

MEETING MINUTES
Arizona Western College
District Governing Board Meeting
Regular Meeting 1:00 pm
Yuma Campus and Virtually
March 26, 2026

Board Members Present: Board Chair Dennis Booth and Board Secretary Olivia Zepeda
Board Member present by phone, Zoom: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya
Board Member Absent: Dr. Kenneth MacFarland

Others Present within Meeting room: (20)

Dr. Daniel P. Corr, President	
Dr. Reetika Dhawan, CEO of Entrepreneurial College	
Czarina Gallegos, Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services	Lori Stofft, Vice President for Advancement and Executive Director for AWC Foundation
Ashley Herrington, Chief of Staff	Luis Landeros, Creative Director
Cindy Zavala, Director of Campus Life	Mandy Heil, Dean of Communications and Marketing
Dr. Emily Kerr, Faculty Senate Representative, Professor of ESL	Michael Rose, Senior Graphic Designer
Dr. Nikki Hage, Dean of Students	Onyeka Udodi, SGA President
Jennifer Freedman, Executive Administrative Assistant	Scott Estes, Chief Information Officer
Johanna Megui, Workforce Specialist	Tracy Iversen, Director of Radiologic Technology
Kathy Ocampo, Vice President and CHRO	Travis Mitchell, Marketing Director, EC
	Ashley DeCorse, Student of the Month
	Yanet Avila, Administrative Assistant IV

Others Present virtually: (11)

Adriana Perez	Michelle Struck
Arminda Cordero	Noemi Barranza
Bryan Doak	Nancy Ney
Cyd McHone	Sherry Needham
Gladys Anaya	
Joann Chang	
Kimberly Trujillo	

Community Members Present by Zoom: (0) None

Community Members Present in Room: (3) Roger DeCorse, Victoria DeCorse, Hong Nguyen DeCorse

Call to Order: Board Chair Dennis Booth called the Regular Meeting to order at 1:01pm.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda for March 26, 2026 meeting presented for approval.

Motion to approve agenda and move Action Items to first part of the meeting made by Olivia Zepeda, seconded by Brad Sale

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Action Items

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary –

• **Cynthia McHone, Director of Grants**

Ms. Ocampo gave a brief update on the active recruitment for Executive Vice President for the Entrepreneurial College sharing there were over 40 applications from across the US. Interviews started this week, aiming for a tentative start date of June 1.

Maria Chavoya entered the meeting via Zoom at 1:06pm

Action Item #2 – Consideration to Approve the Amendment to Approved 2026-2027 Schedule of Tuition and Fees, presented by Czarina Gallegos

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 Action Item as Presented.

Summary –

Adjustment to Approved 2026-2027 Tuition and Fee Schedule as follows:

1. Add program fee of \$125.00 to align with current instructional and program delivery costs for new Barber Apprenticeship and Standard Apprenticeship Programs, expanding workforce training opportunities in high-demand fields.
2. Remove duplicate entry for ART 102 3D Design from the approved schedule.

Action Item #3 – Consideration to Approve Voucher (January 2026), presented by Czarina Gallegos

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 Action Item as Presented.

Summary –

Executive Summary

The District maintains robust financial health, with a monthly operating cash balance of \$13,833,759 as of January 31, 2026, down from \$13,955,400 the previous year. Revenues increased by 10.3% year-over-year, while expenditures decreased by 6.2%. Dual enrollment and total credit hour enrollments have also seen

positive gains, positioning the District favorably for continued growth and impact.

Fiscal Overview

Metrics	2025-2026	2024-2025	% Change
Actual Revenues	\$46,487,162	\$42,155,230	+10.3%
Actual Expenditures	\$37,303,248	\$39,786,942	- 6.2%
Operating Cash Balance	\$13,833,759	\$13,955,400	-0.9%

Enrollment Trends

Enrollment Type	2025-2026	2024-2025	% Change
Total Credit Hours	75,926	65,511	+15.9%
Early College Credit Hours	14,937	10,696	+39.7%
Dual Enrollment Credit Hours	7,195	5,312	+35.4%

Closing Statement

The District’s financial foundation remains solid, driven by rising revenues, responsible expenditures, and increasing student engagement. Strategically investing in infrastructure and student support services to sustain positive growth and continued emphasis on dual enrollment, prudent budgeting, and strategic investments are key to ensure ongoing success in service of the community and student body.

Information Item #1– Informational Review – Purchases over \$50,000– Presented by Czarina Gallegos
Summary –

Since the Purchasing threshold increased from \$50,000 to \$250,000 per Procedure 337.1, the College presents purchases over \$50,000 to the next District Governing Board meeting for information.

Department	Vendor	Cost	Fund Source
Parker Learning Center	CDW-G	\$76,847	Grant - Prop 301
CTE – Prison Program	Pitsco Education LLC	\$60,912	Grant - Dept of Correction (Contract)

Prison program purchases noted above are for the contractual CTE program. Dr. Corr relayed that the Pell-eligible program for general education has received initial approval and is working through approvals as part of the Strategic Plan a year ago.

Approval of Minutes: The Meeting Minutes for February 18, 2026, 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

Call to the Audience:

Mr. Booth asked to recognize Ashley Herrington for her service to the Board as she leaves the College employ at the end of March. He wished her great success in future endeavors and thanked her for her readiness to

work and do research to help keep the Board informed and on task. Olivia, Brad, and Maria also shared their thanks for Ashley's dedication to the success of the Board activities.

College Reports

Student Government Association: SGA President Onyeka Udodi shared updates on events the SGA recently participated in including One World Cultural Fest 2026. The event involved interactive stations from China, Vietnam, United States, Mexico and South Africa. The event also featured performances by students from San Luis, Arizona, the Philippines, and India including music, singing, Zumba, and cultural foods. Coming up is the Student Body Leadership conference, designed to equip students with essential skills in student leadership. Onyeka gave thanks to Ashley Herrington and the Board for their continued support. On a personal note, Onyeka shared that he now holds two healthcare licenses: phlebotomy and CNA, and that he was accepted into AWC Nursing Program. SGA remains committed to fostering involvement and exploring opportunities to collaborate with other student organizations and campus events.

Faculty Senate Association: Dr. Emily Kerr, Faculty Senate Representative to the District Governing Board, presented the Faculty Senate update highlighting teaching and learning opportunities afforded to students in Art, Nursing, Administration of Justice Studies, Math, Family Science, and more. Dr. Kerr highlighted faculty accomplishments and community engagement and service. Special recognition went to Dr. Monica Ketchum-Cardenas, who was named Full-Time Teacher of the Year. Dr. Ketchum was also recognized for other academic and community focused efforts.

Olivia Zepeda attendance changed from in-person to via Zoom at 1:30pm

Student of the Month: Dr. Dhawan introduced Tracy Iversen, Director of Radiologic Technology. Tracy shared her nomination of Ashley DeCorse as Student of the Month. Ashley has been a standout student in both the classroom and clinical areas, achieving high GPA, mastering complex concepts, meeting deadlines, assisting peers, and balancing the demanding curriculum and her leadership development program. Ashley gave thanks for the support from Tracy, grateful for the opportunity to be in leadership program and future opportunities in her last year of the program. Ashley was joined by her sister Victoria, who is also a Rad Tech student, and her parents.

President's Reports

Communications and Marketing Updates, Presented by Lori Stofft and Mandy Heil

Lori Stofft introduced Communications and Marketing Dean Mandy Heil and highlighted her role at the College, in the region, and nationally with National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR). The College has been a member of the NCMPR for over 20 years.

The Communications and Marketing team achieved significant national recognition at the recent NCMPR spring conference in Washington, D.C. Members of the team attended the national event, themed "*We the People*".

Luis Landeros, who serves as Creative Director, was invited to design the conference materials. Luis received highly favorable national recognition for his design work and presented a behind-the-scenes session on his creative process, which demonstrated the substantial impact of his contributions. Additionally, he became the fifth member of the team to graduate from the NCMPR Leadership Institute, further elevating the department's professional credentials.

Mandy was invited to co-host a mainstage session titled “She Leads: Stories, Strategy, and the Power of Women in Leadership,” where she discussed her leadership journey, successes and challenges, the role of mentorship, and the importance of advocacy. Mandy also participated in sessions focused on the strategic role of marketing and communications in government relations, leadership, faculty engagement, and effectively reaching today’s students.

To top it all off, the team earned multiple national awards, including the Gold Award for the new mascot campaign launch, a collaborative effort led by Sarah Herman. Dr. Corr was honored with the 2026 National Pacesetter Award. Although unable to attend in person, an acceptance video was created and featured during the conference. In his remarks, Dr. Corr recognized Mandy’s leadership and praised the team’s accomplishments, noting their strengthened presence on campus, in the Yuma and La Paz communities, and on the national stage. Mandy asked for a photo opportunity with Dr. Corr’s award to help commemorate the achievement.

Closing Items:

Good of the Order by Dr. Daniel P. Corr

Dr. Corr offered praise to Mandy and the Communications and Marketing team, elaborating that much of the success of the institution regarding enrollment and our budget is not only driven by Marketing and Communications, but also their efforts in celebration of the wins with legislature and the community.

Dr. Dhawan was asked to share exciting news regarding a significant international opportunity. She applied for an international lab collaboration, and the College has been selected as one of only three institutions nationwide to advance as a finalist. The collaboration will focus on manufacturing, logistics, and AI implementation. A faculty team will be selected to participate in this intensive initiative, which will run from summer 2026 through summer 2027 and will include travel to India. The project will feature shared curriculum development and joint learning experiences between both countries, representing a remarkable opportunity to further elevate and showcase the College’s innovative work.

Huge shout out given to Women’s basketball who defeated #1 team Eastern Arizona College to make it to the national tournament.

Last week, Dr. Corr attended the HLC Conference with VP Bryan Doak and VP Czarina Gallegos where they met the College’s new HLC liaison. The College is only about 3 years out for the next comprehensive 10-year HLC review.

Spring Break is scheduled for next week, followed by a series of end-of-semester celebrations, including the All-Employee Recognition event, various pinning ceremonies, La Cosecha, and additional activities leading up to commencement. A complete list of April and May celebrations will be distributed to all Governing Board members.

Dr. Corr extended his sincere appreciation to Ashley Herrington for her exceptional efforts in coordinating travel, training, and logistics, all of which contributed to seamless and productive DGB meetings. Her contributions are too numerous to list, and we hope to remain connected as she moves forward. The success

of the institution is due in no small part to Ashley's dedication and hard work.

A preliminary budget will be presented for consideration at the April 29 meeting.

Next Meeting: The next meeting scheduled will be April 29, 2026, including a Budget Workshop, followed by a Regular meeting conducted both in-person and via Zoom and at the Yuma Campus.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Brad Sale, seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

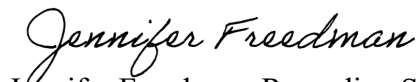
Abstain: None

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

Adjourn: The meeting matters were complete.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Freedman, Recording Secretary