

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Monday, February 18, 2008
MINUTES

Chairman Coleman Peterson called the regularly scheduled NWACC Board of Trustees meeting to order on Monday, February 18, 2008, at 4:30 p.m. in the Student Center Multipurpose Room.

Members Present: Coleman Peterson (Chair), Dr. Les Carnine (Vice Chair), Johnny Haney, Mark Lundy, Robert Teague (Secretary), Joan Clifford, Joe Spivey, and Alex Vasquez.

Absent: Krista Khone

Also in Attendance: NWACC president Dr. Becky Paneitz and student trustee Tim Payne.

RECOGNITION:

The Golden Eagle Award was given to student Stacey Marshall. Ms. Marshall spoke briefly about her experiences at NWACC. While thanking the many faculty and staff who have assisted her, she expressed her gratitude for the strong support and encouragement she'd received from math faculty member Barbara Rademacher.

MINUTES:

Joan Clifford moved and Robert Teague seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the Annual Board Meeting on January 14, 2007. The motion passed unanimously. Joan Clifford then moved and Mark Lundy seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the regular monthly Board Meeting, which was also held on January 14, 2007. The motion passed unanimously.

GOALS MONITORING REPORT(s):

There was no report.

EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS MONITORING REPORT(s): EL-206 Asset Protection

The Board reviewed the report for EL-206, Asset Protection. Joe Spivey moved and Joan Clifford seconded the motion to approve the report. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no committee reports. Robert Teague inquired as to the status of the long-range facilities plan. Dr. Les Carnine (chair of the Facilities and Land Use Committee) updated the Board on the status of the Global Business Development Center, Burns Hall renovation, and the ongoing facilities and land use master plan. Dr. Susan Holmes discussed the preliminary results of the community focus groups, and summarized the timeline for the master planning process.

OTHER BOARD ACTION ITEMS AND CONSIDERATIONS:

Debi Buckley, VP for Finance and Administration, presented the administration's proposal for a tuition/fee increase. She summarized the proposal and explained specific recommendations for fee increases. Ms. Buckley noted that those proposed numbers had changed slightly since

the Board first reviewed them during the January work session. She clarified that these numbers had been rounded up, and that there was an increase in the Learning Services fee, and reminded the Board of the proposed use of Ozark Transit. Board Chair Coleman Peterson noted that the use of Ozark Transit has value in sustainability.

Student trustee Tim Payne noted student reaction to the proposed increase has been favorable. He stated that students are willing to pay increased fees if it means their out-of-pocket expenses for class-related materials (art supplies, for example). He also noted that the Ozark Transit proposal had been very well received. The Student Ambassadors had suggested new student orientations and campus tours include information about this service. They also suggested the College consider creating centralized commuter parking for students to “park and ride” the transit buses.

Johnny Haney requested clarification on the need for lab fees in education and business classes, and asked for more information about the phone center. Dr. Chip Ates, EVP for Learning, addressed the lab fees, explaining the high cost of classes such as the Cisco labs, and the cost of teaching supplies needed for the Early Childhood Education classes. Diana Johnson, AVP for Learner Services, explained the need to upgrade procedures for recruiting, admitting, and advising students. With increasing enrollment at regional learning sites, there is an increasing number of students who may rarely or never come to the main campus.

Dr. Carnine stated his hope that NWACC continue to review tuition and fee costs every other year, rather than annually. Joe Spivey followed by asking if the administration had considered a phase-in option over the period of two years. Ms. Buckley responded that this had been discussed at the Board’s January work session, but this proposal did not include a phase-in schedule. Joan Clifford stated her belief that these numbers emphasize the need for communities beyond Rogers and Bentonville to revisit the millage issue. Dr. Paneitz noted that 42% of NWACC pay out-of-district tuition.

Alex Vasquez recognized Ms. Buckley and her staff for their hard work in assembling this proposal, and thanked Tim Payne for taking the initiative to speak with students and gather feedback about the proposed increase. Alex Vasquez then moved and Mark Lundy seconded a motion to approve the tuition and fee increase. The motion passed unanimously.

Next, the Board heard information about the Veterinary Assisting Certificate. Dr. Ates introduced Dr. Katherine Hall, a faculty member currently working at the RTC facility in Fayetteville. Dr. Hall described the regional need for local workforce training. She noted many veterinarians report turnover is a significant issue, as many workers leave their positions in the first 4-6 weeks on the job. Dr. Hall explained that she will teach the classes and local veterinarians will offer labs. Joe Spivey asked if there was any consideration for large-animal vet assisting, and Dr. Hall stated there has been interest expressed among rural students. The program will address some of the large-animal issues; however, the main demand is for small-animal care. Dr. Carnine moved and Robert Teague seconded the motion to approve the Veterinary Assisting Certificate. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

Dr. Paneitz noted the Annual Trustees Conference would be held the following day in Little Rock. Coleman Peterson, Joan Clifford, and Dr. Carnine would attend in addition to herself and Dr. Holmes. She discussed upcoming events at the College, to include the April 3rd Gala.

The Care Foundation, Horace Hardwick, and Wayne Callahan will be honored at this event. She reminded the Board that Fall registration would begin in early April, as well.

CHAIR'S REPORT:

Coleman Peterson congratulated Dr. Paneitz on being honored at this year's Just Communities Banquet. Joan Clifford noted that the format for this event has changed; there will be a reception with entertainment this year.

The Chair reported on the ACCT Legislative Summit, held February 11-13 in Washington DC. Dr. Carnine, Dr. Paneitz, and Dr. Steven Gates, VP for Advancement, attended this event. He thanked Dr. Gates for his work in coordinating the visits to our legislative delegation, and stated that he found the trip very beneficial.

The Chair reminded other Board members that the Board would go into executive session in March, during which time Dr. Paneitz will present her self-evaluation. He emphasized that no decisions would be made during the executive session. In April, the Board will once again go into executive session to discuss the president's performance and salary.

He reminded the Board that the next regular Board meeting will be March 10, 2008, at 4:30 p.m. in SC108.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Coleman Peterson, Chairperson

Robert Teague, Secretary