

MEETING MINUTES
Arizona Western College
District Governing Board Meeting
Regular Meeting 12 pm
Yuma Campus and Via Zoom
February 18, 2025

Board Members Present: Board President Dennis Booth, Board Secretary Olivia Zepeda, Brad Sale,
Board Member present by phone, Zoom: Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, Maria Chavoya
Board Member Absent: None

Others Present within Frances Morris Boardroom: (26)

Dr. Daniel Corr, President

Ashley Herrington, Chief of Staff

Anaisa Tremblay, Military and Veteran Services

Bryan Doak, Vice President of Student Services
and Interim Vice President of Learning Services

Cindy Zavala, Director of Campus Life

Czarina Gallegos, Vice President of Finance and
Administrative Services

Dawn Whinnery, Faculty

Dr. Cris Gordon, Associate Dean

Dr. Eric Lee, Faculty

Dr. Joann Chang, Associate Dean

Dr. Michelle Sims, Faculty

Dr. Sarah Snyder, Faculty

Jorge Ramirez, SGA President

Joseph Prieto, Family of Student of the Month

Julia Howe, Human Resources

Karen Davila, Executive Administrative Assistant

Kari Wyatt, Executive Assistant

Kimberly Trujillo, Director of Human Resources

Lori Stofft, Vice President of Advancement

Mandy Heil, Dean of Communications and
Marketing

Michelle Struck, Executive Assistant

Miguel Alvarez, Associate Dean

Noemi Barraza, Executive Assistant

Reetika Dhawan, Chief Executive Officer of
Entrepreneurial College & Vice President of
Workforce & Healthcare

Silvia Kempton, Testing Center

Vivianna Prieto, Student of the Month

Others Present within on Zoom: (15)

Julia Howe

Monica Ketchum-Cardenas

Melinda Rico

Biri Martinez

Steve Eckert

Alfonso Zavala

Cinthia Reyes

Jennifer Freedman

Adriana Perez

Renee Macaluso

Annie Welker

Scott Estes

Noemi Barraza

Renee Munoz

Nathalia Flores

Community Member Present by Zoom: None

Community Members Present in person: 3 Family Members of the Student of the Month

Call to Order: Board Chair Dennis Booth called the Regular Meeting to order at 12:03 pm.

Dr. Corr acknowledged Danny Marron, a highly respected and cherished faculty member who is currently missing in San Diego. He expressed heartfelt concern for Danny's family and gratitude for the College community's ongoing support of his students and colleagues during this challenging time.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda for February 18, 2025, meeting presented for approval.

Motion by Olivia Zepeda, seconded by Brad Sale

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Adoption of Minutes: The minutes of January 16, 2025 meeting presented for approval.

Motion by Olivia Zepeda, seconded by Brad Sale

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, 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, Presented by Jorge Ramirez

Jorge Ramirez, SGA President, provided an update on recent developments, including the introduction of new SGA advisors, Cindy Zavala and Nathalia Flores. He also highlighted upcoming student engagement events aimed at promoting wellbeing and cultural awareness.

SGA participated in the Health and Wellness: Healthy Relationships Fair, hosting a marriage booth to engage students in discussions on relationships and health on February 13 at the Yuma Campus and will be hosted on February 19 at the San Luis Campus. Additionally, SGA is preparing for the Multicultural Expo on March 20 at the Yuma Campus, where international students will showcase their cultures through traditions, music, and fun facts. SGA continues to seek leadership opportunities and remains committed to fostering student involvement and community engagement.

Faculty Senate Association, Presented by Dr. Monica Ketchum-Cardenas

Dr. Ketchum-Cardenas presented an update from the Faculty Senate for the 2024-2025 academic year, highlighting key areas of leadership, strategic initiatives, and faculty accomplishments. The Faculty Senate Association provided an update on key initiatives and faculty accomplishments for February 2025. Led by Dr. Eric Lee (President), Dr. Kristine Duke (Vice-President), and Dr. Monica Ketchum-Cardenas (DGB Representative), the Senate continues to support institutional strategic planning, faculty development, and academic program growth.

Recent efforts include ongoing support for the Excelencia Initiative, aimed at advancing equity and success for Hispanic students, as well as discussions on faculty minimum qualifications and the development of the Fall 2025 course schedule. Additionally, the Medical Assistant Program is expanding under the leadership of Maria Ray, with new training opportunities such as the Onvida Health Medical Assistant Preceptor Workshop and Anatomage Training for faculty.

Faculty members have also engaged in various research and professional development activities. Dr. Sara Amani presented strategies for empowering multilingual writers at the AZTESOL Virtual Workshop, while Dr. Liza Martinez shared best practices for teaching English language learners through the AWC Professional Development Series. Professor Daniel Herrera explored creative expression through spoken word, and Dr. Monica Ketchum-Cardenas presented research on modern revolutionary graffiti and murals. Additionally, Dr. Lizzie Kaipolani Madrona Renaud contributed to discussions on Indigenous healing rituals and community engagement at the California Truth & Healing Council regional hearing.

The Faculty Senate remains committed to enhancing faculty leadership, curriculum development, and student success through strategic initiatives and continued professional growth.

Student of the Month- Vivianna Prieto, Presented by Bryan Doak

Mr. Doak welcomed Dr. Eric Lee, Faculty member within the Communications Department, to talk about Vivianna Prieto. His nomination highlights her dedication, resilience, and commitment to personal and

professional growth. After years of devoting herself to raising children and creating a nurturing home, she has embraced a new chapter by returning to school to pursue dual degrees in English and Psychology. With a passion for supporting veterans' mental health services at the VA and recent acceptance into the honors program at AWC, she exemplifies both the sacrifices parents make for their families and the perseverance of non-traditional students who pursue their dreams despite delays. Her story is a testament to the power of determination, making her a deserving candidate for Student of the Month.

Ms. Prieto shared her thanks to the College for this recognition and acknowledged the support surrounding her to find success, including from her family, faculty members, the Military and Veterans Affairs office at AWC, and beloved professor, Danny Marron.

Recognition of All-Arizona Honors Recipients, Presented by Bryan Doak

Arizona Western College is proud to announce that four outstanding students—Jenifer Ulloa, Christina Blanker, Oscar Romo Guillen, and Dalysha Martinez—have been nominated for the prestigious All-Arizona Academic Team as part of the statewide scholarship competition sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa. Each year, the Arizona Board of Regents awards scholarships to exceptional community college students preparing to transfer to a four-year university. Nominees must meet rigorous criteria, including maintaining a GPA of 3.50 or higher, being in good academic standing while pursuing an associate degree, and demonstrating active involvement in campus or community service. Each college may submit up to two nominations per campus for consideration at the national level. Recipients of this award receive tuition coverage for ten consecutive undergraduate semesters (or 60 credits) at an Arizona public university, along with a special medallion and an invitation to a formal recognition ceremony on February 19, 2025, in Phoenix. Since 1996, Arizona Western College has recognized 65 students as All-Arizona Academic Scholars, continuing its tradition of academic excellence and student achievement.

Action Items

Action Item #1 – Consideration to Approve New Curriculum – Presented by Bryan Doak

Motion by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Brad Sale

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary –

The College is requesting approval of the Associates Degree in Marketing:

- AAS.MKT: Marketing – 64 credits

The College is requesting approval of the Certificate in Marketing:

- CERT.MKT: Marketing – 30 credits

This new Certificate and Degree program will meet the demands of students interested in this field.

Action Item #2 – Consideration to Approve 2025-2026 Budget Assumptions– Presented by Czarina Gallegos

Motion by Brad Sale seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary –

The District Governing Board reviews and provides direction in the development of budget assumptions for the next fiscal year. The administration has drafted the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Assumptions in guidance of the 2025-2026 Budget.

>>> Ms. Maria Chavoya left the meeting, at 12:36 pm. <<<

Action Item #3 – Consideration to Approve the Proposed 2025-2026 Schedule of Tuition and Fees– Presented by Czarina Gallegos

Motion by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Dr. Kenneth MacFarland

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, Brad Sale, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary –

Annually, the District Governing Board reviews the tuition and fees and other charges that will be part of the drafted Annual Budget. The Tuition, Fees and Budget require the District Governing Board Approval for the coming fiscal year. The Schedule of Tuition and Fees apply for the Summer 2025 semester term through the Spring 2026 semester term.

Discussion about the consideration to incrementally adjust the tuition and fee schedule, both to accommodate inflation and the needs of the College. The Board recognized the conservative increase of tuition, up \$3.00 from \$97.00 to \$100 a credit hour; and \$5.00 tuition rate increase for Dual-Enrollment from \$25.00 to \$30.00 a credit hour. Chair Booth requested continued review of costs for Residence Halls

Action Item #4 – Consideration to Approve January 2025 Voucher– Presented by Czarina Gallegos

Motion by Brad Sale seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, Brad Sale, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary –

Fiscal Overview:

All Funds Cash Balance: \$69,593,272 January 31, 2025, compared to \$72,817,730 on January 31, 2024.

- **Monthly Operating Cash Balance:** \$13,955,400 January 31, 2025, compared to \$6,930,440 on January 31, 2024.
- **Current Strength:** For the month ended January 31, 2025, expenditures decreased compared to prior fiscal year by 8.3%.
- **Revenues vs. Expenses:** The District received 71% of anticipated revenues with 57% of the budgeted expenditures spent.

Fiscal Analysis:

o **Year-over-Year Comparison Revenues:**

- o FY24/25 Actual Revenues: \$40,298,743
- o FY23/24 Actual Revenues: \$41,996,533
- o Percentage Change: A decrease of approximately 4.0% in actual revenues.

Year-over-Year Comparison Expenditures:

- o FY24/25 Actual Expenditures: \$39,654,783
- o FY23/24 Actual Expenditures: \$43,239,917
- o Percentage Change: A decrease of approximately 8.3% in actual expenditures.

Enrollment Status:

- **Current Enrollment:** 66,898 credit hours.
- **Comparison with Previous Year:** 60,782 credit hours

Early Education Highlights:

- **Current Enrollment:** 11,291 total credit hours, 5,612 are dual enrollment.
- **Comparison with Previous Year:** 10,656 total credit hours, 5,366 are dual enrollment.

Detailed Financial Data & Key Observations:

- **Fiscal Strength:** Despite a decrease in cash balance and revenues, the district remains in a good fiscal position, with strong financial health supported by consistent growth in enrollment, as well as prudent fiscal management and strategic planning.
- **Revenue Growth:** There is a notable increase in tuition revenue due to increased enrollment.
- **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 Report, Presented by Dr. Daniel P. Corr

Strategic Planning Update AWC 2028

The **AWC 2028 Strategic Plan** was presented by Dr. Corr. He recognized the Planning Process led by Tri-Chairs Lori Stofft, Dr. Sarah Snyder, and Silvia Kempton, who prepared a drafted plan outlining key initiatives aimed at transforming Arizona Western College. The plan is built upon **three pillars: Excelencia, Access, and Disruption**, each designed to drive institutional innovation, improve student success, and ensure long-term sustainability.

The college remains committed to **Excelencia**, fostering a culture that supports all students and celebrates multilingualism and internationalism among students, faculty, and staff. These objectives below summarize the priorities with a continued students first mentality.

1. Establish and fund a Center for the Future (draft name) to vigorously implement AI, data tools, and other disruptive technology across all areas of the college. This Center will support faculty, staff and students in the use of these tools with the goal of improving the student and employee experiences, facilitating student learning, realizing fiscal efficiencies and responding to radical higher education challenges.
2. Accelerate the growth of the Entrepreneurial College by radically expanding the agility of college practices and resources and incenting novel methods to support students, regional industry, and other external partners. This work could include stackable certificates, experiential learning, internships, apprenticeships, industry-sponsored education, and mentorship to successfully prepare students for a career in their chosen discipline. Seek ways to bring experiential learning to all students across the district to emphasize that all

students are part of our future workforce.

3. Develop and implement a centralized student-centered, data-driven schedule of course offerings to improve access, retention and timely degree / credential completion, and increase fiscal efficiencies.
4. Expand access to an AWC education by implementing targeted outreach and support to Early College, OTA (returning students), incarcerated populations, and Spanish-speaking students. Build targeted professional development and systems for faculty and staff to support these efforts.
5. Commit to following the principles of Excelencia by creating a college culture that supports all students, recognizes and celebrates the extraordinary advantage of multilingualism / internationalism among both students and faculty /staff, and embraces language learning across the curriculum. This work will help all students find deep belonging in an environment.

The plan's implementation will be led by Ashley Herrington, with small, fast-moving teams dedicated to each objective. Quarterly updates will be provided at District Governing Board Meetings, and the budget will be aligned to support the outlined goals.

The presentation concluded with collective support for the way the plan has committed to student success and institutional excellence.

District Governing Board Action Items

Action Item #1 – Consideration to Approve AWC2028 Strategic Plan – Presented by Dennis Booth

Motion by Olivia Zepeda, seconded by Brad Sale

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, Brad Sale, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Summary –

The District Governing Board is the publicly elected Governing Body of the five Districts representing La Paz and Yuma counties. Over the past 10 months, the College has prepared AWC2028 Strategic Plan to lead the College through the next three years.

Closing Items:

Good of the Order by Dr. Daniel Corr

Governor Katie Hobbs will visit Wellton on Thursday, February 27, for the Future48 Workforce Accelerator Groundbreaking at the Arizona Western College Wellton Manufacturing Training Center. This new facility, funded by a \$3.6 million grant from the Arizona Commerce Authority through its Future48 program, aims to meet the increasing industry demand in the greater Yuma area. Spanning 5,600 square feet, the center will provide advanced workforce training in electrical technology, advanced manufacturing, broadband fiber optics, and solar installation. The project is set for completion by the end of 2025.

Dr. Corr invited the District Governing Board to the March 3 grand opening of the AWC Transfer Center at the Yuma campus. This event marks a major milestone in supporting students on their path to higher education. The celebration will include a ribbon-cutting ceremony, remarks from key leaders, and an overview of the center's resources. Additionally, the 5th Annual Desert Southwest Transfer Conference will take place March 3-6, in partnership with AWC's university partners and Earn to Learn. This week-long event will feature transfer-focused activities designed to prepare students and alumni for a successful transition to the university of their choice.

Providing an update on the \$1.6 million shortfall caused by the Agua Caliente Solar Judgment, Dr. Corr assured the Board that the College is actively absorbing the unbudgeted deficit through a collective effort across the institution, ensuring no impact on students.

Dr. Corr also recognized Dr. Michelle Sims for her leadership in preparing the launch of a Marketing Degree and Certificate program for Fall 2025.

Finally, he reflected on his recent visit to Washington, D.C., alongside Olivia Zepeda and Maria Chavoya. During their time in the capital, they engaged in federal advocacy for AWC and held discussions with elected officials regarding recent Executive Orders issued by the President in the past month.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting will be March 19, 2025, with the next Regular meeting conducted both in-person and via Zoom and at the San Luis Learning Center Campus.

Adjournment:

Motion by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Brad Sale

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

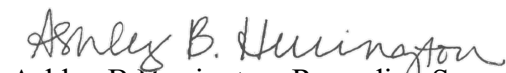
Nay: None

Abstain: None

The Board **Approved** the next meeting date and final matters of the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm

Adjourn: The meeting matters were complete.

Respectfully submitted,



Ashley B Herrington, Recording Secretary

Attendance at 12:05 pm

