

**NORTHWEST COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

April 12, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: President DR. MARK WURZEL; Vice President/Secretary MS. TARA KUIPERS; Treasurer MR. BOB NEWSOME; and Trustees MR. JOHN HOUSEL, MS. DENISE LAURSEN, and DR. LARRY TODD.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustee MR. DUSTY SPOMER

OTHERS PRESENT: MS. LISA WATSON, President; DR. GERRY GIRAUD, Vice President for Academic Affairs; MR. DEE HAVIG, Interim Vice President for Student Services; MS. JILL ANDERSON; MR. DUSTIN DICKS; MS. TRACY GASAWAY; MS. JO ANN HEIMER; MS. MICHAELA JONES; MR. CORY OSTERMILLER; MR. DENNIS QUILLEN; MS. LISA SMITH; MS. LINDA SPOMER; MR. MARTIN STENSING; MS. SHELBY WETZEL; MR. ZAC TAYLOR, *Powell Tribune*; and MS. KELI BORDERS, Executive Secretary to the President and Board of Trustees.

CALL TO ORDER: President Dr. Mark Wurzel called the regular meeting of the Northwest College Board of Trustees to order on Monday, April 12, 2023, at 3:31 p.m. in the Meeteetse School cafeteria.

A APPROVE THE AGENDA: **A motion was made by Trustee Kuipers and seconded by Trustee Todd to approve the agenda. Motion carried.**

MISSION MOMENT Upon invitation from President Watson, Shelby Wetzel stated that the third annual Giving Day event was very successful. Giving Day is a twenty-four-hour blitz designed to spur energy and enthusiasm from the alums and community members. During the March 30th event, the Foundation received \$137,851 from 327 donors. Another thirty-two gifts of \$1,600 came in after the cut-off time, bringing the total donor numbers higher than last year and the whole campaign to just under \$140,000. Compared to the previous events, this year's numbers are 29% higher than in 2022 and 22% higher than in 2021.

Shelby stated that one aspect of Giving Day this year was to honor Interim Vice President of Student Services and former Director of Residence and Campus Life Dee Havig. Student Senate generously committed a match of up to \$25,000 to help reach the \$50,000 naming level to name the Havig Housing Office in the new Student Center. Many alumni and community members responded with excitement and love for Dee, reaching the goal.

In addition to naming the housing office, donors could choose from sixteen different departmental programs. Small, manageable projects were identified in numerous academic and programmatic areas that donors could choose to support. Nine of those areas met their goal. In addition, some donors who had previously pledged to support the Student Center came forward and supported other program areas during the event.

Trustee Kuipers stated her appreciation for the energy and enthusiasm surrounding the event. She was traveling at the time but was able to follow along on social media and enjoyed seeing the messages related to people's connection to specific departments and people at the College.

A CONSENT AGENDA: **A motion was made by Trustee Laursen and seconded by Trustee Kuipers to approve the consent agenda.**

Trustee Housel referenced the College President's report and expressed his appreciation for President Watson's engagement at the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) conferences she attended recently.

President Watson stated that while at the HLC conference, she participated in a President's workshop. The discussion was centered around trends in higher

education, such as online learning, enrollment trends, and building a skilled workforce. Dual and concurrent enrollment was also discussed. President Watson found it interesting that in Wyoming and one other state, the colleges are not funded for dual and concurrent enrollment through the legislature. There also seem to be many perspectives on dual and concurrent enrollment and its value to community colleges.

President Watson stated that faculty credentialing was also discussed at length during the conference. Several years ago, it was determined that faculty should be required to be masters prepared in their field of study and/or have a minimum of eighteen credits within that field. This was challenging for high school instructors as many did not have that level of education. This change considerably narrowed down what they could teach. The thought at the time was that those instructors would go back to school to get their educational attainment, but nationwide, that has yet to be the case. So, the discussion is now turning to what faculty credentialing should be, and there are many differing opinions.

President Watson noted another discussion item related to political pressure in many states. Many legislators and governors are dictating changes that need to be made by the colleges. For instance, the Governor of Florida informed all of the colleges and universities in the state that they must change their accrediting body. As a result, representatives from every Florida college attended the conference as they attempted to learn about HLC and what changing accreditors would mean for their institution.

President Watson then attended the AACC conference in Denver but unfortunately had to cut her trip short due to extreme weather. However, while there, she was able to participate in a new CEO Academy. There was a good discussion about politics, quality, accreditation, attainment, and the future of diversity, inclusion, and equity. She noted that many states seem even more conservative than Wyoming, which is showing more tolerance in these areas than some others.

In response to a question from Trustee Housel, President Watson stated that the University of Wyoming requested to hold a recruiting event on the Northwest College campus but that Northwest College would not be included. Instead, the event will be held in Cody. Additionally, assemblies will occur at Powell High School and Cody High School. President Watson feels the President of UW is likely open to Northwest College collaborations, but UW Enrollment Services people are solely focused on UW recruiting.

Trustee Housel stated that in reference to the Personnel Status Report, he is pleased to see that Andy Ward has been hired as the Men's Basketball Coach.

In response to a question from Trustee Housel related to the \$20,000 grant the College received to launch a community paramedic program, President Watson stated that the certification is designed to assist community members who may be housebound by going into their homes and doing wellness checks, helping with medications, etc. The idea is to provide care to individuals in their homes to minimize the potential need for higher-level care in the future.

Trustee Kuipers referred to the Academic Affairs report and specifically the IMPACT 307 entrepreneurship efforts and expressed her appreciation of the College's presence and engagement with entrepreneurship and economic development in various ways.

President Watson stated IMPACT 307 is a project several of the community colleges are collaborating on with the University of Wyoming that she feels has worked quite well, as evidenced by excellent attendance at these events. Through the grant, individuals have been hired within communities to help facilitate entrepreneurial work by collaborating with the university and community college faculty to create workshops. It's a new and creative way to bring new businesses forward, encourage citizens and provide a pathway for attaining the necessary skills for aspiring entrepreneurs in the area.

In response to a question from Trustee Kuipers, President Watson stated that the Wyoming Tomorrow Scholarship's endowment has not yet met the necessary level. While the legislature allocated more funds toward the project, it has not reached the \$50 million needed to fund the endowment fully. However, President Watson is hopeful it will be fully funded next year with the possible addition of money from businesses and foundations that have expressed interest in supporting the adult scholarship program.

Motion carried, and the consent agenda, including the minutes of the March 13, 2023, regular meeting, was approved.

**DISCUSSION/
INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

There were no discussion/informational items on the agenda.

CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM

The Citizens' Open Forum convened at 4:24 p.m. No citizens requested to address the Board; therefore, the Citizen's Open Forum adjourned.

A UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There were no unfinished business items on the agenda.

A NEW BUSINESS:

Major Maintenance projects

President Watson stated that annually, the College submits to the Board a list of major maintenance projects that, upon approval by the Trustees, will be forwarded to the State Construction Department. The list includes new projects and updates to existing projects for the next three fiscal years.

President Watson stated that a couple of projects were delayed last year due to supply chain issues, as described in the memo in the Board packet. However, those projects will be moving forward this summer.

President Watson stated that the community colleges had sought legislative support for security enhancements but had not received funding. Northwest College will instead start a phased approach using major maintenance funding. There will be various phases of the project through the years to improve security across campus. These improvements include card readers on main doors and cameras at doorways that also monitor the surrounding exterior of the buildings.

While major maintenance funds cannot be used for the residence halls, the College will request bids for card readers and cameras to be installed at Simpson Hall. Once there is a better sense of the costs associated with the upgrades, the College will seek approval from the Board to utilize student facilities fees to make those improvements to the residence halls.

In response to a question from Trustee Housel, President Watson stated that the College is in its second phase of parking lot repaving and maintenance. However, the project will never be completed entirely, as parking lots will

continue to need resealing, and others will need to be replaced over time.

Trustee Housel commented that he is hopeful that the College would partner with the City of Powell to improve the portion of 7th Street that runs through campus.

President Watson stated that in addition to the general condition of the street, there are drainage issues as well. The City and the College have not agreed on the best solution to date; therefore, improvements have yet to be made to 7th Street. Once the Student Center project is complete, the College will look into addressing the crosswalks.

A motion was made by Trustee Housel and seconded by Trustee Newsome to approve the proposed Major Maintenance projects. Motion carried.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
FEEDBACK TO CITIZENS'
OPEN FORUM TOPICS:**

May 8, 2023, upcoming:

- Review President and Board Budget
- Preliminary budget presentation
- Renewal of the President's contract
- PVCE contract for services renewal
- State Fall Enrollment report
- Other TBD

President Watson stated that she intends to hold the spring Board retreat at the Nelson House so that Trustees can have lunch in the JFC Dining Hall, visit the Trap in Yellowstone Building, and then tour the new Temporary Dining Facility.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PHI Rho Pi National Forensics Tournament, April 10-15, MD
Cody Writers Series, April 13, Cody Center, Grizzly Room, 6 p.m.
Jazz Night, April 15, 2023, Yellowstone Bldg., 5:30 p.m.
Concert Band, Collegiate Choir, Percussion, April 17, 7:00 p.m. NPA
Advising Day, April 18, All Day
Small Ensembles Concert, April 24, 7:00 p.m. NPA
Student Academic Showcase, April 28, All Day
Run for Berry, April 29, 9:00 a.m., Campus Mall Start
Northwest Civic Orchestra, April 29, 7:00 p.m. NPA
Brass Recital, May 1, 7:00 p.m., NPA
Intercultural Programs End of Year Party, May 6, 4-6 p.m., ICH
May Board meeting, May 8, 3:30 p.m., Yellowstone Building
Final Exams, May 10-12, NWC
Graduation/Commencement, Saturday, May 13, 10:30 a.m., Cabre

A ADJOURNMENT:

In honor of spring, Trustee Housel recited a poem for all to enjoy.

The meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.