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Our Mission

NWCCD welcomes all learners, empowers student success, encourages and strengthens community development.

NORTHERN WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT - BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Regular Meeting

Thursday, February 20, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

Sheridan College – Whitney Building – W 132

Trustees Present

Walt Wragge, Chair
Robert Leibrich, Vice Chair
Debra Wendtland, Treasurer
Shelley Wilson Kinnison, Secretary
Bruce Hoffman, Trustee
Gary Koltiska, Trustee

Trustees Absent

Norleen Healy, Trustee

Advisory Board Representatives Present

Cindy Kremers, Chair, Johnson County Advisory Board
Robert Palmer, Chair, Gillette College Advisory Board

Advisory Board Representatives Absent

Administration Present

Dr. Walt Tribley, President
Janell Oberlander, Vice President of Gillette College
Cheryl Heath, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Jen Crouse, Sheridan College Foundation Executive Director & Interim VPSA
Estella Castillo-Garrison, Vice President of Academic Affairs
Heidi Gross, Gillette College Foundation Executive Director
Wendy Smith, Associate Vice President for Strategic Communication & Public Relations

Administration Absent

Jennifer McArthur, AVP of Human Resources

Others Present

Hayden Heaphy, NWCCD Board Counsel
Darcy Petersen, Sheridan Press
Dr. Mark Bergman, Faculty Senate President

Dennis Zezas, Sheridan College SGA President
Richard Cisneros, GC Advisory Board
Pat Blair, Sheridan Media

Recorder

Andrea Morgan

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

NWCCD Board Vice Chair, Robert Leibrich, called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:29 p.m. and asked if there was a quorum. There was a quorum.

Vice Chair Leibrich announced that NWCCD has a new Chair of the Gillette College Advisory Board, Mr. Robert Palmer.

2. Agenda Additions/Deletions

Vice Chair Leibrich asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. There were none.

3. Point of Personal Privilege

Vice Chair Leibrich granted a point of personal privilege to Chair Wragge. Chair Wragge, attending by phone, expressed his appreciation for all the good graces, blessings, and prayers received in his time of distress. He thanked Dr. Tribley, Wendy Smith, and Deb Wendtland for being of assistance during his stay in the hospital. He named several legislators who visited him in the hospital and brought him a get well card signed by the Wyoming House of Representatives and Governor Mark Gordon.

4. Consent Agenda

Vice Chair Robert Leibrich asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Trustee Bruce Hoffman moved and Trustee Koltiska seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

5. President's Report – Dr. Walt Tribley

Dr. Tribley echoed the welcome given by Vice Chair Leibrich of Mr. Robert Palmer as the new Gillette College Advisory Board Chair. Dr. Tribley reported going to Washington D.C. for the ACCT National Legislative Summit. Dr. Tribley met with Ms. Cheney and her staff regarding making the PELL Grant more accessible and flexible for community college students.

Dr. Tribley recently presented student survey data and letters of support from local industry leaders for the development of an applied baccalaureate degree to the WCCC. As a result, NWCCD was authorized to take the next steps in the development of an applied baccalaureate degree. The next steps include requesting a substantive change from the Higher Learning Commission, our accrediting agency. The HLC will evaluate our capacity to offer a four year degree. Dr. Tribley acknowledged Dr. Estella Castillo-Garrison for her work on the applied baccalaureate.

NWCCD Weekend Welding Programs are gaining notoriety in our communities. The programs are now full with waitlists for both campuses. The program is designed for working adults and student aid is available through Wyoming Works.

NWCCD will offer a new CNA course beginning March 17, 2020.

NWCCD sent quite a few representatives to attend the WACCT Awards in Cheyenne including students.

No questions.

6. Gillette College Advisory Board Report – Robert Palmer, Chair

Mr. Palmer deferred to Janell Oberlander for a report as he has been chair for only two days.

VP Oberlander reviewed the recent changes to the GC Advisory Board executive team and members. Ryan Shrock, approved at the January 16, 2020 NWCCD board meeting, attended his first GC Advisory Board meeting yesterday. Alice Bratton made the decision to step away from the advisory board, but Josh McGrath has agreed to step into her role. He was approved by the advisory board yesterday and will be presented for NWCCD Board approval next month. GC PTK induction will take place tomorrow. Tech Battle Day occurred at Gillette College last week. More information to come on the veterans' welcome home event hosted by the Governor in Sheridan and Gillette.

No questions.

Johnson County Advisory Board Report – Cindy Kremers, Chair

Cindy Kremers reported on enrollment and courses taught in Johnson County. A substitute teacher course taught in Johnson County recently concluded. It had 7 students. Spring 2020 dual and concurrent enrollment is 47 students compared to 19 students last year. The shared space with New West alternative high school expands our ability to connect with students. The first Buffalo High School CNA class began last month with 7 students. The Johnson County Advisory Board awarded 4 Rope for Knowledge scholarships this semester and hope to have more applicants next semester.

No questions.

Gillette College Foundation – Heidi Gross, Executive Director of Gillette College Foundation

GCF will have their annual awards and scholarship dinner next week. GCF has more than doubled their scholarship budget in the six years that Ms. Gross has been with the foundation. This year, the Spirit of Gillette College award will go to Gregg Blikry. The Individual Builder award will go to Jim and Deb McLeland. And, the Corporate Builder award will go to Hladky Investments. The sixth annual dinner theater event, which raises operating funds for the foundation, will be on April 4, 2020 in the Pronghorn Center. GCF is working on the operating budget for next fiscal year.

No questions.

7. Organization Reports

a. Faculty Senate – Dr. Mark Bergman

The Digital Learning Workgroup has prepared a resource to help faculty apply best practices when using Canvas in their distance learning courses. The document has been approved by the senate and is now available to assist faculty.

Another workgroup was tasked with updating the faculty handbook. It was discovered that having an electronic version of this document allows for efficiency when updating the policies and procedures contained in it. This is particularly useful for new faculty looking for this information.

The Faculty Senate is collaborating with the Curriculum and Standards Committee to ensure faculty have information related to the common course numbering system which allows for the transfer of credits across the state.

The Faculty Senate recently approved a computer science pathways certificate which will be a great benefit for our students.

Vice Chair Leibrich asked for clarification on the rubric for distance learning and whether the guidelines would become standard practice in online courses. Dr. Mark Bergman agreed that they would be standards for both traditional and online courses.

b. Student Government Association – Dennis Zezas, President – Sheridan College

Dennis Zezas reported a slow start to the Spring 2020 semester for SGA. They have struggled with attendance and making quorum. The executive team plans to increase communication and marketing efforts to promote student participation in SGA and other campus activities.

No questions.

8. Public Comments

No comments.

9. Old Business – None

10. Key Monitoring Reports – None

11. New Business – None

12. Adjourn

Vice Chair Leibrich asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Koltiska moved and Trustee Hoffman seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Michelle Wilson Kinnison
NWCCD Board of Trustees, Secretary



Walter Wragge
NWCCD Board of Trustees, Chair