

MEETING MINUTES
Arizona Western College
District Governing Board Meeting
Regular Meeting with Executive Session 12 pm
Yuma Campus and Via Zoom
May 8, 2025

Board Members Present: Board President Dennis Booth and Board Secretary Olivia Zepeda, Brad Sale, Dr. Kenneth MacFarland

Board Member present by phone, Zoom: Maria Chavoya by phone at 2:30 - ending

Board Member Absent:

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
Cindy Zavala, Director of Campus Life	Dr. Emily Kerr, Faculty Senate Association
Jennifer Harper-Cofske, AWC Foundation	Noemi Barraza, Executive Administrative Assistant
Juliana Garcia, Assistant Controller	Reetika Dhawan, Chief Executive Officer of Entrepreneurial College & Vice President of Workforce & Healthcare
Karen Davila, Executive Administrative Assistant for Learning Services	Renee Munoz, Executive Administrative Assistant
Kari Wyatt, Executive Assistant	Scott Estes, Chief Information Officer
Karyn VanWhy, Accountant Team Lead	Seth Minor, Professor of Philosophy
Katheline Ocampo, CHRO	Stuart Gibson, Dean Business, Education and Social & Behavioral Sciences
Laura Knaresboro, AWC Foundation	
Lori Stofft, Vice President of Advancement	
Meghan Scott, AWC Foundation	

Others Present within on Zoom: (6)

Kimberly Trujillo	Dr. Nikki Hage
Renee Munoz	
Jean Marie Dietrich, CPA and Principal with the Arizona Auditor General's Office	
Carla Wall of Clifton Larson and Associates	
LisaAnne Smith, AWC Legal Counsel	

Community Members Present in person: (1) Sisko Stargazer, Media

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

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda for May 8, 2025, meeting presented for approval.

Motion by Dr. Kenneth MacFarland seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Approval of Minutes: The Meeting Minutes for March 18, 2025 and April 22, 2025 presented for approval.

Motion by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Dr. Kenneth MacFarland

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

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

College Reports

Fiscal Year 2024 Arizona Auditor Report, Presented by Arizona Auditor General

Jean Marie Dietrich, CPA and Principal with the Arizona Auditor General's Office, and Carla Wall of Clifton Larson and Associates, presented the results of the annual audit for the Yuma/La Paz Counties Community College District (Arizona Western College) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. The audit confirmed the College's continued strong fiscal stewardship with an unmodified ("clean") opinion on its financial statements and no findings of material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal controls. No new accounting policies were implemented during the period, and the audit identified no unusual transactions, disagreements with management, or compliance issues with applicable laws and regulations.

The audit also included testing of major federal programs, which accounted for 80% of AWC's total federal expenditures of \$24 million. These included \$17.6 million in student financial aid and \$1.6 million in WIOA program funding, both of which were found to follow federal requirements. Additionally, the Annual Budgeted Expenditure Limitation Report showed that AWC remained well within its statutory spending limit, with actual expenditures of \$53.2 million against a \$60.9 million cap, further underscoring the College's commitment to conservative and responsible budget practices. This report also presents no findings related to the District's control procedures associated with its IT systems and data.

Student Government Association, Presented by Jorge Ramirez

Jorge Ramirez, Student Government Association (SGA) President, provided the student leadership report to the District Governing Board in advance of the spring commencement season. In his remarks, Jorge highlighted key initiatives and events hosted or supported by the SGA, reflecting student engagement, school spirit, and campus-wide collaboration. Notable recent events included the successful Sexual Assault Awareness Walk/Run held on April 30, the Enrollment Tour Club Mixer on May 12 to connect prospective students with campus clubs and services, and a spirited Cap Decoration Party on May 7 to celebrate graduating students. Looking ahead, Jorge noted the upcoming Commencement Ceremony on May 16 and reported on the recently concluded SGA elections, ensuring a smooth transition of leadership for the coming academic year. He closed with an expression of gratitude for the support of the Governing Board, faculty, staff, and student body throughout the year, emphasizing a strong sense of community and pride in student-led initiatives that contributed to campus life and student success.

Faculty Senate Association, Presented by Dr. Emily Kerr

Dr. Emily Kerr, Professor of English as a Second Language, provided the Faculty Senate update for April 2025, marking her first report as the new Faculty Senate Representative to the District Governing Board. Dr. Kerr brings a depth of institutional experience to the role, having served as Faculty Advisor to the GSA Full Spectrum and as former Vice Chair of the Curriculum Committee. The 2025–2026 Faculty Senate Leadership was formally introduced, including Dr. Eric Lee as Faculty Association President and Dr. Kristine Duke as Vice President, with an inclusive group of faculty senators representing a broad array of disciplines and departments. The report highlighted recent faculty engagement in professional development and scholarship, including participation in the AZ Transfer Summit, TESOL 2025, and the Conference on College Composition and Communication. Dr. Deltrina Grimes, Professor of Music – Voice, was recognized for successfully defending her dissertation. Faculty and students also remained active in student engagement and community service, including club fundraising initiatives and participation in TEDxAWC event on April 25, led by Dr. Sara Amani. The report reflects ongoing faculty commitment to excellence in teaching, professional growth, and community involvement.

Student of the Month, Presented by Bryan Doak and Professor Seth Minor

Sarah Ausbun, an Associate of Arts in Education – Secondary student, was honored as Student of the Month for her outstanding academic engagement and leadership. Nominated by faculty member Seth Miner from the Division of Business, Education, Social, and Behavioral Sciences, Sarah was recognized for her vocal participation, intellectual curiosity, and ability to elevate classroom discourse. A dedicated member of the Philosophy Club, she is known for her openness to differing perspectives and her thoughtful pursuit of truth. Beyond the classroom, Sarah balances her academic commitments with her role as a devoted mother, drawing inspiration from her son as she works toward her goal of becoming a high school math teacher. Her resilience, reflective mindset, and passion for learning exemplify the spirit of Arizona Western College students, making her a deserving recipient of this recognition. Additionally, Bryan celebrated Seth, who nine years ago was a featured Student of the Month at a Board Meeting. This full-circle recognition was celebrated by the Board and those in the room.

AWC Foundation Status Report, Presented by Lori Stofft

The AWC Foundation provided a comprehensive update on its impact, leadership, and fundraising momentum in support of Arizona Western College's mission. Established concurrently with the college in 1963, the Foundation remains focused on student success through scholarships, programmatic support, and capital improvements. With a committed 11-member Board of Directors representing a range of professional sectors, the Foundation has continued progress on its strategic goals: increasing visibility, expanding donations, and deepening board engagement. Notable achievements include sustained growth across fundraising metrics—up to 154% growth in some areas—and a 39% increase in scholarship awards over the last two years, benefiting over 640 students annually.

Laura Knaresboro featured the scholarship emphasis, beyond traditional scholarships, the Foundation has invested in emergency support through the Gold Heart Endowed Fund, responding to critical student needs such as food, housing, prescriptions, and access to learning tools. Strategic partnerships have enabled the purchase of graphing calculators for South County students and supported academic excellence, including students achieving near-perfect ACT scores. AWC Foundation Board chair, Megan Scott, celebrated the Foundation's signature event, the Schoolhouse Soiree, continues to connect the community with students and donors, raising funds and awareness for initiatives such as the First Gen Center refresh and the Anatomage Table for healthcare education. Through intentional alignment with AWC's strategic priorities—including the \$1.2M library expansion project, the Foundation continues to play a vital role in expanding opportunity and enhancing the student experience.

Action Items

Action Item #1 – Consideration to Identify Chief Financial Officer– Presented by Dr. Daniel P. Corr

Motion by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Brad Sale

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary –

Dr. Daniel Corr, President of Arizona Western College identifies Czarina Gallegos as the Chief Fiscal Officer of Yuma/La Paz Counties Community District for expenditure limitation reporting, per Arizona Revised Statute §41-1279.07(E), for Fiscal Year 2026.

Action Item #2 – Consideration to Accept the Audit Reporting Package for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024– Presented by Czarina Gallegos

Motion by Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary –

Yuma/La Paz Counties Community College District (Arizona Western College) is required to have an annual audit. The financial statement audit report for fiscal year 2023-2024 was completed by the office of Clifton Larson Allen on April 14, 2025, and distributed to Arizona Western College.

Dr. MacFarland recognized the impact of the clean audit reflecting the appropriate actions across the College.

Action Item #3 – Consideration to Approve Technology Purchase – Presented by Czarina Gallegos

Motion by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Brad Sale

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary –

AWC Information Technology Department is requesting a five-year renewal for the licensing and upgrades for our VxRail infrastructure. This system is needed for continual operation and access to our virtual server environment. Our virtual server environment is utilized by employees and students in their day-to-day operations and learning and in the support of these operations are central to business continuity and security of the college.

Dell VxRail Virtual Environment w/VCF Licensing	\$439,583.20
Dell Switches	\$27,272.18
Existing VxRail Maintenance	\$0.00
Estimated taxes	\$29,955.34
Total	\$496,810.72

Purchases exceeding \$250,000 require District Governing Board approval per the College's Purchasing Procedure (Procedure 337.1).

Action Item #4 – Consideration to Approve Fee Adjustment – Presented by Czarina Gallegos

Motion by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Brad Sale

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary –

The College is seeking approval for differential tuition fees for Commercial Driver's License courses CDL 101, CDL 102, CDL 103, CDL 104 at the Parker Learning Center. The rate differs from Yuma due to higher fee charges by the contractual partner. The program consists of four courses, each with a fee of \$1,482.25.

Change requested:

COURSE	CURRENT FEE IN YUMA AND PARKER	NEW DIFFERENTIAL FEE REQUEST FOR PARKER
CDL 101	\$899.00	\$1,482.25
CDL102	\$1,124.00	\$1,482.25
CDL 103	\$1,124.00	\$1,482.25
CDL 104	\$1,124.00	\$1,482.25

Budgetary Considerations: The budget impact of this differential tuition fee is largely offset by increased enrollment, as the course will be more accessible to students utilizing Arizona@Work assistance and the QUEST Grant. The higher tuition rate for the CDL program in Parker reflects additional costs from the third-party vendor, associated with delivering this training. These include a higher per-student training fee and increased travel, lodging, and instructor compensation expenses required to offer the course at the Parker campus location.

Discussion confirmed this is the sole vendor servicing Yuma, La Paz and Mohave Counties to meet the demand the local workforces are asking for college hosted training.

Recess Into Executive Session; Motion to Recess into Executive Session at 1:06 pm.

Recess to Executive Session:

Motion to adjourn to Executive Session by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Brad Sale.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Executive Session Minutes following <<

IV. Recess into Executive Session

Call to Order at 1:11 pm, Dennis Booth

Executive Session Meeting – Boardroom and Virtual meeting room closed to the public

Board Members Present: Board President Dennis Booth and Board Secretary Olivia Zepeda, Brad Sale, Dr. Kenneth MacFarland

Board Member present by phone, Zoom: None

Board Member Absent: Maria Chavoya

Others Present within the Meeting Boardroom: (3)

Dr. Daniel P. Corr, Ashley Herrington, Katheline Ocampo

Others Present Virtually: Lisa Anne Smith (Legal Counsel)

1-2. A.R.S. 38-431.03 (A)(3): Discussion or consultation for legal advice with the attorney or attorneys of the public body and A.R.S. 38-431.03 (A)(4): Discussion or consultation with the attorneys of the public body in order to consider its position and instruct its attorneys regarding the public body's position regarding contemplated litigation.

- a. This executive session will discuss
 - (1) a pending legal matter and
 - (2) legal advice regarding personnel processes

1:12 pm - Legal Matter:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1:30 pm - Personnel Processes:

[REDACTED]

>> Katheline Ocampo and Lisa Anne Smith left the discussion.

Time Stamp: 1:35 pm

Board Members Present: Board President Dennis Booth and Board Secretary Olivia Zepeda, Brad Sale, Dr. Kenneth MacFarland

Board Member present by phone, Zoom:

Board Member Absent: Maria Chavoya

Others Present within the Meeting Boardroom: (3)

Dr. Daniel P. Corr, Ashley Herrington, Scott Estes, Czarina Gallegos

Others Present Virtually: None

3. A.R.S. § 8-431.03(A)(9), for discussion regarding the College's Information Technology Security Plans, Procedures, Assessments, Measures or Systems.

1:35 pm - College's Information Technology Security Plans, Procedures, Assessments, Measures or Systems:



Time Stamp: 1:48 pm

>> Scott Estes and Czarina Gallegos left the discussion.

Time Stamp: 1:49 pm

Board Members Present: Board President Dennis Booth and Board Secretary Olivia Zepeda, Brad Sale, Dr. Kenneth MacFarland

Board Member present by phone, Zoom:

Board Member Absent: Maria Chavoya

Others Present within the Meeting Boardroom: (3)

Dr. Daniel P. Corr, Ashley Herrington

Others Present Virtually: **None**

4. A.R.S. 38-431.03 (A)(1) Personnel Matters - Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, salaries, disciplining or resignation of a public officer, appointee or employee of any public body, except that, with the exception of salary discussions, an officer, appointee or employee may demand that the discussion or consideration occur at a public meeting.

a. This executive session will include President Corr's annual performance appraisal including the employment contract and terms.

Summary:

Dr. Corr walked through his presentation reflecting on the 2024-25 year, his 9th year as President at AWC. His report highlighted significant institutional achievements from the 2024–2025 academic year. Student success remained a central focus, with a 31% increase in credentials awarded and a 19% rise in medical-related credentials. Enrollment growth continued strongly, with a 16% increase in the fall and a 4% increase in the spring, including notable gains at the Parker (12%) and Wellton (11%) locations. AWC was recognized as the fastest-growing community college in Arizona, with a nine-year growth rate of 919%, and Early College students now make up 25% of total enrollment.

Academic innovation was also emphasized, with the Entrepreneurial College posting a 29% increase in enrollment, securing \$9.57 million in grant funding, and launching 26 new courses along with 12 new programs and certificates. The AWC/NAU transfer partnership received national recognition as a top-ten model by the Aspen Foundation and Columbia University, with a new Transfer Center opened in March 2025. Fiscal stewardship remained a hallmark, with the College achieving a perfect Single Audit—no fiscal or IT findings—and strong recognition for the impact of the Entrepreneurial College and the institution's grant performance.

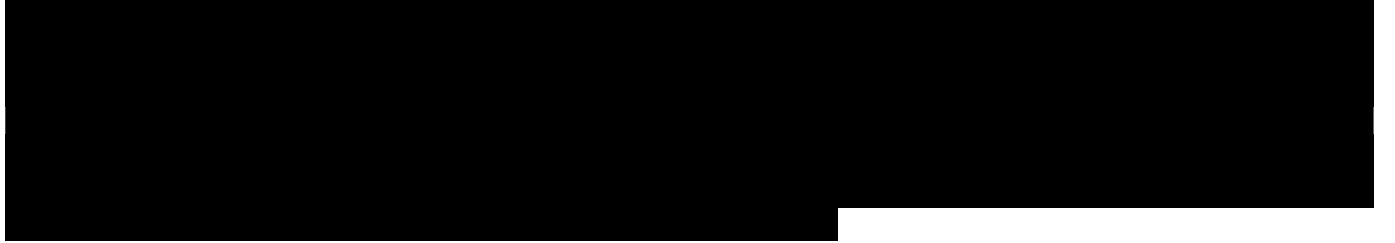
Organizational leadership and structural refinement were also presented. The College undertook administrative restructuring, including the elimination of one Vice President and one Dean role, Cabinet-level changes, and succession planning. A more directive approach to institutional decision-making was introduced, improving processes such as course scheduling. In La Paz County, strategic community partnerships expanded, including a \$500,000 contribution and \$250,000–\$300,000 in equipment donations from Onvida, a shared faculty arrangement with STEDY, and infrastructure collaboration with LETA and the Yuma Union High School District.

Institutional visibility and student culture remained strong, with national recognition for AWC's communications and marketing, a record-breaking year for the AWC Foundation, and three athletic teams advancing to NJCAA national tournaments. Looking ahead, President Corr expressed enthusiasm for his tenth year in office and acknowledged both the increasing pace of disruptive change and the uncertainties in state and federal funding. He reaffirmed AWC's strong position for sustained, long-term growth and continued community impact.

The District Governing Board commended Dr. Corr and the College leadership team for their exemplary leadership and the College's strong reputation in community college education statewide. The Board noted the growth of partnerships and quality programming as evidence of the College's forward-thinking approach, attracting attention and admiration from other Community College Boards.

>>Dr. Corr Left at 2:15 pm

Discussion



>> Maria Chavoya joined the meeting by Phone at 2:30 pm.



Motion to Adjourn from Executive Session:

Motion to adjourn by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Brad Sale.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

>> Resume Regular Meeting <<

District Governing Board Action Item #1 – Consideration to Approve the President’s Contract – Presented by Dennis Booth

Motion by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Maria Chavoya

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary –

The District Governing Board is the publicly elected Governing Body of the two County Districts representing La Paz and Yuma counties. The Arizona Western College District Governing Board is responsible for the review and retention of the College President. The District Governing Board proposes the renewal terms for Dr. Daniel Corr as President of the College for July 2025 through June 2027.

Closing Items:

Good of the Order by Dr. Daniel Corr

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.

He concluded by sharing his recognition of Olivia Zepeda’s inception into the Hall of Fame at the recent Teacher of the Year celebration.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting will be June 18, 2025, with the next Regular meeting conducted both in-person and via Zoom and at the Yuma Campus.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Brad Sale.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, 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 2:54 pm.

Adjourn: The meeting matters were complete.

Respectfully submitted,



Ashley B Herrington, Recording Secretary

Attendance at 12:10 pm

