

SBCCOE Meeting- March 12, 2025

Minutes

Arapahoe Community College, 5900 S. Santa Fe Dr., Littleton, 80120

I. SBCCOE REGULAR SESSION

A. Call to Order

Chair Mascareñaz called the **March 12, 2025** meeting of the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education to order at **9:05am MDT**.

B. 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: Ross Dueber, Tatiana Hernandez, Catlyn Keenan, Landon Mascareñaz, Karen McNeil-Miller, Terrance McWilliams, Yolanda Ortega, Brad Rupert, Angelika Schroeder, Cathy Shull

Absent:

Members: Saige Chapin, Steven Trujillo

C. SBCCOE EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board will convene in executive session, pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute 24-6-402(3)(a)(II), 24-6-402(3)(b)(I), 24-6-402(3)(a)(IV) to confer with the Board's attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice, to discuss personnel matters, and to discuss specialized details of security arrangements.

Motion:

Chair Mascareñaz requested for a motion to enter the Executive Session.

Motion moved by Ross Dueber and motion seconded by Angelika Schroeder. The motion passed.

Motion:

Chair Mascareñaz requested a motion to exit the Executive Session. Motion moved by Tatiana Hernandez and motion seconded by Ross Dueber. The motion passed and the Executive Session ended at 10:40am MDT.

The Board then proceeded with the Work Session.

II. REGULAR SESSION

A. Call Back to Order

Following the Work Session and a recess for lunch, Chair Mascareñaz called the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education back to order at **1:59pm MDT**.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Member Brad Rupert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. ACC Land Acknowledgement

Member Karen McNeil-Miller read the Land Acknowledgement for Arapahoe Community College.

As a means of expressing our gratitude, and in recognition of whose territory we reside in, we want to start our meetings by acknowledging the indigenous history of the land our institution is occupying, and specifically the peoples of the Arapaho, Cheyenne, Ute, and Očhéthi Šakówinj tribes. We are obligated to reflect on, and actively address, the history of this area, including the Sand Creek Massacre, as we continue in our work to move this institution towards a more inclusive and welcoming place for all people.

D. Approve Minutes of February 12, 2025 Regular Meeting

Motion:

Chair Mascareñaz requested a motion to approve the Minutes of February 12, 2025 Regular Meeting

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

The motion passed.

E. Approve Minutes of February 18, 2025 Special Meeting

Motion:

Chair Mascareñaz requested a motion to approve the Minutes of February 18, 2025 Special Meeting

Motion moved by Karen McNeil-Miller and motion seconded by Yolanda Ortega. The motion passed.

F. Approve Minutes of February 24, 2025 Special Meeting

Motion:

Chair Mascareñaz requested a motion to approve the Minutes of February 24, 2025 Special Meeting

Motion moved by Yolanda Ortega and motion seconded by Tatiana Hernandez. The motion passed.

G. Approve Agenda for March 12, 2025

Motion:

Chair Mascareñaz requested a motion to approve the Agenda for March 12, 2025

Motion moved by Tatiana Hernandez and motion seconded by Angelika Schroeder. The motion passed.

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS APPROVAL

Motion:

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

- Northeastern Junior College Advisory Council Nominee: Mike Brownell for New Appointment to a Full Term from March 12, 2025 through March 13, 2029.
- Pikes Peak State College Advisory Council Nominee: Lindsay Pack Moll for New Appointment to a Full Term from April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2029.

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

IV. 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.

V. REPORTS

A. Chancellor's Report, Joe Garcia

- Thanked board member McNeil-Miller for the opportunity to present the results of the Law Enforcement Academy project to the Colorado Health Foundation Board. He was joined by Dr. Landon Pirius, Dr. Sarah Heath, and Adam Cermak.
 - The project aimed to reexamine the education of future law enforcement officers to better prepare them to work in increasingly diverse communities.
 - Supported by the Colorado Health Foundation, the project led to changes in the curriculum of CCCS colleges law enforcement academies and training for existing officers within law enforcement agencies throughout Colorado.
 - He recognized Dr. Landon Pirius for playing a crucial role in initiating the project after discussions following the George Floyd tragedy.
- Federal Developments:

- Continues to be tumultuous and unsettling and is challenging to keep up. No major impacts since his February update that requires us to change course. As I mentioned in February, we had anticipated significant disruption and set up our legal team as point to monitor and advise, and regular & frequent communication cadence to keep our Presidents informed, but the breadth, depth, and pace has been jarring to individuals as well as to colleges and the system.
- At this time, there have been no broad sweeping programmatic impacts or funding freezes across the system. Federal funding streams, such as Perkins (Career and Technical Education), TRIO programs (supports to students from disadvantaged backgrounds), and grants for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) to better serve Hispanic students, today remain unaffected across all 13 colleges and the system office. Additionally, there has been no disruption to Federal Financial Aid, including Pell Grants and Direct Loans, nor to Veteran Affairs/GI Benefits for students. However, as individual grant awards are being reviewed by federal agencies, we have seen a few official notifications where colleges are subrecipients.
- The loss of federal employees that administer federal grants could have administrative impact in the days ahead.
- Beyond procedural adjustments related to Title IX compliance and protocols for handling ICE officials on campus, the executive orders have not significantly affected our colleges or system operations. However, we recognize the emotional toll and uncertainty these immigration-related orders have placed on our undocumented students and those with undocumented family members. Last week we had an immigration attorney make a presentation to our Presidents. The colleges are providing resources for mental health support services, academic advising, counseling services, and connections to community organizations that offer immigration resources and legal referrals to help students.
- Assured the Board that CCCS remains focused on ensuring a safe and welcoming learning environment for all students and employees, and we continue to monitor developments to ensure we are operating within the law. He will continue to keep the Board informed.

B. Audit Committee, Cathy Shull, Chair

- The audit department received the highest rating of "generally conforms" in an external quality review of our CCCS Internal Audit department. Congratulations to Director, Danielle Bundy, and the Internal Audit team.
- The Department revised and the Audit Committee approved changes to Board Policy 7-01, Audit Committee Authority and Charter, which is scheduled for Board discussion and action today.
- The Audit Committee reviewed and approved Internal Audit's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan.

- Three grant management process audits were performed.
- Quarterly compliance, Career Technical Act audits, Perkins monitoring reviews and the Office for Civil Rights monitoring reviews were completed.
- A cybersecurity audit follow-up is also in progress.

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

- System Procedures:
 - Two system procedures are being finalized: one on academic freedom and another on the use of artificial intelligence (AI).
 - Within the academic freedom system procedure, the definition and value statement of academic freedom reads: *“Academic freedom is the principle that scholars, researchers, and educators should be free to pursue, teach, and communicate ideas without fear of censorship, coercion, undue interference, or retribution from government, institutional or system authorities, or external groups.”* This procedure on Academic Freedom applies to all instructors and faculty, regardless of modality. This includes, but is not limited to, face-to-face, online, remote, hybrid, and Concurrent Enrollment classes.
 - The AI system procedure encourages the use of innovative tools while aligning with ethical standards and prioritizing human values. The most important statement outlines ethical use and integrity and reads: *“Employees and students are encouraged to explore and leverage innovative tools, including AI, to enhance their learning and academic or professional success. The use of AI should align with ethical standards prioritizing human values like non-discrimination, equitable outcomes, accountability, avoiding harm, and respect for privacy.”*
 - Both procedures are receiving positive feedback from faculty.
- Concerns about No Compensation for Serving on the Chancellor Search Advisory Committee
 - Faculty representation on the search advisory committee for the next chancellor is important, but it appears most work will occur when faculty are off contract.
 - SFAC is investigating the possibility of providing stipends from the SFAC budget for faculty volunteers involved in the search advisory committee.
- SFAC expressed its appreciation for the Board’s dedication to education. It is trying times to be a college professor. SFAC hears the commitment to access for anyone seeking to better their lives and feels the support of the work done by faculty.

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

Ms. Chapin was absent from the meeting and no SSAC report was provided.

E. Chair's Report, Dr. Landon Mascareñaz

- Economic Mobility – the North Star:
 - Recognized the leadership effort required to maintain focus on economic mobility for students amidst economic headwinds and incredibly challenging federal and state developments.
 - Challenged the group to think about what it would mean to be "recession responsive" and adapt to changing economic and political forces and pushing through to act on the blueprint we have in front of us in our new strategic plan.
- Visionary and Actionable Strategic Plan
 - Our commitment to a visionary and actionable strategic plan calls for the creation of an ad hoc committee on the implementation of the strategic plan that will be taken up next month, so we ensure the strategic plan is actionable and not just a document that sits on the shelf or becomes digital dust. He envisions the committee will include board members, presidents, system staff, philanthropy partners, and business leaders
- Future Ready CCCS:
 - Celebrate the accomplishments of Chancellor Garcia over the next several months.
 - The search for the next chancellor will be national, with a focus on candidates' records in delivering on strategic plan commitments.
 - The search advisory committee will include board members and broad representation to ensure a comprehensive search process.
 - Appreciate the five Board members that will serve on the Search Advisory Committee: Dr. Ross Dueber, Vice Chair Terrence McWilliams, Dr. Angelika Schroeder, Tatiana Hernandez, and Yolanda Ortega.
 - Also expressed appreciation to those members serving on the Nominating Committee for Board Officers for FY26.

F. Presidents' Emerging News

Dr. Rosana Reyes, President, Lamar Community College

- Scholarship Dinner and Community Engagement:
 - LCC held a successful scholarship dinner with close to 250 attendees, including elected officials, students, parents, and community members.
 - The event was highly profitable due to the many sponsorships as well as the fundraising for student scholarships.

Dr. Mordecai Brownlee, President, Community College of Aurora

- Learned last week that he will receive the Man of the Year award from the Chamber of Commerce of Aurora.
- Faculty members are presenting at conferences, highlighting the college's work in advancing equitable student success.

Dr. Lisa Jones, President, Colorado Northwestern Community College

- Commencement and Student Success:
 - The ESL program serves as a pipeline for students, with three ESL graduates recently admitted to the nursing program.
 - Efforts are being made to increase the number of Concurrent Enrollment students completing credentials before finishing high school.

Dr. Marielena DeSanctis, President, Community College of Denver

- Invited to attend the Aspen Foundations Community College Excellence program national philanthropic event in Washington, DC.
- A partnership with the Colorado Technology Association provided valuable feedback on programs targeted at filling workforce needs within the technology sector.
- The Community College of Denver had its first high school diploma graduate following the program approval by the Board in September 2024. CCD received 500 program applications within ten days of the news story about the first graduate. The program is doing exactly what it was intended to do by allowing people to earn a high school diploma and work toward improving their future.

Dr. Stephanie Fujii, President, Arapahoe Community College

- Advocacy and Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) Commitment:
 - Stephanie Fujii will attend a convening in DC to discuss proactive promotion of educational missions amidst anti-DEI legislation.
 - The support of the Chancellor and Board allows for active participation in national discussions on DEI.

Dr. Colleen Simpson, President, Front Range Community College

- A student from FRCC is a semi-finalist for the highly selective Jack Kent Cooke Foundation transfer scholarship, which offers up to \$55,000 for pursuing a bachelor's degree.

VI. DISCUSSION and ACTION ITEMS

The Board acted upon each item listed below.

A. Discussion and Approval of AGB to conduct the Chancellor Search

Motion:

Motion moved by Tatiana Hernandez and motion seconded by Angelika Schroeder. The motion passed.

B. Discussion and Approval of the Composition of the Chancellor Advisory Search Committee

Motion:

Motion moved by Yolanda Ortega and motion seconded by Karen McNeil-Miller. The motion passed.

C. Discussion and Approval of Chair's Appointments to the 2025-2026 Nominating Committee

Motion:

Chair Mascareñaz requested a motion to approve Vice Chair Terrance McWilliams, member Yolanda Ortega, and member Brad Rupert as the 2025-2026 SBCCOE Nominating Committee members.

Motion moved by Angelika Schroeder and motion seconded by Tatiana Hernandez. The motion passed.

D. Approval of Board Policy 7-01, Audit Committee Authority and Charter

Motion:

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

E. Approval Pueblo Community College (PCC) Spending Authority Request for the Expenditure of Funds on Roof Replacement of the AB Davis Academic Building

Motion:

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

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Chair Mascareñaz requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion moved by Yolanda Ortega and motion seconded by Tatiana Hernandez. The motion passed and the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education regular meeting of **March 12, 2025** was adjourned at **2:40pm MDT**.