

MEETING MINUTES

Arizona Western College

District Governing Board Meeting

Regular Meeting 12 pm

Frances Morris Boardroom - Yuma Campus and Via Zoom

September 20, 2023

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

Board Member present by phone, Zoom: None

Board Member Absent: Dr. Kenneth MacFarland

***Quorum confirmed**

Others Present within Boardroom: (23)

Dr. Daniel Corr, President

Ashley Herrington, Chief of Staff

Ana English, Associate Dean of Enrollment Services

Biri Martinez, Outreach, Recruitment & Early College Director

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

Cristina Gonzales, Associate Dean of Advisement and Student Success

Dimercia Poulain, Student Government Association President

Dr. Cris Gordon, Associate Dean of Instructional Development and Student Learning Experience

Dr. Joann Chang, Executive Director & Dean of Healthcare Programs

Dr. Kathleen Iudicello, Vice President of Learning Services

Dr. Monica Ketchum, District Governing Board Faculty Liaison

Karen Davila, Executive Administrative Assistant

Katheline Ocampo, Chief Human Resources Officer

Lori Stofft, Vice President of Advancement

Martha Martinez, Professor of Spanish

Noemi Barraza, Executive Administrative to the President's Office

Student of the Month: Kimber Wagner

Reetika Dhawan, CEO of Entrepreneurial College & Vice President of Workforce & Healthcare

Richard Hernandez, Conference and Events Technician

Ross Poppenberger, Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services

Sharon Register, Director of Risk Management

Steve Eckert, Director of Facilities

Stuart Gibson, Associate Dean of Business, Education and Social and Behavioral Sciences

Others Present within on Zoom: (15)

Renee Munoz

Shara Skinner

Tyler Vodehnal

Kimberly Trujillo

Randy Hartless

Sandra Rodriguez

Patty Jimenez

Susanna Zambrano

Randy Hartless

Melinda Rico

Stephanie Martinez

Brenda Sawyer

Anthony Brown

Julia Howe

Daniel J. Fitts

Community Member Present by Zoom: (0) None

Others Present within Boardroom: (3) Dr. Mike Sabath, Dr. Tanya Hodges, Elizabeth Vasquez

Call to Order: Board President Dennis Booth called the Regular Meeting to order at 12:08pm.

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

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda for the September 20, 2023, meeting presented for approval.

Motion by Maria Chavoya, seconded by Richard Lamb

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Maria Chavoya, Richard Lamb, Olivia Zepeda and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes: August 22, 2023, Board Regular Meeting Minutes presented for approval.

Motion by Maria Chavoya, seconded by Richard Lamb

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Maria Chavoya, Richard Lamb, Olivia Zepeda and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Arizona Association of Community College Trustees (AACCT)

Ms. Chavoya shared her report. The upcoming ACCT Conference in Las Vegas is October 9 – 12 with a breakfast and evening event with discussions for strategic planning as AACCT, in concert with AC4. Ms. Chavoya shared AACCT and AC4 will partner to work collaboratively on legislative priorities to support continued planning for the legislative cycle.

ACCT Delegate for upcoming Conference hosted in Las Vegas, NV will be Ms. Olivia Zepeda.

Call to the Audience:

No one approached the call to the audience.

Employee Reports

Student Government Association, Presented by Dimercia Poulain

Ms. Dimercia Poulain, President of SGA, reported on behalf of Student Government Association. She introduced herself as an international student from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a sophomore and enrolled in an engineering program here at Arizona Western College. She serves as Student Government President for the 2023-2024 academic year and is a part-time employee for the international student services and the student success center on Yuma Campus.

She highlighted events supporting students this week, including:

- Constitution Day and Voter Registration Day on September 15 – aimed at increasing awareness and activism within the community.
- Thrifting Thursday to blend civic awareness and free Thrifting booth for students to pick out clothes of their choice as we share with them information on our Campus Food Pantry, Career Closet and basic needs resources available to them!
- Hispanic Celebration Month hosted Sept 15 – Oct 15th
- Popcorn and Cotton Handy - Campus Club Day to share awareness of clubs and organizations available to students.
- Many new clubs started this year

Faculty Senate Association, Presented by Monica Ketchum-Cardenas

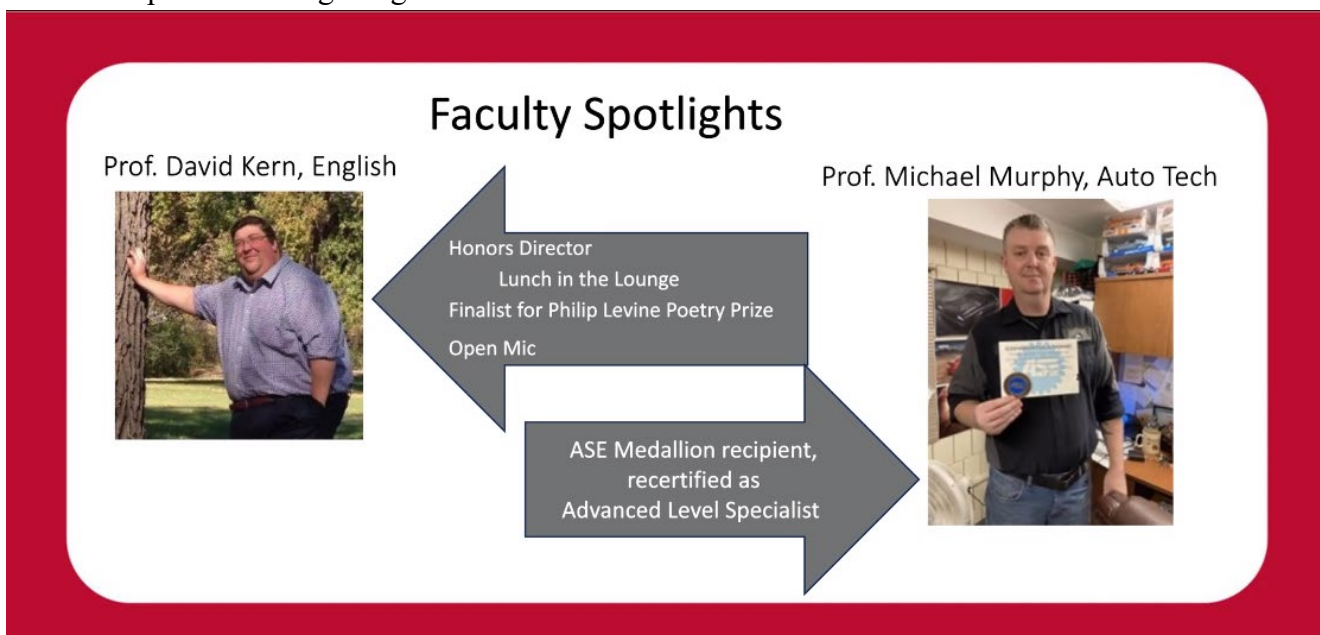
Professor Ketchum-Cardenas welcomed the Board. She introduced the Senate representation serving

this year.

She featured the Family Studies Program which focuses on growth of students to be productive, committed members of the community outreach through community partners, and a partnership of the ‘western cats’ of students from both AWC and University of Arizona-Yuma. The program experiences and opportunities are brought to community experiences to support the course instruction. An upcoming event is on October 4 at 1:15 to find out about the program, transfer pathways and career exploration.

She shared the Faculty Spotlight: Professor Michael Murphy, Auto Tech and Professor David Kern, Honor Director and English Professor. Each of these Faculty members are champions of student success and student access celebrating student accomplishments.

She shared that the biggest focus of the faculty remained with the “eye on the prize and creating a great student experience and getting students to their finish line”.



Student of the Month, Presented by Dr. Kathleen Iudicello

Stuart Gibson, Associate Dean of Behavior Sciences, welcomed the Board.

Student of the Month, Kimber Wagner, nominated by Professor Dr. Aryca Marron. Mr. Gibson shared the nomination: “Kimber balances her studies with being a military wife, mom, and was a long-time caregiver. Kimber is being nominated for student of the month because of her superb academic effort in class. Kimber demonstrates the top-notch student attributes such as organization, punctuality, and peer support. What is also noticed is her expertise and ability to readily apply content to relevant life experiences. Her vulnerability and shares are an excellent learning addition to class. When students may not fully grasp an academic lecture, it is her student interpretation and examples that might help others in the class understand the content more deeply. Kimber is appreciated by her instructors and peers.”

Kimber accepted the award and shared “First time earning an award like this”. She continued stating that since coming to AWC, she has been very welcomed to the College community, especially as a non-traditional student. She her mentor in the room, Professor Martha Martinez, as an amazing mentor and support a community to grow within. She acknowledged the amazing in-person and online experiences as a student. She shared she wants to become a Licensed Mental Health counselor with plans to transfer to NAU and earn her bachelors in Psychology.

Action Items

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

Motion by Maria Chavoya seconded by Olivia Zepeda.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, Richard Lamb and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

The **Board Approved** the Human Resources Packet as presented.

Summary –

Positions presented for approval –

- Kendra Ware, Professor of Biology
- Lance Gordon, Outreach & Early College Coordinator/Assistant Women's Soccer Coach
- Maria Del Carmen Espitia Gonzalez, HEERF Accountant (Temporary)
- Randy Hartless, Associate Dean for La Paz County, Entrepreneurial College

Action Item #2 – Consideration to Purchase Services with Pipeline, AZ – Presented by Ross Poppenberger

Motion by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Maria Chavoya.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, Richard Lamb and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary-

The college is seeking approval to purchase services with Pipeline Arizona for the career development and workforce planning needs. Pipeline Arizona is a unique statewide workforce platform that uses Futures, Inc. technology to better align the workforce ecosystem stakeholders in Arizona. Pipeline Arizona provides statewide career exploration and workforce development support resources through a common skill-based language. They serve the K12, college, youth, adult ed and community audiences through customized platform iterations that highlight career exploration. This platform is used by five other community colleges in the state as well as implemented at all high schools across Arizona. By using Pipeline Arizona for career development and workforce planning, career advisors and students can stay ahead of the curve, make informed decision and foster a culture of growth and development. The grand total cost for this purchase will be \$52,800.

Action Item #3 – Consideration to Purchase Firefighter Personal Protection Equipment – Presented by Ross Poppenberger

Motion by Maria Chavoya seconded by Richard Lamb

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, Richard Lamb and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary-

Consideration to purchase firefighter personal protection equipment from United Fire for the students enrolled in the Fire Science Academy. These students qualify for the grant support services from the Office of Economic Office Arizona Quest Grant. The total cost of this purchase will be \$72,500.

Action Item #4 – Consideration to Purchase Catwalk for Cooling Towers – Presented by Ross Poppenberger

Motion by Richard Lamb, seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary-

The college is seeking approval to purchase a catwalk for our cooling towers. The scope of work will be to fabricate and install a west access platform for the cooling towers within the central plant of the Yuma Campus for maintenance access. The total cost of the purchase will be \$118,273.91.

Action Item #5 – Consideration to Approve Audio and Lighting Purchase – Presented by Ross Poppenberger

Motion by Richard Lamb seconded by Maria Chavoya

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary-

The college is seeking approval to update the audio and lighting in the Amphitheater. This capital improvement project purchase will update the outdated over 40-year-old technology and enhance the ambiance and environment for a greater student and community experience. The project one-time costs will be \$58,729.74.

Action Item #6 – Consideration to Approve Parking Lot Repairs – Presented by Ross Poppenberger

Motion by Richard Lamb seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, Richard Lamb and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary-

The College seeks approval for parking lot repairs located at the P4 parking lot on the Yuma Campus. The scope of work will be to mill and pave parking lot. The layout and stripe parking lot currently has 52 spaces and when complete it will be double. The total cost of this project will not exceed \$300,000.00.

Action Item #7 – Consideration to Approve Purchase for the Academic Library – Presented by Ross

Poppenberger

Motion by Maria Chavoya seconded by Oliva Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, Richard Lamb and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary-

The college is seeking approval to purchase SirsiDynix a new online catalog for the Academic Library. This purchase includes cataloging, circulation, public access modules, mobile circulation, performs common tasks like check-ins, checkouts, and renewals. The total cost of the purchase will be \$112,259.00 over a three-year term with NAU Yuma paying 20%.

SirsiDynix Services	
Year 1 - 2023-2024	\$41,445.00
Year 2 - 2024-2025	\$34,550.00
Year 3 - 2025-2026	\$36,264.00
Grand Total	\$112,259.00

Action Item #8 – Consideration to Approve Technology Purchase – Presented by Ross Poppenberger

Motion by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Maria Chavoya

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, Richard Lamb and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary-

AWC Information Technology Department is requesting renewals for the Licensing Agreement with GovConnect, Inc. needed for continual access and deployment of Microsoft software and operating systems. Microsoft Licenses are utilized by all employees and students in their day-to-day operations and learning.

12-month license / subscriptions for Faculty, Student, and systems	\$131,907.62
Total	\$131,907.62

Action Item #9 – Consideration to Approve the Amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement for Childcare Project – Presented by Ross Poppenberger

Motion by Maria Chavoya seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, Richard Lamb and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary-

The college is seeking approval to amend the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Arizona Department Economic Security for the Higher Education Childcare Project. This Agreement provides funding for childcare assistant to eligible students and is administered by the contractor. This agreement is to modify and expand the Child Learning Development Lab program on the Arizona Western College Yuma campus by providing childcare scholarships to Arizona Western College students. The terms of this agreement will be effective upon execution and terminate on June 30, 2024.

Action Item #10 – Consideration to Approve Voucher August 2023– Presented by Ross Poppenberger
Motion by Maria Chavoya seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, Richard Lamb and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

The **Board Approved** the Voucher as presented.

Summary-

Summary of Revenues and Expenditures for the Month Ended August 31, 2023 - Operational and Capital Funds.

Summary

The result of fiscal operations for the month ended August 31, 2023, indicated that expenses exceeded revenues*. On August 31, 2023, the cash balance was \$17,649,293 compared to \$18,056,865 on the same date last year.

Operational - Fund "O"

The District received 16% of its anticipated revenues and expended 16% of its budgeted expenditures, compared to 15% and 14%, respectively, last year. Compared to 6,922 credit hours billed to students last year, this year 9,189 credit hours were active high school students. These students are billed \$25 per credit instead of \$94 per credit. The AWC community betterment plan has resulted in \$634,024 or 1% of anticipated revenues to support the education of youth in the community.

Capital - Fund "6"

The District does not budget Capital revenues. For the current fiscal year, the District has expended 15% of its budgeted expenditures, compared to 0% last year.

*Yuma/La Paz Counties taxes received through July 31, 2023 at August 31, 2023.

President's Reports

Enrollment Update by Bryan Doak and Ashley Herrington

Ashley Herrington and Bryan Doak Welcomed the Board. Together they provided an Enrollment Update of Overall Student Enrollment, Dual-Credit/Early College Programming and University Partner Enrollment growth. This update connects to the 2023-2024 College Goals #6, Enrollment Growth and #10, Partnerships Growth, as set and affirmed with the District Governing Board in the May 2023 Board Meeting.

American's confidence in Higher Education has declined to 36% in 2023 from 57% in 2015, according to a 2023 Gallup poll. This decline is mirrored in trend of Community Enrollment to 37% between 2010 and 2022. Additionally, only 47.3% of Arizona High School graduates enroll in higher education, 30% choosing

a University and 17% at community colleges. Arizona Community Colleges experienced a 21% enrollment decline across the state between 2018 and 2022. This state and national landscape of trends is not the trend AWC enrollment is experiencing. AWC is the only community college with an enrollment increase of 2.34% and report a 2.5% increase in transfer students. As of September 20, fall 2023 enrollment is tracking a 5% increase. The strong enrollment growth is reflective of the college's commitment to align community needs and programming and support student completion to meet the college's BHAG, doubling the rate of earned baccalaureate degrees in La Paz and Yuma counties by 2035. Contributing to the overall enrollment growth is the massive growth of Dual-Enrollment courses since 2016-2017. A 617% enrollment increase in Dual Enrollment reflects the intentional outreach activity within high schools and use of Higher Learning Commission Accreditation Flexibility has allowed more courses to be offered. Over 95,321 credits have been earned since 2017 by high school students. Equally impressive is the 102 Students who graduated with Associates degrees before earning their high school diploma in 2021 and 2022. AWC saw a five-year % change increase of about 24% of the total number of Baccalaureate degree recipients who entered as New Transfers while there was a -0.6% change decrease statewide. Bottom line is that access to higher education early and having a college-going culture supported in our high schools is making a difference.

Growth is also recorded at the local university level. NAU Yuma campus has a 17% enrollment growth with key programming in Engineering, Nursing and Speech-Language Pathology attracting students. AWC and NAU Yuma partner on financial resources for students to continue their education after AWC through the YES Program and **Arizona College Excellence** (ACE) initiative to help community college students persist, transfer to NAU and graduate prepared for personal and professional success. Additionally, the Arizona Attainment Alliance (A++) is a first-of-its-kind partnership between NAU, Arizona Commerce Authority, and Arizona community colleges to increase college-going rates for high school students, service adults with some college but no degree, and increase graduation rates. University of Arizona Yuma Campus has 189 students this Fall in over 20 programs in the College of Engineering and College of Agriculture Life and Environmental Science. The WesternCats is the 2+2 program that supports success and an AWC-UA Identity from day one. Arizona State University increased Programming since establishing ASULocal campus site in 2022. There is a 650% growth of enrollment with the first student graduate from any ASULocal program in May and an anticipated 15 student cohort on track to graduate in May 2024. The first Barrett Honors college Students came from the ASULocal AWC Yuma campus as well.

Enrollment growth across these four institutions will be further supported in the upcoming development and build out of the AWC University Transfer center that will centralize access to planning AWC and University path together in a shared space for students and advisors opening Summer 2024. The BHAG is in motion – it starts with a college going culture and support students seamlessly to local partners through early access, clear pathways to success, dedicated tools for transfer, support to completion and partnerships working to provide an amazing student experience.

The Board shared their appreciation to see the student success across their experiences at each institution.

Closing Items:

Dr. Corr shared closing remarks.

He reiterated the College Goal of increasing Dual Enrollment by 10% during 2023-24, and the President's Report showed strong momentum in Dual-Enrollment and Early College on track to meet the goal.

Through the enrollment growth and partnership universities' growth, there is an obvious increase of activities and people across all campus locations. An 11% increase of on-site instruction at the Yuma campus has brought lots of activity and energy in Student clubs and programming.

Dr. Corr continued stating ‘this growth does not happen on accident. Intentional planning and thoughtful connection with community partners and authentic relationships with education partners will continue to lead the college’s focus to create thriving communities.

ACCT Conference in Las Vegas, encourage to attend Strategic Planning, current Plan is AWC 2025, so next step to review interests for a Fall half-day Workshop. Additional interest to review current Bylaw and Procedure reviews and a mid-year College Goal review.

He looks forward to the upcoming AWC Foundation Schoolhouse Soiree celebrating 60 years of education and inducting two Inductees to the Hall of Fame.

Earlier in the week, AWC was proud to have three Board Members at the Tuesday September 19 Legislative Town Hall, celebrating the funding received, and support by elected officials of the community and local education. Additionally, the elected officials committed to advocating for needs and actively listening to students and community members.

College leadership will continue to prepare for the 2023/2024 legislative asks, even with a glim state budget forecast.

The first week of October, on Thursday, October 5, AWC will host the Law Enforcement Training Academy Ground Breaking at 9 am celebrating the amazing new full-time facility.

Dr. Corr was proud to share that AWC will be recognized by EducationForward Arizona as the “NorthStar Award recipient” celebrating the work of creating a College-Going Culture through access to Early College program and courses.

In conclusion, he shared that there is a little bit of magic occurring at AWC in support of an amazing student experience and achieving the BHAG.

Ms. Chavoya recognized the amazing design, planning and amazing space the Matador Activity Center (MAC) is for students and the community. Ms. Zepeda noted the beautiful details and furniture.

Mr. Booth shared the many improvements and resources for students will instill a sense of pride shared between students and the Board.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, October 18 at 12pm with the next Regular meeting conducted both in-person and via Zoom and at the Yuma Campus.

Motion by Olivia Zepeda, seconded by Maria Chavoya

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Olivia Zepeda, Maria Chavoya, Richard Lamb and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

The Board **Approved** the next meeting date and final matters of the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.







Adjourn: The meeting matters were complete.

Respectfully submitted,









Ashley B Harrington, Recording Secretary

Attendance at 12:08 pm

 Frances Morris Boardroom	 Ashley Herrington	Tyler Vodehnal Tyler Vodehnal
Melinda Rico Melinda Rico	 Kimberly Trujillo	 Renee Munoz
Sandra Rodriguez Sandra Rodriguez	 Patty Jimenez	Susanna Zambr... Susanna Zambrano
Randy Hartless Randy Hartless	 Shara Skinner	stephanie.marti... stephanie.martinez@azwestern.edu

1:40 pm

 Frances Morris Boardroom	 Ashley Herrington	Tyler Vodehnal Tyler Vodehnal
Melinda Rico Melinda Rico	 Kimberly Trujillo	 Renee Munoz
Sandra Rodriguez Sandra Rodriguez	Susanna Zambr... Susanna Zambrano	Randy Hartless Randy Hartless
 Anthony Brown		
 Julia Howe		