

MEETING MINUTES

Arizona Western College

District Governing Board Meeting

Regular Meeting 12 pm

San Luis Learning Center Campus and Via Zoom

March 19, 2025

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

Board Member present by phone, Zoom: Brad Sale

Board Member Absent: Dr. Kenneth MacFarland

Others Present within the Meeting Boardroom: (21)

Dr. Daniel Corr, President

Ashley Herrington, Chief of Staff Bryan Doak, Executive Vice President of Student Services and Learning Services

Czarina Gallegos, Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services

Alan Lopez, IT Technical Lead

Ana English, Dean of Enrollment Services

Cinthia Reyes, Executive Director/Dean of Executive Programs

Dr. Cris Gordon, Dean

Dr. Joann Chang, Associate Dean

Jim Larson, Director of Manufacturing Programs

Kari Wyatt, Executive Assistant

Katheline Ocampo, CHRO

Kim Carey, Director of Enterprise Services

Lori Stofft, Vice President of Advancement

Scott Estes, Chief Information Officer

Susanna Zambrano, Associate Dean of South Yuma County

Tyler Vodehnal, Director of Project Management

Victor Mata, IT Service Desk Director

Vanessa Lopez, Early College Coordinator

Biri Martinez, Outreach and Recruiting Coordinator

Others Present within on Zoom: (21)

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

Adriana Perez

Aileen Garcia

Alan Lopez

Alfonso Zavala

Angela Easley

Birjith Gomez

Cindy Zavala

Dr. Nikki Hage

Isabel Banuelos

Jorge Ramirez, SGA President Juliana Garcia

Karen Davila

Karyn VanWhy

Kimberly Trujillo

Melinda Rico

Miguel Alvarez

Nathalia Flores

Noemi Barraza

Renee Munoz

Stuart Gibson

Uriel Pacheco

Community Members Present in person: Omar Duran (Somerton School District); Kim Seh (Somerton School District); Maria Cruz, San Luis City Council member, Lizette Servin City of San Luis Council Member, City Administrator, Louis Galaviz, Leticia Anaya Principal of San Luis High School.

Call to Order: Board Chair Dennis Booth called the Regular Meeting to order at 12:01 pm.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda for March 19, 2025, meeting presented for approval.

Motion by Maria Chavoya seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Adoption of Minutes: The minutes of February 18, 2025 meeting presented for approval.

Motion by Olivia Zepeda, seconded by Maria Chavoya

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Recognition of those in the audience, community members include: Maria Cruz, San Luis City Council member, Lizette Servin City of San Luis Council Member, City Administrator, Louis Galaviz, Omar Duron, Super for Somerton School District, Kim Seh, Ass; Leticia Anaya Principal of San Luis High School.

Community members were invited to share any comments by Chair Booth: Mr. Omar Duron shared his continued support for AWC and expressed his appreciation for the partnership between AWC and Somerton School District.

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, shared recent updates and highlighted several upcoming student engagement events designed to promote well-being, cultural awareness, and community connection:

Multicultural Expo: A celebration of cultural diversity, showcasing the unique customs, traditions, and stories from AWC's International Student Program; Club Mixer – April 10: An opportunity for students to explore various student organizations across campuses, fostering connection, collaboration, and community engagement; Domestic Abuse Awareness Run – April 30: A campus-wide event to raise awareness and support for those affected by domestic abuse. These events reflect SGA's ongoing commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive student experience.

Action Items

Action Item #1 – Consideration to Approve Candidates for Exempt Positions– Presented by Katheline Ocampo

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 –

Position Presented: Rocio Napoles, Coordinator of Residential Life and Housing

Action Item #2 – Consideration to Approve February 2025 Voucher– 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 Overview:

Monthly Operating Cash Balance: \$12,714,349 February 28, 2025, compared to \$9,404,841 on February 29, 2024.

- **Current Strength:** For the month ended February 28, 2025, expenditures decreased compared to prior fiscal year by 10.8%

- **Revenues vs. Expenses:** The District received 74% of anticipated revenues, with 64% of the budgeted expenditures spent.

Fiscal Revenue Analysis:

Year-over-Year Comparison Revenues:

- o **FY24/25 Actual Revenues:** \$42,417,563
- o **FY23/24 Actual Revenues:** \$44,238,085
- o **Percentage Change:** A decrease of approximately 4.1% in actual revenues.

Year-over-Year Comparison Expenditures:

- o **FY24/25 Actual Expenditures:** \$44,860,178
- o **FY23/24 Actual Expenditures:** \$50,297,449
- o **Percentage Change:** A decrease of approximately 10.8% in actual expenditures.

Enrollment Status:

- **Current Enrollment:** 72,182 credit hours.
- **Comparison with Previous Year:** 65,613 credit hours

Early Education Highlights:

- **Current Enrollment:** 15,550 total credit hours, 9,800 are dual enrollment.
- **Comparison with Previous Year:** 13,877 total credit hours, 8,514 are dual enrollment.

Detailed Financial Data & Key Observations:

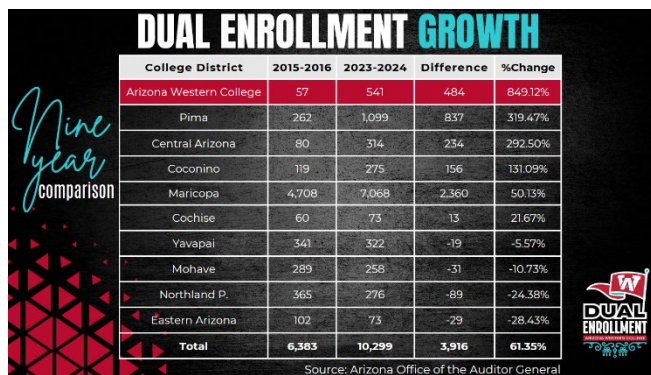
- **Fiscal Strength:** Despite a decrease in revenues for the current month, the district remains in a good fiscal position, with strong financial health supported by consistent growth in enrollment, as well as prudent fiscal management and strategic planning.
- **Revenue Growth:** There is a notable 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 Bryan Doak, Executive Vice President of Student and Learning Services and Biri Martinez, Director of Early College

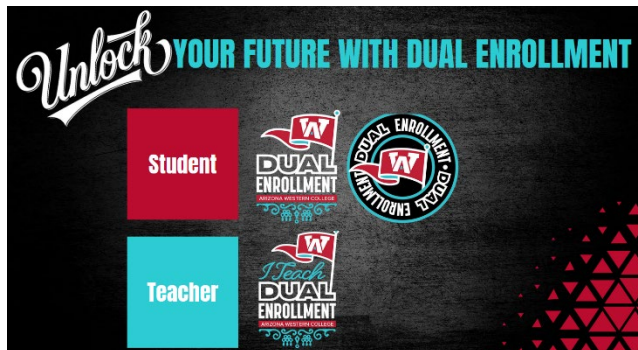


Dual Enrollment course offerings are strategically designed to support high school students in earning college credits that contribute to their degree attainment. The top 20 most-enrolled courses have been identified, with the majority selected to align with student degree completion pathways.

Strong community and educational partnerships have driven nine years of continuous growth, meeting the increasing demand for dual enrollment opportunities. The Early College team remains committed to expanding these efforts through new articulation agreements, the recruitment of certified dual enrollment instructors, and the development of innovative, high-quality learning experiences for students in Yuma and La Paz counties.



A request has been made to provide data reflecting the expansion of early college programming in local elementary schools, highlighting efforts to support and encourage students before they enter high school.



Additionally, in support of the growth, are the credentialed faculty within the schools and the students. In partnership with the Marketing department, designated branding is established to be part of the unique identity.

The **AWC2028 Strategic Plan** continues to guide Early College development and program growth.

Additionally, enhanced outreach to students' families and parents will be prioritized, with engagement opportunities available in both English and Spanish.

Spotlight on South Yuma County, presented by Susanna Zambrano, Associate Dean of South Yuma County Services.

The Spotlight on South Yuma County presentation highlights Arizona Western College's (AWC) ongoing commitment to workforce development, student success, and community engagement in the region.

Entrepreneurial College & Workforce Development

- The Entrepreneurial College continues to drive workforce growth by expanding programs, enhancing facilities, and providing financial support for high-demand career pathways, particularly in Career and Technical Education (CTE).
- New HVAC training programs are being launched, providing students with opportunities in a high-demand, well-paying field.

Innovation in Student Support

- Matabot, AWC's new personal assistant robot, reflects the college's commitment to integrating cutting-edge technology across all centers to enhance student services and engagement.
- Zoom Cubbies have been established, thanks to student advocacy and innovation funding, ensuring access to reliable spaces for remote learning and tutoring support.

Student Success & Transfer Pathways

- Oscar Romo Guillen and Dalysha Martinez, All AZ Transfer Scholars, are recognized for their achievements and plans to pursue degrees at Arizona State University in Biotechnology and Criminology, respectively.
- Enrollment trends remain positive at the San Luis and Somerton Centers, driven by strategic program expansion in high-demand fields.
- The Adult Education Program in San Luis, under Yaneli Pasillas Miller's leadership, has successfully enrolled 33 ESOL students, with GED and AZ Civics programs launching soon.

Community Engagement & Student Initiatives

- The Mini-Cubby Project at SLTI and Somerton Centers provides students with pantry staples, supporting food security and student well-being.
- Alondra Moreno Macias was featured for her participation in the Arizona Student Association's Youth Empowerment Summit, where she engaged in discussions with state representatives on housing, transportation, and immigration.

Faculty & Excellence Recognition

Teacher of the Year nominees from South Yuma County were recognized for their dedication to student success: Jules Floss, Dr. Sara Amani, Francis Martinez, John Hessinger, Javier Perez, Paulina Sanchez. With continued investment in **workforce education, innovation, and student support**, AWC remains a leader in empowering students and strengthening the communities of South Yuma County.

Closing Items:

Good of the Order by Dr. Daniel Corr

Dr. Corr's President's Report provided key updates on federal funding risks, strategic planning progress, fiscal challenges, and institutional achievements, reflecting AWC's proactive approach to navigating uncertainty while continuing to drive student success and community engagement.

Federal Grant Funding & Fiscal Planning: Two federal grants are at risk of continued funding, but AWC remains committed to supporting personnel through the end of the fiscal year. The Entrepreneurial College Team is in active discussions with federal offices to ensure compliance and pursue continuation, while preparing for delays in response from the U.S. Department of Education.

FY26 Budget Planning will incorporate conservative financial strategies in response to funding uncertainties, with a draft budget presentation scheduled for next month's Board Workshop. Ms. Chavoya expressed support for faculty and staff navigating these external financial challenges and emphasized the importance of contingency planning.

Institutional Growth & Financial Management: Wellton Campus Expansion: A successful groundbreaking event last month featured Governor Hobbs, launching a 5,600 sq. ft. expansion project. Agua Caliente Solar Judgment Impact: Despite the \$1.6M fiscal hit, AWC has effectively managed its response without affecting students' experiences or academic opportunities.

Academic & Student Achievements: AWC Women's Basketball: Earned an At-Large bid to the NJCAA Women's Basketball Championship, with Head Coach Chelsea Dewey named 2025 National Coach of the Year. AWC Foundation Fundraising: Efforts continue for student scholarships and long-term support of the College's Strategic Plan, with a special event hosted at the Law Enforcement Training Academy to foster Board and community engagement.

Strategic Planning & Organizational Updates: Rapid implementation of strategic objectives following the unanimous Board approval on February 18, 2025, with a quarterly update planned for the May 8, 2025 Board Meeting.

Key leadership transitions: Bryan Doak has been promoted to the role of the Executive Vice President of Learning Services & Student Services. Reetika Dhawan will continue to serve as the CEO of the Entrepreneurial College. Associate Dean roles transitioned to Deans with expanded responsibilities.

Strategic Objectives:

1. Center for the Future (Draft Name): Establishment and funding of a technology and innovation hub to integrate AI, data tools, and disruptive technology in all aspects of college operations. Cabinet leadership is tasked with identifying areas for AI and technology implementation to enhance the student experience, improve outcomes, and drive fiscal efficiencies. Job description to be developed for a leadership role overseeing AI and technology use.
2. Entrepreneurial College Expansion: Acceleration of agility in college operations to better support students, industry, and external partnerships. Engagement of Advisory Board to guide program development.
3. Centralized Student-Centered Scheduling: Implementation of a data-driven course scheduling system to improve student access, retention, and degree completion. Led by Elaine Groggett, with Deans supporting schedule staffing. Future consideration of 8-week block scheduling (Block A, B, C).
4. Expanding Access to AWC Education: Targeted outreach to Early College, OTA (returning students), incarcerated populations, and Spanish-speaking students. Additional Early College position to be included in the FY26 budget to support program growth. Dual Enrollment instructor Minimum qualifications under review. HLC Site Review scheduled for May 1 in preparation for incarcerated student programming.
5. Excelencia in Education Commitment: Strengthening a college culture that supports all students. Recognition of multilingualism and internationalism among students, faculty, and staff. Excelencia Committee continues its focused efforts.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Corr expressed gratitude to the Board for their continued trust and partnership, reinforcing the College's commitment to student success, fiscal responsibility, and innovation amid changing higher education landscapes.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting will be April 22, 2025, with the next Regular meeting conducted both in-person and via Zoom and at the Yuma Campus.

Adjournment:

Motion by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Brad Sale

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

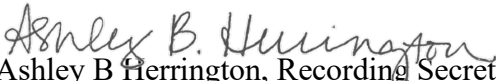
Nay: None

Abstain: None

The Board **Approved** the next meeting date and final matters of the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:18 pm

Adjourn: The meeting matters were complete.

Respectfully submitted,


Ashley B Herrington, Recording Secretary

Attendance at 12:15 pm

