President, Scott Gray - Vice President, Administrative Services and General Counsel, Charlene Widener - Vice President, Educational Services, Amanda Nipp - Vice President, Student Services, Mike Walkowiak - Vice President, Human Resources & Organizational Development, Lindsay Spiegel - Director, Institutional Effectiveness, Jerry Guenther - Director, Public Relations, Diane Reikofski - Executive Assistant and Board Recording Secretary

Guests: Courtney Wittstruck, NCCA Executive Director, Stacy Dieckman, Director of Financial Aid, Wendy Swenson, Faculty, Tee Bush, Faculty, Avery Carl, *Norfolk Daily News*

Absent:

Members: Diane Davies - Member, Board of Governors, Nicole Sedlacek - Secretary, Board of Governors

1. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING (Presenters: Jeffrey Scherer)

Chairperson Scherer convened the meeting at 9:36 a.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Presenters: Jeffrey Scherer)

Chairperson Scherer led the assembly in pledging their allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

3. OPEN MEETINGS ACT (Presenters: Jeffrey Scherer)

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.

Chairperson Scherer advised that a copy of today's agenda and all reproducible material is located at the back of the room and is also located on the Northeast Community College website.

4. CONSENT AGENDA (Presenters: Jeffrey Scherer)

APPROVE the Consent Agenda including:

- **Adopt** the Agenda of the October 9, 2025 meeting. Official Notice of the meeting is posted on the Northeast Community College website, and published in the [Norfolk Daily News](#) on Saturday, October 4, 2025.
- **APPROVE** [Minutes of the September 25, 2025](#) Board of Governors meeting.

 [Board of Governors Meeting-09.25.2025-Minutes.pdf](#)

 [Consent Agenda](#)

Motion:

MOTION to **APPROVE** the consent agenda including:

- **Adopt** the Agenda of the October 9, 2025 meeting. Official Notice of the meeting is posted on the Northeast Community College website, and published in the [Norfolk Daily News](#) on Saturday, October 4, 2025.
- **APPROVE** [Minutes of the September 25, 2025](#) Board of Governors meeting.

Motion moved by Del Ames and motion seconded by Carol A. Sibbel. Voting yes: Ames, Anderson, Ellis, Nelson, Petersen, Scherer, and Sibbel. Absent: Davies-UNEXCUSED and Robinson, Sedlacek, and Wojcik-EXCUSED. MOTION CARRIED

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

EL-02, [Access to Education](#)

Complete [EL-02, Access to Education October 2025.pdf](#) [Monitoring Report Summary](#)

 [Monitoring Report Summary-October 2025.pdf](#)

 [EL-02, Access to Education October 2025.pdf](#)

Dr. Leah Barrett presented the monitoring report, EL-02, [Access to Education](#), while highlighting the following:

Pat Wojcik arrived at 9:42 a.m.

- Based on the Ruffalo-Noel-Levitz Student Satisfaction Survey, Northeast outperformed the Midwestern cohort in financial aid, registration services, and advising and counseling satisfaction scores.
- Northeast's tuition revenue does not exceed 20% of the general fund budget.
- Northeast's tuition and fee rates do not exceed those of the Nebraska state colleges or the university system.
- Graduation rates for students with disabilities is within 10% of the graduation rate for students without disabilities.
- Tuition and fees were approved and published in advance, supporting student financial planning
- Student participation in internships and faculty engagement exceeded peer averages.
- Teach out plans are in place to ensure that students can complete a program should it be discontinued.

This is the final monitoring report using the revised format, which was based on the guidance received from the Governance Coach.

The Governance Committee will review and update item #1 in the Access to Education policy to better align with the current funding formula.

The Board of Governors assessed monitoring report, EL-02, [Access to Education](#), and determined that evidence supports compliance with a reasonable interpretation.

The Monitoring Report Summary was reviewed and updated. Lindsay Spiegel explained how policy changes are tracked using Policy Stat software, ensuring a record of all versions and modifications.

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

[President's Monthly Update 10.2025](#)

[Community Colleges Must Be Resilient by Design letter](#)

[Resilient by Design](#)

 [Community Colleges Must Be Resilient by Design letter.pdf](#)

 [Resilient by Design.pdf](#)

 [President's Monthly update 10.2025.pdf](#)

Board members were encouraged to read AACC's Resilient by Design: The Future of America's Community Colleges.

Julie Robinson arrived at 10:26 a.m.

Northeast Community College was recognized in *Midwest Messenger* as the Best Agricultural Higher Education College and the Best Technical School.

Conferences and convenings that Dr. Barrett has participated in include:

- Meeting at the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank. Six leaders of community colleges in the Kansas City region attended the meeting. The main focus was on low- and moderate-income communities.
- CTE Unlocked with leaders from the Nebraska Department of Education.
- 6 Regions, 1 Nebraska will meet on the Northeast Community College campus on October 14th. A state-wide work-based learning initiative will be announced.

6. BOARD EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

6.1. Student Services Report

6.1.1. Enrollment reporting (Presenters: Amanda Nipp)

[County Fact Sheets](#)

 [County Fact Sheets 2024-2025.pdf](#)

Amanda Nipp provided the County Fact Sheets for the 20-county service area. Data includes the number of students from each county that take Northeast courses, how many high school graduates attend Northeast, Adult Education program, online courses, dual credit, etc. This is helpful information as board members engage with constituents.

NOTE: Corrected County Fact Sheets will be provided to replace the inaccurate ones provided during today's meeting.

Amanda advised that in March she will provide longitudinal reporting on enrollment numbers comparing two-year and four-year colleges, using the most recent IPEDS data.

6.1.2. Annual college affordability update (Presenters: Stacy Dieckman)

[College affordability](#) 10.09.25

 [College Affordability 10.9.25 BoG Final.pdf](#)

Stacy Dieckman presented a detailed overview of the cost of attendance at Northeast Community College for the 2024-25 academic year, including

tuition, fees, housing, and other expenses. She explained how financial aid is packaged for students, including Pell grants, loans, and other forms of assistance. The presentation also included the average financial profile of a typical Northeast student. Stacy noted that Northeast's peer group may change in the future based on new recommendations.

6.2. Administrative Services Report

6.2.1. 2026-2027 tuition, fees, room, and board rates (Presenters: Scott Gray)

Consider the 2026-2027 tuition, fees, room, and board rates.

[Board Finance Meeting Tuition&Fees 10.09.25](#)

[2025-09-25 - Tuition Rate Scenarios](#)

 [Board Finance Meeting Tuition&Fees 10.09.25.pdf](#)

 [2025-09-25 - Tuition Rate Scenarios.pdf](#)

 [Tuition, fees, room, and board rates](#)

Initial review and discussion regarding tuition and fee rates, along with review of peer institution comparative data was held during the September meeting.

- Reviewed tuition, fees, room, and board rates, noting historical and forecasted decreases in credit hours.
- Discussed implications of a proposed \$2.00 or \$3.00 increase in tuition costs and potential impact on affordability as well as obligations.
- Debated on a steady increase approach versus larger infrequent increases in tuition and fees.
- Discussed transparency in increases and how free dual credit impacts perceived tuition hikes.
- Recommendation is to increase the 2026-2027 tuition rate by \$2.00 per credit, with no increase in fees.

Scott Gray reviewed housing and meal plan costs.

- The board discussed the impact of contractual agreement on meal costs and the difficulties of maintaining affordability.
- Request was made that in the future, more data be gathered on how other institutions handle tuition and housing costs.
- Recommendation to increase the average housing and meal plan rates from \$4,707 to \$4,848, or 2.98%, for 2027-2028.

Motion:

MOTION to APPROVE tuition, fees, average housing and meal plan rates for 2026-2027 as follows:

- Resident and border state tuition rate increase by \$2.00 to \$112.00 per credit hour.
- Non-resident tuition rate increase by \$2.00 to \$155.00 per credit hour.
- Student services fee remain at \$5.00 per credit hour.
- Facility fee remain at \$9.00 per credit hour.
- Technology fee remain at \$7.00 per credit hour.
- Average housing and meal plan rate be set at \$4,848 per semester.

Motion moved by Steve Anderson and motion seconded by Pat Wojcik. Voting yes: Ames, Anderson, Ellis, Nelson, Petersen, Robinson, Scherer, Sibbel, and Wojcik. Absent: Davies-UNEXCUSED and Sedlacek-EXCUSED. MOTION CARRIED

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

CONSIDER the [Monthly Financial Report](#) for September 30, 2025, and the [Paid Bills Report](#) for September 2025.

 [Monthly Financial Report-September 30, 2025.pdf](#)

 [Paid Bills Report-September 2025.pdf](#)

 [Monthly Financial and Paid Bills Report](#)

Items of note within the Monthly Financial Report included increases in government appropriations, auxiliary fund revenues, and grants.

Items of significance within the Paid Bills Report include payment to Canto, Inc., which is the digital management for the website, and to Caltura, which is part of the Canvas platform.

As a follow up to a question from the September Paid Bills Report, the payment to Ascent Learning was for nursing curriculum materials that are used throughout the year.

Motion:

MOTION to APPROVE the Monthly Financial Report and Paid Bills Report for September 30, 2025.

Motion moved by Donovan Ellis and motion seconded by Dirk Petersen.
Voting yes: Ames, Anderson, Ellis, Nelson, Petersen, Robinson, Scherer,
Sibbel, and Wojcik. Absent: Davies-UNEXCUSED and Sedlacek-EXCUSED.
MOTION CARRIED

7. 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.

8. LUNCH

Lifelong Learning Center, Suite K

Chairperson Scherer declared the meeting recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m.

Chairperson Scherer declared the meeting back in session at 12:56 p.m.

9. COLLEGE REPORTS

[Student Leadership Association](#) (SLA) report

 [SLA-BoG October Meeting.pdf](#)

Introduction of Student Leadership Association (SLA) officers Kyler Mosel-president; Olivia Dekok-vice president; Jaylyn Spencer-secretary, and SLA members, Isaiah Saldana, Sam Gibbs, Madison Tunender, Gracie Walters, and Jordan Patzel.

- The Student Leadership Association presented their 2025 project which is to install ice machines on campus. They will collaborate to identify installation locations on campus and identify potential partners for funding.
- Discussed their monthly forum on suicide prevention.
- SLA members provided personal background information, current goals, and their reason for joining SLA.
- Chairperson Scherer thanked SLA officers and representatives for the attendance at and participation in today's meeting.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1. NCCA Board of Directors Report (Guests: Courtney Wittstruck, NCCA Executive Director)

Courtney Wittstruck, NCCA Executive Director, reviewed the following:

- Summary of the 2025 Legislative Session.
- Preview of the 2026 Legislative Session.
- NCCA Board of Directors 2026 Legislative Priorities.
- Important Dates including ACCT Leadership Congress in New Orleans, LA and the NCCA Annual Meeting, November 2-3, 2025 in Lincoln.

10.2. Governance Committee (Presenters: Dirk Petersen)

Governance Committee [Notes-September 30, 2025](#)

 [Board Governance Committee Meeting - September 30, 2025 Notes.pdf](#)

The Governance Committee met via Zoom on September 30, 2025.

- Content review was conducted on:
 1. EL-08, Communication and Support to the Board. No suggestions for revision.
 2. GP-08, Board Committee Structure. No suggestions for revision
 3. BPD-05, President Succession. No suggestions for revision.
- Board Self-Evaluation was conducted on:
 1. GP-08, Board Committee Structure. No items required follow-up.
 2. BPD-05, President Succession. No items required follow-up.

10.3. Ownership Linkage Committee (Presenters: Del Ames)

Ownership Linkage Committee [Notes-October 1, 2025](#)

 [Ownership Linkage Committee Meeting Notes-10.01.2025.pdf](#)

The Ownership Linkage Committee met via Zoom on October 1, 2025.

- During the committee meeting, Lindsay Spiegel provided a great overview of the data that has been collected from the roundtable discussions and the methods used to assess the data. Data from all sessions in O'Neill, South Sioux City, Norfolk, West Point, along with student sessions, will be fully compiled and made available early next year.
- Suggestion was made to offer tours at the extended campuses and the main Norfolk campus with board members accompanying constituents. This will provide an opportunity to have buy-in from our owners and make them aware of what is available.

- The format for the November 13th West Point roundtable discussion will be consistent with what has occurred at the other extended campuses.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT on Committee Reports:

Individuals commenting on Committee Reports 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.

12. OTHER

Other announcements and birthdays for the month.

Chairperson Scherer extended birthday wishes to board members observing birthdays during the month of October.

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

[Board Meeting Self-Evaluation](#)-October 9, 2025

 [Board Meeting Self-Evaluation-October 9, 2025.pdf](#)

14. ADJOURNMENT

At **3:23 p.m.**, there being no further business to discuss, it was UNANIMOUSLY PASSED by VOICE VOTE to ADJOURN the meeting.