

MEETING MINUTES
Arizona Western College
District Governing Board Meeting
Workshop Retreat Meeting 10 am
Academic Library Room 028, Yuma Campus and Via Zoom
February 24, 2023

Board Members Present: Board President Dennis Booth, Board Secretary Olivia Zepeda, Maria Chavoya* and Richard Lamb, Dr. Kenneth MacFarland

Board Member present by phone, Zoom: None.

Board Member Absent: None.

***Quorum confirmed**

Others Present within Academic Library 028: (7)

Dr. Daniel Corr, President

Ashley Herrington, Chief of Staff

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

Ross Poppenberger, Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services

Kimberly Trujillo, Interim Chief Human Resources Officer

Lori Stofft, Vice President of Advancement
Reetika Dhawan, Vice President of Career and Technical Education and Workforce Development

Community Member Present by Zoom: (0)

Call to Order: Board President Dennis Booth called the Workshop Retreat Meeting to order at 10:18 am.

The Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Board President Dennis Booth.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda for the February 24, 2023 meeting presented for approval.

Motion by Maria Chavoya, seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, Richard Lamb, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

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

Summary Reports

Dr. Corr welcomed the Board and thanked them for their time for a Workshop today with the President's Cabinet. He reminded the group that there is no formal action for vote today, but rather information for discussion and conversation.

Development of a Second Pillar, Presented by Dr. Daniel Corr and Ms. Reetika Dhawan

The First Pillar is the primary educational function of Associate Degree and Transfer Degree programming including 'traditional' Career and Technical Education Programming. The Development of the Second Pillar is not taking away this first pillar, but instead expanding the options to be sure programming are robust for development of educational resources seeking an educated skilled workforce to meet demands and expectations of students and partners.

The BHAG and Strategic Plan of the College is supported through this initiative. Dr. Corr referenced the recent book “The Great Upheaval: Higher Education’s Past, Present, and Uncertain Future” written by Arthur Levine and Scott J. Van Pelt that speaks to the changing dynamic landscape of education. As the book speaks to the urgency for educational institutions to incorporate flexibility to thrive.

The Second Pillar is being built to be responsive to both industry and student needs; offer ‘just in time’ training; have strong connections to business partners; costs are market-rate tuition; and a varied compensation/credentials for instructors. The development of this pillar speaks about learners, an upgraded name from student, to the industry partnerships are bringing employment opportunities within each District area and unbundles a typical course schedule from time and need to be directly aligned to the learner’s need.

This is founded in the needs of our students and our community.

Enrollment, Presented by Dr. Daniel Corr and Mr. Bryan Doak

The Enrollment drives our College’s response to staffing, programming and responsive needs to deliver an amazing student experience, serve the Mission of the College, align to the build on attainment of our BHAG.

AWC is the single Community College that has grown in enrollment over the past five-years. Since 2017 in the Board Approved Initiative to have all under 17 tuition to \$25 per credit hour, and then expanding it to under 18 in 2020, this has led to the platform of growth and pipeline for student access to education to earn college credits while in High School.

Looking through Enrollment trends, Arizona Western College is ranked #1 in Arizona for the % of students who transfer to AZ public universities to earn a bachelor’s degree within 4 years. Through the university partnerships being co-located, there is a strong relationship built with students and state universities.

Program growth and option expansion in La Paz county being met with great excitement to support the workforce needs.

There is an opportunity to teach the community of the impact of the College, the manner courses and programs are planned that will be a different model than what college education has been known for the past 60 years.

We are serving students first and aligning resources and priorities to continue to meet those student needs.

Recess for Lunch

Call to Recess for Lunch at 1:10 pm.

Motion by Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, seconded by Maria Chavoya

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, Richard Lamb, Maria Chavoya Olivia Zepeda and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Resume Meeting

Call to Resume Meeting at 1:44 pm

Motion by Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, seconded by Maria Chavoya

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, Richard Lamb, Maria Chavoya Olivia Zepeda and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Budget Preview for 2023-2024, Presented by Dr. Daniel Corr and Ross Poppenberger

Budget planning continues for the FY 2023-2024 Budget for the Board's review in the April 2023 Board Workshop. Current budget challenges include Inflation, Wage Compression; Talent recruitment; Health care Costs; Growing Technology demands and costs; Facility costs and maintenance.

Planning of this budget utilizes the Budget Assumptions presented in January 2023 with the assumption the College will not increase property taxes, as has been the pattern for the past five fiscal years.

Mr. Poppenberger walked through Budget presentation. AWC is the sole community college with growth over the past five years, reflecting how AWC does more with less. Yuma has the 3rd largest economy, but the college is part of the lowest third of colleges in compensation. The College campus locations have had major growth in facilities with under resourced to maintain, with over 120,000 square feet in new construction coming online that require staff to maintain. Notable successes include Top Tier Athletic teams, the nation's top region in Agriculture with Limited Agriculture staff and current fiscal constraints of inflation causing the cost of household goods tripling over the past three years.

The planned April 2023 District Governing Board Meeting will present a Budget Workshop for including the Drafted Preliminary Budget for FY24 to seek the Governing Board's feedback and vote to ensure continued planning while State funding budgets are finished by end of June 2023.

Discussion about the simplicity of the presentation of both financial budget planning and larger context of the strong fiscal stewardship of public funds. Additionally, conversation reflects the colleges' keen interest in utilizing current partnerships with Arizona@Work for staffing needs to augment position growth.

District Governing Board Discussion Presented by Dr. Daniel Corr and President's Cabinet

Dr. Corr discussed the desire to review the current Mission Statement and Strategic Plan in the next two years with a plan to hold another Governing Board Retreat gathering in Fall 2023.

There are multiple legislative priorities the college is actively seeking bi-partisan support including. Group approach to legislative efforts, attend meetings and events, and in meetings at the Capitol. Dr. Corr is the sole registered lobbyist for the College, and the college spend \$0 on political contributions. To better-meet the industry demands of Yuma County, Arizona Western College (AWC) requests \$7.25 million one-time in Fiscal Year 2024 to support workforce development initiatives with a University Center, Cyber Convergence Center, AWC Behavioral Health Program and Dental Hygiene program.

Arizona Western College's total one-time ask of \$7.25 million will yield a substantial community return from the new programs being offered in high-demand industries, and an economic return on investment from the higher skilled and educated workforce in this south-western rural region of our state.

Closing Items:

Dr. Corr thanked the Board for their service as Board Members and their leadership and focus on student's success and growth of the College. Four of the five Board Members have actively served since his hiring in 2016; he thanked them for their service to the College. He also recognized their trust in him and the President's Cabinet team, noting the collective support and commitment to service within the district.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled regular meeting will be Tuesday, March 21 at 9 am conducted both in-person and via Zoom and at the Yuma Campus.

Motion by Maria Chavoya, seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, Richard Lamb, 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 4:01 pm.

Adjourn: The meeting matters were complete.

Respectfully submitted,


Ashley B Herrington, Recording Secretary