

MEETING MINUTES
Arizona Western College
District Governing Board Meeting
Workshop Retreat Meeting 11 am
Academic Library Room 028, Yuma Campus and Via Zoom
April 25, 2023

Board Members Present: Board President Dennis Booth, Board Secretary Olivia Zepeda and Richard Lamb*.

Board Member present by phone, Zoom: None.

Board Member Absent: Maria Chavoya (Family Emergency); Dr. Kenneth MacFarland

***Quorum confirmed**

Others Present within Academic Library 028: (12)

Dr. Daniel Corr, President	Technical Education and Workforce Development
Ashley Herrington, Chief of Staff	Michelle Landis, Financial Services Controller
Bryan Doak, Vice President for Student Services and Interim Vice President of Learning Services	Scott Estes, Chief Information Officer
Ross Poppenberger, Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services	Dr. Cristine Gordon,
Kimberly Trujillo, Interim Chief Human Resources Officer	Victor Mata, Coordinator of Technology Services
Lori Stofft, Vice President of Advancement	Alan Lopez, Service Desk Technician
Reetika Dhawan, Vice President of Career and	Noemi Barraza, Executive Administrative Assistant to the President's Office
	Karen Stein, Executive Administrative Assistant for Learning Services

College Members Present by Zoom: (8)

Daniel Fitts	Julia Howe	Nickzel Lezama
Holly Banes	Melinda Rico	Yvette Pelayo
Jodi Trout	Renee Munoz	Ashley Herrington (Host)

Community Member Present by Zoom: (0)

Others Present within Academic Library 028:

Dr. David Borofsky, President Arizona Association of Community College Trustees

Call to Order: Board President Dennis Booth called the Workshop Retreat Meeting to order at 11:10 am.

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

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda for the April 25, 2023 meeting presented for approval.

Motion by Olivia Zepeda, seconded by Richard Lamb

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Richard Lamb, 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 and guests. He recognized the 9-month process of budget planning that included Budget Training, feedback, proposals and requests in preparation of the creation of the Budget. The Student Experience Statement and the Strategic Plan drives the priorities of the Budget.

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. He also 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 in Fall 2023.

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 higher 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 all three state universities.

Program growth in La Paz county being met with great excitement in support of the workforce needs of the county.

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.

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 continued to walked through the proposed 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 employee compensation. The College has had major growth in facilities with under resourced to maintain, with over 120,000 square feet in new construction opening this year. 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 April 2023 District Governing Board Meeting presented the Drafted Preliminary Budget for FY24 to seek the Governing Board's feedback, will publish for public review and feedback and proposed to bring to the June 7, 2023 Board Meeting date for Public Hearing, Special Vote and Regular meeting for vote.

The College is asking for a Tax Levy rate increase of 1.91%, which would bring an additional \$600,000 to the College's budget. Even through a Property Tax increase, the College budget considers the unique impacts within Yuma and La Paz counties.

The College is seeking a 5% compensation increase and no change to the cost of health care to employee. The investment of retaining and developing talent is a key driver to the recommendations brought forward.

The Collge is committed to being an economic driver to build on the BHAG and virtuous cycle of prosperity for students, the community and role of the college. Leveraging partnerships, engaging in innovative programming and direct link to the workforce.

Dr. Corr offered discussion at approximately 12:10pm and invited feedback from the Board members. Ms. Zepeda offered her commentary about rising costs being part of the way the college delivers high quality instruction and experience of state-of-the-art equipment. Mr. Booth asked about the affordability of college and the importance of scholarships, financial aid to students annually for students to afford AWC education, Dr. Corr reiterated the continued commitment through Finanical Aid and AWC Foundation to support access to higher education.

Mr. Lamb requested the presence of Athletics programs in La Paz county. He asked about the Upward Bound and TRIO programming that supports many students during the summer. There are multiple camps planned for the summer, utilizing residence halls and athletic facilities in Yuma campus bringing the community into college facilities.

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.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled regular meeting will be today, Wednesday April 25, scheduled to begin at 12 pm conducted both in-person and via Zoom and at the Yuma Campus.

Motion by Olivia Zepeda, seconded by Richard Lamb

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Richard Lamb, Olivia Zepeda and Dennis Booth

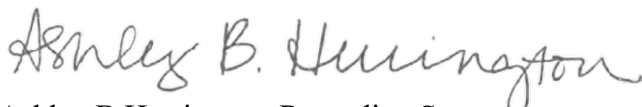
Nay: None

Abstain: None

The Board **Approved** the next meeting date and final matters of the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.





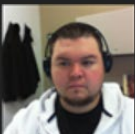


Adjourn: The meeting matters were complete.

Respectfully submitted,



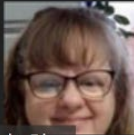
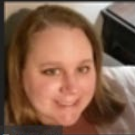
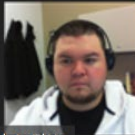


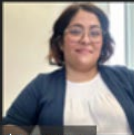
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ashley B. Herrington".

Ashley B Herrington, Recording Secretary

Virtual Attendance at 11:10 am

 LR-028	 Ashley Herrington	 Melinda Rico
 Holly Banes	Library- Board... Library- Board Meeting room	Renee Munoz Renee Munoz
 Daniel J. Fitts	 Julia Howe	 Jodi Trout (She/Her/Hers), Arizona...

Attendance at 11:25 am

 LR-028	 Ashley Herrington	 Melinda Rico
 Holly Banes	Library- Board... Library- Board Meeting room	Renee Munoz Renee Munoz
 Daniel J. Fitts	 Julia Howe	 Jodi Trout (She/Her/Hers), A...
Yvette Pelayo Yvette Pelayo		 Nickzel Lezama