

SBCCOE Meeting - December 2024

Minutes

December 11, 2024

Virtual Meeting

I. REGULAR SESSION CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mascareñaz called the **December 11, 2024** regular meeting of the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education to order at **11:15pm MST**.

A. Roll Call

Mary Reeves, State Board Coordinator, called the roll. With the attendance noted below, a quorum was reached, and the meeting proceeded.

Attendance

Present:

Members: Saige Chapin, Ross Dueber, Rollie Heath, Tatiana Hernandez, Catlyn Keenan, Landon Mascareñaz, Karen McNeil-Miller, Terrance McWilliams, Brad Rupert, Cathy Shull, Steven Trujillo

Absent:

Members: Yolanda Ortega

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Terrance McWilliams, Vice Chair, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. CCCS Land Acknowledgement

Rollie Heath, Immediate Past Chair, read the Land Acknowledgement for the Colorado Community College System.

CCCS Land Acknowledgement

The Colorado Community College System acknowledges, with respect, the land we are presenting from today is the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Apache, Arapaho, Cheyenne, Pueblo, Shoshone, Kiowa, and Ute Nations, tribes, and peoples. This land was also a site of trade gathering and healing for numerous other Native tribes. We recognize the Indigenous peoples as original stewards of this land and all the relatives within it. As these words of acknowledgment are spoke and heard, the ties Nations have to their traditional lands are renewed and reaffirmed.

D. Approve Minutes of October 9, 2024

Motion:

Chair Mascareñaz requested a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on October 9, 2024.

Motion moved by Rollie Heath and motion seconded by Ross Dueber. The motion passed.

E. Approve Agenda for December 11, 2024

Motion:

Chair Mascareñaz requested a motion to approve the agenda of the regular meeting held on December 11, 2024.

Motion moved by Terrance McWilliams and motion seconded by Tatiana Hernandez. The motion passed.

II. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS APPROVAL

Chair Mascareñaz requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda containing the items noted below.

1. Career Technical Act (CTA) Allocation Approval
2. Community College of Denver (CCD) Approval of a High School Diploma Program Fee
3. Arapahoe Community College (ACC) Advisory Council Nominee: Kelly Kovar for Re-Appointment to a Full Term from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2029.
4. Arapahoe Community College (ACC) Advisory Council Nominee: David Marshall for New Appointment to a Full Term from November 20, 2024 through November 19, 2028.
5. Community College of Aurora (CCA) Advisory Council Nominee: Lynn Baca for New Appointment to a Full Term from December 1, 2024 through November 30, 2028.
6. Community College of Aurora (CCA) Advisory Council Nominee: Rhonda Fields for New Appointment to a Full Term from December 1, 2024 through November 30, 2028.
7. Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC) Advisory Council Nominee: Ray Beck for New Appointment to a Full Term from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2029.

Motion:

Motion moved by Terrance McWilliams and motion seconded by Rollie Heath. The motion passed.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Mascareñaz asked the State Board Coordinator if anyone had signed up to address the Board. Hearing that no one had signed up, the Chair continued the meeting.

IV. REPORTS

A. Ad hoc Committee Report, Brad Rupert

• **Formation and Purpose of the Ad Hoc Committee:**

- Established to make the board's processes more transparent and inclusive.
- Charged with conducting an inventory of committees and boards, exploring processes for board member participation, and introducing or approving bylaw changes.

- **Committee Activities:**
 - Reviewed current bylaws and practices for appointments to committees and the nominating and electing of officers.
 - Assessed the qualifications for various service opportunities (committee member roles, board roles, and officer roles).
- **Values and Goals:**
 - Focused on transparency, inclusivity, and efficiency.
 - Aimed to encourage board member participation while preserving flexibility and informality.
 - Sought to avoid processes that might encourage factionalism.
- **Recommendations:**
 - The staff will maintain a list of service opportunities and their qualifications, terms, and time commitments, to be included in the orientation process for new board members.
 - The Chair will invite board members to express their interests in vacancies, ensuring they have the necessary skills and experience.
 - Clarify the appointment and approval process for committees, councils, and other boards, the chair will recommend appointments and the board will vote to approve the recommendation.
 - Amend bylaws to clarify the nomination and election process for the board chair and vice chair, including the formation of a nominating committee with three board members (either the chair or vice chair, and two non-candidates).
- **Implementation and Approval:**
 - The committee recommended that the full board approve these improvements.
 - Emphasized the importance of these changes for improving clarity, participation, and collaboration within the board.

B. Audit Committee Report, Cathy Shull, Chair

- **Grant Management Process Audits:**
 - First audit at Otero College (OC) is wrapping up.
 - Two audits at Front Range Community College (FRCC) and Northeastern Junior College (NJC) are in process.
- **Quarterly Compliance Audits:**
 - Conducted from March 24 to August 24 to ensure effective controls over travel processes.
 - Internal audits reviewed a sample of travel transactions.
- **Perkins Monitoring Reviews:**
 - Reviews over costs and certain data for FY24 have begun.
- **Office of Civil Rights Monitoring:**
 - Twelve of the 18 required visits for the 2023-2025 biennial period have been completed.
- **Cyber Security Audit:**
 - Internal audit continues to follow up on some findings.
- **Annual Financial Statement Audit:**
 - Performed by Forvis Mazars and presented with positive results.

- **External Quality Assessment:**
 - Conducted by Clifton Larson Allen, in process and scheduled for completion in mid-December.
- **New Standards for Internal Auditors:**
 - Released by the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) in January 2024, required to be implemented by January 2025.
 - Department will revise Board Policy 7-01 (Audit Committee Authority and Charter) and present changes at the February meeting.
- **CTA Audits:**
 - Approved postponement of one Career and Technical Act (CTA) audit from FY25 to FY26.
 - Finalized the CTA audit plan for FY25.
- **Department Vacancy:**
 - One vacancy in the compliance specialty position.

C. Chancellor's Report, Joe Garcia

- **Strategic Plan:**
 - Expressed excitement about the approval of the new strategic plan, acknowledging the extensive work and engagement involved.
- **Graduation Rates:**
 - Highlighted progress in graduation rates, particularly among African American and Latino students, contributing to closing equity gaps.
 - Mentioned a public radio story that recognized Colorado Community Colleges' success in improving graduation rates.
- **Recognition of Past Chair Heath:**
 - Announced that the formal recognition for past chair Heath eight years of service will be held on January 29, 2025 at the CCCS Day at the Capitol.
- **Audit Progress:**
 - Noted improvements at Pueblo Community College, thanking Mark Superka, Kelsey Jones, and the System office and PCC finance teams for their efforts in addressing prior years PCC audit issues.
- **Lowry Campus Property:**
 - Discussed the official release of the deed restriction on the Lowry campus property, allowing for potential re-development
 - Emphasized the methodical approach the staff and Board are taking to planning that in the future will involve key stakeholders including from Aurora, Denver, and surrounding areas.
- **Legislative Activities:**
 - Mentioned upcoming appearances before the Capital Development Committee (CDC), Joint Technology Committee (JTC), and Joint Budget Committee (JBC) to discuss funding for various projects.
 - Acknowledged the challenging budget year and the need to push for increased general fund support.

- **Enrollment Growth:**

- Reported continued growth in enrollment, with fall enrollment up by 4.8%, driven by a 9.9% increase in concurrent enrollment and a 2.3% increase in degree-seeking student enrollment.
- Noted early projections for spring enrollment showing a 1.1% increase overall and an 8.6% increase in online enrollment.

D. State Faculty Advisory Council (SFAC), Dr. Catlyn Keenan, SFAC Representative

- **Academic Freedom:**

- SFAC has a solid first draft of language for the Board Policy (BP) and corresponding System Procedure (SP) on academic freedom.
- The draft is being reviewed by faculty, with a meeting scheduled for January 24, 2025 to gather feedback.
- A finalized BP is expected to be presented to the board in 2025.

- **Colorado Online:**

- Transitioning from project phase to operations, with all pooled online classes now run through the new consortium.
- Emphasized the importance of including faculty and instructors in decision-making processes.
- Highlighted the need for ongoing support and the cooperative leadership of initiatives by faculty and instructors.

- **Bylaws Update:**

- SFAC is updating its bylaws, with significant changes including:
 - Separating the chair of SFAC from the position of representative to the state board.
 - Increasing the term limits for the board representative from two years to three years.
- The updated BP will be brought to the board in February, followed by the approval of the bylaws.

- **Belonging Survey:**

- Identified three areas of focus from the faculty data:
 - Perceived lack of trust between faculty and senior college leadership.
 - Concerns about salary.
 - Lack of work-life balance.
- Aiming to address these gaps through the strategic plan to improve faculty retention and morale.

- **State Budget Concerns:**

- Expressed concern about the state budget and its potential impact, monitoring the situation closely.

E. State Student Advisory Council (SSAC), Saige Chapin, Chair

- **Healthy Minds and Student Pantries Initiatives:**

- CDHE initiatives are being reviewed to ensure availability on all campuses.

- Addressing funding issues for student pantries, aiming for a more consistent funding method.
- **SNAP Benefits and Student Medicaid:**
 - Efforts to get SNAP benefits accepted on campuses.
 - Working on a student Medicaid initiative for the next legislative session.
- **State Student Representatives:**
 - Discussion about creating state student representatives for universities, community colleges, and another category.
 - Saige has been proposed as the representative for community colleges in Colorado.
- **Student Day at the Capitol:**
 - Planning a day at the Capitol for student representatives to meet and discuss initiatives.

F. Chair's Report, Dr. Landon Mascareñaz

- **Economic Mobility:**
 - Emphasized economic mobility as a key priority and a guiding principle.
 - Highlighted the importance of learning from global perspectives, such as the European Union (EU) workforce summit he attended to understand economic mobility strategies.
- **Visionary and Actionable Strategic Plan:**
 - Stressed the need for a strategic plan that is both visionary and actionable to prepare for rapid social and technological changes.
 - Mentioned the importance of having tools, ideas, and targets to equip learners and the community college system for the future.
- **Future Ready Community College System:**
 - Praised the efforts to build innovative infrastructure and master plans that are learner-centered and focused.
 - Recognized the work of presidents and staff in creating a future-ready system that adapts to the evolving educational landscape.
- **Energized and Activated Board:**
 - Acknowledged the significant progress made by the board, thanks to the efforts of the ad hoc committee.
 - Emphasized the importance of being inclusive and transparent to strengthen and improve the board's effectiveness.

G. Presidents' Emerging News

- **Dr. Lance Bolton, President, Pikes Peak State College (PPSC)**
 - Highlighted the success of the Dakota Promise program, which increased college-going rates and retention rates in Harrison School District 2. He also mentioned the passing of a mill levy override that will fund a publicly funded first-dollar promise program.

- **Dr. Mike White, President, Northeastern Community College (NJC)**
 - Shared the approval of their paramedic program's self-study report by the accreditation committee, moving them closer to becoming accredited.
- **Dr. Marielena DeSanctis, President, Community College of Denver (CCD)**
 - Spoke about her recent visit to the White House, where she represented the Colorado Community College System (CCCS) and discussed higher education initiatives with President Biden and Dr. Jill Biden.
- **Dr. Rosana Reyes, President, Lamar Community College (LCC)**
 - Announced the completion of Lamar Community College's fourth new home build, which will soon be available for sale.
- **Dr. Colleen Simpson, President, Front Range Community College (FRCC)**
 - Introduced the Ram Transfer Academy, a partnership between FRCC and Colorado State University (CSU) that allows students to be dually enrolled and participate in both institutions' activities.
- **Dr. Mordecai Brownlee, President, Community College of Aurora (CCA)**
 - Announced that CCA will be featured in a campaign by Jobs for the Future, highlighting their efforts in workforce development and economic mobility.
- **Dr. Kim Zant, President, Otero College (OC)**
 - Expressed pride in the group's strategic plan and shared the success of Otero's second annual Frost Fest, which had over 850 community members in attendance. Frost Fest is a community event which invites everyone to join in a magical evening filled with activities, including a roller-skating rink, a heartwarming tree lighting ceremony, and personalized crafting booths for holiday decorations. Attendees can enjoy winter treats, hot cocoa, and live music, creating meaningful memories alongside our Otero students and staff.

V. DISCUSSION and ACTION ITEMS

The Board acted upon each item listed below.

A. Discussion and First Reading of the Proposed Amendment to the SBCCOE Bylaws, Angie Gramse

This was the first reading of the proposed amendment to the SBCCOE Bylaws. Board action will be taken in February 2025.

B. Approval of the New Strategic Plan and Conceptual Financial Commitments in Support of the Plan

Motion:

Motion moved by Rollie Heath and motion seconded by Karen McNeil-Miller. The motion passed.

- C. Approval to Appoint Landon Mascareñaz to serve on the Auraria Higher Education Center (AHEC) Board of Directors

Motion:

Motion moved by Cathy Shull and motion seconded by Brad Rupert. The motion passed.

- D. Approval of BP 3-10, Administration of Personnel

Motion:

Motion moved by Terrance McWilliams and motion seconded by Brad Rupert. The motion passed.

- E. Approval of BP 4-60, Acceptable Identification Process for Student Services Transactions

Motion:

Motion moved by Karen McNeil-Miller and motion seconded by Brad Rupert. The motion passed.

- F. Approval of the ACC Facilities Master Plan

Motion:

Motion moved by Tatiana Hernandez and motion seconded by Ross Dueber. The motion passed.

- G. Approval of the PPSC Spending Authority Request for Student Technology Lease Program

Motion:

Motion moved by Terrance McWilliams and motion seconded by Steven Trujillo. The motion passed.

- H. Approval of the PPSC Spending Authority Request Fire Science Program

Motion:

Motion moved by Tatiana Hernandez and motion seconded by Brad Rupert. The motion passed.

- I. Approval of the PCC Spending Authority Request for the Construction of a Nursing Simulation Lab at the Fremont Campus

Motion:

Motion moved by Steven Trujillo and motion seconded by Brad Rupert. The motion passed.

- J. Approval of the RRCC Spending Authority Request for Mental Health Services provided by Jefferson Center for Mental Health (JCMH)

Motion:

Motion moved by Brad Rupert and motion seconded by Tatiana Hernandez. The motion passed.

- K. Approval of the CCCS Spending Authority Request for NET Tutor

Motion:

Motion moved by Terrance McWilliams and motion seconded by Brad Rupert. The motion passed.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Chair Mascareñaz asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion moved by Ross Dueber and motion seconded by Tatiana Hernandez. The motion passed and the **December 11, 2024** meeting of the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education was adjourned at **12:25pm MST**.