

MEETING MINUTES
Arizona Western College
District Governing Board Meeting
Regular Meeting 11:30 am
Yuma Campus and Virtually
October 16, 2025

Board Members Present: Board President Dennis Booth and Board Secretary Olivia Zepeda, Brad Sale and Maria Chavoya

Board Member present by phone, Zoom: None

Board Member Absent: Dr. Kenneth MacFarland

Others Present within Frances Morris Boardroom: (25)

Dr. Daniel Corr, President	Jerry Smith, AWC Athletics Director
Ashley Herrington, Chief of Staff	Karen Davila, Executive Assistant
Ana English, Dean	Kari Wyatt, Executive Assistant
Bryan Doak, Executive Vice President for Learning and Student Services	Kathy Ocampo, Vice President and CHRO
Catherine Rooney, Science Faculty	Lorayne Chandler, AWC Volleyball Coach
Cinthia Reyes, Dean	Lorraine Stofft, VP of Advancement
Czarina Gallegos, Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services	Mandy Heil, Dean of Communications and Marketing
Dr. Emily Kerr, Faculty Senate Representative, Communications Faculty	Luis Martinez, Math Instructor
Dr. Joann Chang, Dean	Salvador Banuelos, Student of the Month
Dr. Cris Gordon, Dean	Onyeka Udodi, Student Government Association President
Dr. Nikki Hage, Dean of Campus Life	Scott Estes, Chief Information Officer
Dr. Reetika Dhawan, CEO of Entrepreneurial College	Stuart Gibson, Dean
Jennifer Freedman, Executive Assistant	

Others Present virtually: (15)

Adeolu Taiwo	Julia Howe
Adriana Perez	Kimberly Trujillo
Alexis Gorman	Kristine Duke
Cristina Gonzales	Melinda Rico
Elaine Groggett	Miguel Alvarez
Joana Fenzel	Nancy Ney
Johanna Megui	Tyler Vodehnal
	Yanet Avila

Community Members Present by Zoom: (1) Laura Corr

Community Members Present in Room: None.

Call to Order: Board Chair Dennis Booth called the Regular Meeting to order at 11:30 am.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda for October 17, 2025, meeting presented for approval.

Motion by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Brad Sale

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Approval of Minutes: The Meeting Minutes for September 18, 2025, presented for approval.

Motion by Olivia Zepeda, seconded by Brad Sale

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Nomination of the ACCT Voting Delegate for the October 2025 Leadership Congress. Nomination of Olivia Zepeda to represent Arizona Western College, by Maria Chavoya.

Motion by Maria Chavoya, seconded by Brad Sale

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Call to the Audience: No one approached the call to the audience.

College Reports

Student Government Association, President Onyeka Udodi – Mr. Udodi welcomed the Board and shared his perspective as a second year Nursing student, expressing his appreciation for the spirit of inclusion and excellence fostered at AWC and within the Student Government Association. He reported that SGA recently met with Ashley Herrington to discuss student engagement and the responsible use of AI. Upcoming SGA events include Salsa Magic, a Salsa Dance Competition, and Transfer Fairs hosted at both the Yuma and San Luis campus locations.

Faculty Senate Association

Dr. Emily Kerr, Faculty Senate Representative to the District Governing Board, shared the October 2025 update, highlighting continued innovation in teaching, learning, and community engagement. Faculty leadership includes Dr. Eric Lee (President), Dr. Kristine Duke (Vice President), and Dr. Kerr (DGB Representative), supported by a diverse team of senators. The featured program showcased the use of VirTra simulators for Administration of Justice and Homeland Security students, providing realistic virtual-reality training for de-escalation and decision-making. Academic highlights included the MathGPT pilot course, the Biology Department's outstanding program review award, and collaborations such as Engineering Day with NAU to promote STEM pathways. Faculty and students engaged in professional growth and community outreach, including participation in conferences, leadership podcasts, Safe Zone training, and scholarship fundraising. Dr. Kerr also recognized Dr. Liza Martinez as AWC's October Key Employee and commended faculty and students for embodying the college's mission of transforming lives through education and partnerships. Finally, she featured the AWC Business Club and their recent attendance at the Chamber of Commerce's Good Morning Yuma event, hosted at the Yuma Campus.

Student of the Month, Salvador Banuelos

Nominated by Professor Catherine Rooney, Salvador Banuelos shared his appreciation for the welcoming and supportive environment he has experienced at the College, noting that he has always felt comfortable connecting with faculty and staff. Ms. Zepeda expressed her admiration and pride in Salvador's initiative and recognized the College community for fostering such a strong culture of encouragement and support.

Action Items

Action Item #1 – Consideration to Accept Candidates for Exempt Positions, presented by Katheline Ocampo
Motion by Maria Chavoya seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

The **Board Approved** the Action Item as Presented.

Summary –

- Alexandra Rangel, KAWC KOFA Civic Engagement Reporter
- Lily McNair, SALUDABLES Project FT Faculty
- Nancy Ney, Executive Administrative Assistant, Finance and Administrative Services
- Ye Huo, Director of Emerging Technology

Action Item #2 – Consideration to Approve Intergovernmental Agreement presented by Czarina Gallegos
Motion by Olivia Zepeda, seconded by Maria Chavoya

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

The **Board Approved** the Action Item as Presented.

Summary –

The College administration recommends that the District Governing Board authorize the College to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Arizona Board of Regents for five years, which will provide financial resources related to the Arizona Program initiative during Fiscal Year 2026.

Action Item #3 – Consideration to Approve Voucher (September 2025) – Presented by Czarina Gallegos
Motion by Olivia Zepeda, seconded by Maria Chavoya

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

The **Board Approved** the Action Item as Presented.

Summary –

Fiscal Status Overview:

Fiscal Status Overview:

- Monthly Operating Cash Balance: \$11,899,925 September 30, 2025, compared to \$11,432,115 on September 30, 2024.

- Current Strength: For the month ending September 30, 2025, revenue increased approximately 26.2% compared to prior fiscal year.
- Revenues vs. Expenses: The District has received 20% of anticipated revenues, with 25% of the budgeted expenditures spent.

Fiscal Revenue Analysis:

- Year-over-Year Comparison Revenues:
 - FY25/26 Actual Revenues: \$12,923,204
 - FY24/25 Actual Revenues: \$10,238,742
 - Percentage Change: An increase of approximately 26.2% in actual revenues.
- Year-over-Year Comparison Expenditures:
 - FY25/26 Actual Expenditures: \$16,648,865

- o FY24/25 Actual Expenditures: \$16,100,919
- o Percentage Change: An increase of approximately 3.4% in actual expenditures.

Enrollment Status:

- Current Enrollment: 92,186 credit hours.
- Comparison with Previous Year: 78,629 credit hours

Early College Highlights:

- Current Enrollment: 18,214 total credit hours, 10,749 are dual enrollment.
- Comparison with Previous Year: 14,839 total credit hours, 9,690 are dual enrollment.

Detailed Financial Data & Key Observations:

- Fiscal Strength: The district continues to show strong financial health, supported by steady enrollment growth, responsible fiscal management, and thoughtful strategic planning.
In September 2025, both revenues and expenditures increased compared to September 2024, reflecting the district's continued growth and investment in its operations.
- Enrollment Expansion: The growth in dual enrollment signifies a positive trend in student participation, providing significant savings to students and fostering community engagement

President's Reports

Student Services: Enrollment Report, Presented by Bryan Doak

Mr. Bryan Doak, Executive Vice President for Learning and Student Services, presented the Enrollment Report, highlighting record growth under Dr. Corr's leadership. Arizona Western College is on pace to exceed its all-time Full-Time Student Equivalent (FTSE) record from 2010–2011, with a 10% overall enrollment increase despite offering 8% fewer course sections—a reflection of strong efficiency and sustained student demand. Over the past five years, AWC has achieved a 42% increase in FTSE, leading all Arizona community colleges in enrollment growth.

Dual enrollment participation continues to expand, reinforcing student access and readiness. Despite statewide declines in community college transfers to Arizona's public universities, AWC transfer students increased by 14.4%, underscoring the College's leadership in advancing student pathways and degree completion. AWC remains focused on strategic initiatives that sustain growth, increase credential attainment, and strengthen university transfer outcomes.

The report reflects the College's continued support of students and its ongoing commitment to removing barriers for both students and staff to ensure continued success.

Advancement: AWC Foundation Report, Presented by Lorraine Stofft

Ms. Lori Stofft, Vice President for Advancement and Executive Director of the AWC Foundation, presented the Advancement Report. The update emphasized the Foundation's mission to make education universally accessible by removing economic barriers. Key highlights included: the Foundation's FY 2024–2025 fundraising success, with \$1.2 million in funds and in-kind donations, including \$303,000 in community-based contributions. All Foundation Board members participated in giving, contributing more than \$91,000 collectively. Program impact exceeded expectations, achieving 169% of fundraising goals and 132% of disbursement targets, with over \$400,000 in scholarships awarded directly to students. FY 2025–2026 began with strong momentum—\$348,000 in donations already processed, and \$260,250 in scholarships disbursed to AWC students and transferring graduates. The Schoolhouse Soirée achieved a sold-out attendance for the

first time in four years, raising funds for student-focused initiatives including the Gold Heart Endowment, First Gen Center refresh, and Anatomage Table purchase.

Ms. Stofft also featured a “Mission Moment,” sharing the story of Ivan, a student who overcame housing and financial insecurity through coordinated support from the Foundation, Financial Aid, and Residential Life. This case underscored the Foundation’s growing role in wrap-around student support and partnerships with local donors and organizations, including a new \$10,000 endowment from the Yuma Community Food Bank.

AWC 2028 Strategic Plan: Fall Update, Presented by Dr. Daniel Corr and Ashley Herrington

The Board received an update on the AWC 2028 Strategic Plan, structured around three guiding pillars: Excelencia, Access, and Disruption.

The presentation highlighted coordinated progress across multiple initiatives, each advancing the College’s mission to expand access and modernize operations for students and institutional success. Key updates included the establishment of the Center for the Future, focused on integrating artificial intelligence, data tools, and emerging technologies across all areas of the College. Leadership positions, including the Director of Emerging Technology, have been filled, and the AI Fellows Program launched with strong participation and statewide recognition. Under the Entrepreneurial College initiative, efforts continue to enhance agility and partnerships through expanded CTE enrollment, industry collaborations, and international engagement, including visits to Oxford, UK, and Taipei, Taiwan. The College also reported ongoing success with student-centered scheduling, improving access and efficiency through data-driven course planning. Efforts to disrupt access and completion barriers are underway through outreach to returning adults, incarcerated populations, and Spanish-speaking students. The Excelencia pillar continues to guide institutional culture, emphasizing belonging, cultural awareness, and student success. The College remains an active participant in the national Excelencia in Education network, with measurable progress toward closing student success gaps and expanding faculty and staff professional development.

Closing Items:

Good of the Order by Dr. Daniel Corr

Dr. Corr expressed his deep gratitude to the District Governing Board for their continued trust and partnership, reaffirming the College’s unwavering commitment to student success, fiscal responsibility, and innovation amid a dynamic higher education environment.

He noted that Fall athletics continue to excel, with the #2-ranked Women’s Soccer team achieving outstanding success. Additionally, Arizona Western College recently hosted the Chamber of Commerce’s Good Morning Yuma event, providing an opportunity to highlight the College’s significant economic impact across Yuma and La Paz counties. The report demonstrates the substantial return on investment for students, the community, and taxpayers, underscoring AWC’s role as an essential economic driver in the region. College leadership will continue sharing this data across community organizations throughout both counties.

Dr. Corr announced his intent to retire as President of Arizona Western College, effective July 2026. Dr. Corr is currently in his 10th year of service in the Arizona Western College District and his 34th year in community college education.

Reflecting on his tenure, Dr. Corr shared, “It has been the honor of my life to work alongside the faculty and staff of AWC to benefit our students and their families. Yuma and La Paz Counties are very special places. I love to say there’s magic happening in our district. Everyone deserves to live in a thriving

community, and AWC is making that happen, from Parker to San Luis and everywhere in between. I know the College faculty and staff will continue to transform lives for generations to come.”

Board Secretary Olivia Zepeda expressed heartfelt appreciation on behalf of the Board, stating, “Thank you, Dr. Corr, for a fantastic ten years of leadership and service. We’ve come such a long way under your guidance—especially embracing your motto of ‘this and that.’ Your vision has inspired tremendous potential across our college, our community, and our students. That momentum will continue to move us forward.”

The Board joined in extending their gratitude for Dr. Corr’s leadership, vision, and dedication to advancing opportunity and excellence throughout the AWC district.

Board Chair, Mr. Booth requested to move into an Executive Session for review of the Process to follow the Announcement of the Retirement of Dr. Daniel Corr.

Recess Into Executive Session; Motion to Recess into Executive Session at 12:50 pm.

Recess to Executive Session:

Motion to adjourn into Executive Session by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Maria Chavoya.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Executive Session Minutes following

IV. Recess to Executive Session

Call to Order at 1:01 pm by Dennis Booth

Executive Session Meeting – Boardroom and Virtual meeting room closed to the public.

Board Members Present: Board President Dennis Booth, Board Secretary Olivia Zepeda, Maria Chavoya and Brad Sale

Board Member present by phone, Zoom: None

Board Member Absent: Dr. Kenneth MacFarland

Others Present within the Meeting Boardroom: (4)

Ashley Herrington, Katheline Ocampo, Lori Stofft, Mandy Heil

Others Present Virtually: None

Discussion

Motion to Adjourn from Executive Session at 1:18 pm.

Motion to adjourn by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Brad Sale.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

>> Resume Regular Meeting <<

Next Meeting: The next meeting scheduled will be November 12, 2025, with the next Regular meeting conducted both in-person and via Zoom and at the Yuma Campus.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Maria Chavoya, seconded by Brad Sale.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

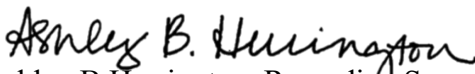
Abstain: None

The Board **Approved** the next meeting date and final matters of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Adjourn: The meeting matters were complete.

Respectfully submitted,


Ashley B Herrington, Recording Secretary