

MEETING MINUTES
Arizona Western College
District Governing Board Meeting
Regular Meeting 2:30pm
Yuma Campus and Virtually
May 14, 2026

Board Members Present: Board Chair Dennis Booth, Maria Chavoya

Board Member present by phone, Zoom: Board Secretary Olivia Zepeda, Brad Sale

Board Member Absent: Dr. Kenneth MacFarland

Others Present within Meeting room: (21)

Dr. Daniel P. Corr, President	Stuart Gibson, Dean of Business, Education, Behavioral and Social Sciences
Dr. Reetika Dhawan, CEO of Entrepreneurial College	Marlie Meza, Professor of Biology
Czarina Gallegos, Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services	Dr. Joann Chang, Dean of Innovation
Dr. Michelle Sims, Faculty Senate Representative, Professor of Economics	Dr. Nikki Hage, Dean of Students
Cindy Zavala, Director of Student Life	Cinthia Reyes, Executive Director and Dean of CTE and Nursing
Jennifer Freedman, Executive Administrative Assistant	Lori Stofft, Vice President for Advancement and Executive Director for AWC Foundation
Johanna Megui, Workforce Specialist	Bryan Doak, EVP of Learning and Student Services
Kathy Ocampo, Vice President and CHRO	Onyeka Udodi, SGA President
Patty Jimenez, Benefits Manager	Scott Estes, Chief Information Officer
Mark Sims, Professor of Homeland Security	Lynette De la Cruz, Student of the Month
Yurinia Yeomans, Professor of Administration of Justice Studies	

Others Present virtually: (16)

Adriana Perez	Marcela Castro
Adriana Martinez	Dave Glennon, CPA, Financial Audit Manager, Arizona Auditor General's Office
Jolie Yabuka Olingende	Mariah Gunderson, CPA, Audit Senior, Arizona Auditor General's Office
Angel Madrigal	
Karen Davila	
Lisa Swenson	
Mandy Heil	
Kimberly Trujillo	
Wendy Wrenn	
Juliana Garcia	
Patrick Brown	
Nancy Ney	
Renee Macaluso	

Community Members Present by Zoom (1) Dr. Shadi Kilani

Community Members Present in Room: (1) Sarai De la Cruz, parent of Student of the Month

Call to Order: Board Chair Dennis Booth called the Regular Meeting to order at 2:31 pm.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda for May 14, 2026 meeting presented for approval.
Motion to approve agenda made by Maria Chavoya, seconded by Olivia Zepeda
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth
Nay: None
Abstain: None

Approval of Minutes: The Meeting Minutes Budget Session and Regular Meeting for April 29, 2026, presented for approval.
Motion by Brad Sale seconded by Maria Chavoya
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth
Nay: None

Call to the Audience:

N/A

College Reports

Student Government Association: SGA President Onyeka Udodi shared that the Student Government Association (SGA) mission is to empower student voices, promote leadership, and foster a positive and inclusive campus environment. In support of this mission, SGA has implemented a suggestion form that enables students to provide input, share ideas, and request support or guidance, with strong engagement reported. Mr. Udodi also recognized two student exchange program participants who are graduating, offering congratulations and appreciation for their contributions to the college community. In closing, Mr. Udodi expressed gratitude to the Governing Board for its continued support of SGA and presented a formal acknowledgment to Dr. Corr, recognizing 10 years of leadership, dedication, and service to the college, and extending best wishes for a fulfilling retirement.

Fiscal Year 2025 Arizona Auditor Report, presented by Arizona Auditor (NAMES) Czarina Gallegos introduced Dave Gannon, Audit Manager and Mariah Gunderson, Senior Auditor from the Arizona Auditor General's office to give their report on the district's annual financial report and single audit for June 30, 2025 in accordance with state requirements. Mr. Gannon outlined both auditor and district responsibilities related to financial statement and federal compliance audits. The auditors reported an unmodified (clean) opinion on the district's annual financial report, indicating that the financial statements are reliable, and issued unmodified opinions on the major federal programs tested. Financial trends over the past five years show steady growth, with revenues increasing from \$77.6 million in fiscal year 2021 to \$111.5 million in fiscal year 2025, consistently exceeding expenses. The district's total net position reached \$77.2 million as of June 30, 2025, with \$11.9 million identified as unrestricted. Federal expenditures increased by \$3.4 million in fiscal year 2025, largely due to higher funding through U.S. Department of Education programs, including Pell Grants.

The auditors reported one financial statement finding related to the lack of formal written procedures for awarding performance-based stipends, and one federal compliance finding concerning incomplete reporting of subaward information in the federal reporting system. Recommendations were provided for both findings, and the district has developed corrective action plans with anticipated implementation by June and September 2026. The auditors concluded by noting a positive and cooperative working relationship with district staff and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to present their findings.

Faculty Senate Association: Dr. Michelle Sims, Faculty Senate Representative to the District Governing Board. The report highlighted a range of faculty and student achievements, community engagement efforts, and academic activities across the college. Faculty and staff participated in community events such as the Soroptimist Club of Yuma Women's Empowerment Walk, while Spanish program graduates were recognized at the La Cocina celebration in Somerton. Early childhood education faculty engaged in the Week of the Young Child, and nursing faculty and students demonstrated strong community involvement through service initiatives, including the distribution of 250 care packages and donations to local support organizations, as well as recognition during National Nurses Month by the Yuma County Board of Supervisors.

Academic and professional accomplishments were also noted, including a ceramics professor's selection to a national juried exhibition, a mathematics faculty-led student showcase focused on conservation and quantitative reasoning, and a music professor's invitation to perform at a university anniversary concert, alongside a faculty recital highlighting music program talent. Additional experiential learning opportunities were provided through partnerships with local agencies, including correctional facility tours and de-escalation training. Faculty also supported students' success in career and technical education programs, including fire science preparation for certification.

Student-athletes achieved notable recognition, with multiple baseball and softball players earning all-conference honors, including Division I Player and Pitcher of the Year distinctions. Finally, faculty received statewide recognition through professional appointments, and student media work was featured locally, underscoring the college's ongoing commitment to academic excellence, student success, and community impact.

Student of the Month: Professors Mark Sims and Yurinia Yeomans presented the Student of the Month award to Lynette De la Cruz, an Administration of Justice major, in acknowledgment of her outstanding academic achievement and engagement. Ms. De la Cruz has earned A grades in all coursework and demonstrates strong intellectual curiosity through active classroom participation and thoughtful inquiry, particularly in the areas of criminal justice, cybercrime, and criminology. She has also participated in Innovation Fund-supported work-based learning opportunities, applying classroom knowledge in real-world settings, including specialized training experiences coordinated by faculty. Faculty noted her dedication, integrity, and strong work ethic, highlighting her as a model student with significant potential.

In her remarks, Ms. De la Cruz expressed gratitude to faculty, mentors, counselors, and family for their support and encouragement, emphasizing her commitment to continued learning and professional growth. She shared plans to complete her program by December and is exploring future career pathways within the field.

Action Items

Action Item #1 – Consideration to Accept Candidates for Exempt Positions, presented by Katheline Ocampo
Motion by Maria Chavoya, 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 –

- **Javier Elias Cecco, Outreach/Early College Program Coordinator/Assistant Women’s Soccer Coach**
- **Shadi Kilani, Executive Vice President of the Entrepreneurial College**

Action Item #2 – Consideration to Approve Revision to Policy 405, presented by Katheline Ocampo
Motion by Maria Chavoya, 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 Action Item as Presented.

Summary –

Policy 405 outlines the authority delegated to the President regarding establishment of procedures regarding Advices for Employment for Employees approved by District Governing Board in March 1992.

It is recommended to update Policy 405 language to delegate to the President the authority and responsibility for the direct oversight, management, and awarding of all employee compensation, including salaries, stipends, and additional pay.

The Board considered and discussed a proposed revision to the policy related specifically to performance-based stipends, developed in response to recommendations from the district’s auditors. Dr. Corr stated that the revision is intended to align current practices with audit expectations by establishing a formal policy framework that provides clear authority for the President to approve stipends and ensures appropriate documentation and oversight. Board members sought clarification regarding the level of criteria required, and it was noted that while specific performance criteria would not be included in policy, the revision establishes the requirement for defined procedures and formal presidential approval. It was further clarified that, although stipends have been awarded historically, the updated policy formalizes the process and addresses the auditors’ concern regarding the absence of explicit policy authority. The item was brought forward with a recommendation for Board approval.

Action Item #3 – Consideration to Identify a Chief Fiscal Officer, presented by Dr. Daniel P. Corr
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 –

Dr. Daniel P. Corr, President of Arizona Western College, recognizes an update for the formal Chief Fiscal Officer role and updates the record to identify 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).

Action Item #4 – Consideration to Accept the Single Audit Reporting Package for Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2025, presented by Czarina Gallegos

Motion by Maria Chavoya 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 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 2024-2025 was completed by the office of the Arizona Auditor General on March 31, 2026, and distributed to Arizona Western College.

Action Item #5 – Consideration to Approve Voucher (March 2026), 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 –

Executive Summary

The District maintains robust financial health, with a monthly operating and investment cash balance of \$60,986,070 as of March 31, 2026, up from \$59,792,565 the previous year. Revenues increased by 8.8% year-over-year, while expenditures decreased by 6.7%. 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	\$48,844,345	\$44,891,705	+8.8%
Actual Expenditures	\$46,597,573	\$49,953,896	- 6.7 %
Operating Cash Balance	\$3,747,555	\$10,412,217	-64.0%

Enrollment Trends

Enrollment Type	2025-2026	2024-2025	% Change
Total Credit Hours	81,544	71,788	+13.6%
Early College Credit Hours	19,720	15,406	+28.0%
Dual Enrollment Credit Hours	11,857	9,833	+20.6%

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
CTE - Manufacturing	WardJet LLC- Educational Waterjet Cutting System for Wellton	\$150,900.00	Grant – Electrical Technicians
CTE – Fire Science	MES- Acquisition In - Fire Program SCBA breathing equipment, including air packs, cylinders, and facepieces.	\$249,600.00	Grant – Prop 301
CTE - HVAC	KLEIN Educational - Amatrol Residential Heat Pump Troubleshooting Learning System for HVAC Program	\$94,310.00	Grant - Prop 301

Dr. Reetika Dhawan provided some additional details on the Fire Science purchase of SCBA equipment. The current equipment is at its end-of-life and in need of replacement to continue to provide real-world experience in the classroom with equipment students will use when they enter the workforce.

President’s Reports

1. AWC Employee Health and Wellness, presented by Katheline Ocampo and Patty Jimenez
 Patty Jimenez, Benefits Manager, provided a report on employee health and wellness initiatives, highlighting the college’s comprehensive benefits and ongoing efforts to support employee well-being. Key benefits include the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), which provides confidential, no-cost counseling services for employees and their household members, as well as newly added offerings such as legal assistance and identity protection insurance available through the benefits program. Recent wellness events included a health fair featuring 15 vendors, with participation in services such as body composition scans and mobile health

screenings.

The report also outlined several wellness initiatives designed to promote healthy lifestyles, including hydration challenges, fitness programs, and a community 5K event held in partnership with local organizations, which saw strong participation. Additionally, the college continues to engage in statewide health initiatives, maintaining structured wellness programming supported by leadership, an active wellness committee, and community partnerships. The college was recognized with a Healthy Arizona Worksites Program Gold-level wellness award for 2025, and the Platinum award for 2026 through expanded participation and continued program development. Overall, the report emphasized the institution's commitment to fostering a healthy workplace culture that supports employee well-being and engagement.

2. Brief ACCT and India Lab Update, presented by Dr. Reetika Dhawan

Dr. Reetika Dhawan gave an update on the India–U.S. Partnership Lab, which focuses on advancing collaboration in areas such as advanced manufacturing, logistics, and the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into curriculum and programming. The program is faculty-driven, with selected faculty cohorts expected to collaborate on course development, align curriculum, and participate in international exchange opportunities. The timeline includes cohort selection during the summer 2026, with program implementation anticipated to begin in late summer or early fall, followed by ongoing collaboration and potential faculty travel.

A partner institution in India, KIIT University, was identified for the collaboration. The university offers a wide range of programs, including engineering, healthcare, and emerging technologies, and maintains numerous international partnerships. The collaboration aims to develop shared academic pathways, embed innovative technologies into coursework, and strengthen global engagement opportunities for faculty and students. If successful, the partnership may expand to additional international collaborations through future proposals. The presentation emphasized the potential to build global pathways and enhance academic programming through sustained international partnerships.

Good of the Order:

Closing Remarks by Dr. Daniel P. Corr

Dr. Corr highlighted recent institutional accomplishments and expressions of appreciation. The Human Resources department was commended for expanding services, including professional development and enhanced employee support beyond traditional benefits. Dr. Corr also noted the college's growing national and international recognition, including participation in global initiatives and trade missions, reflecting the institution's commitment to workforce development and a global perspective.

Athletic achievements were recognized, including the women's softball team advancing to the national championship for the second consecutive year. The President also reflected on recent campus events and celebrations, including a significantly expanded nursing pinning ceremony and increased participation at the Parker campus, underscoring continued program growth and community engagement. Additional highlights included the Wellton facility ribbon-cutting event attended by the Governor and his receipt of an honorary doctorate from Northern Arizona University, which was described as a recognition of the college's impact on the Yuma community.

In closing, Dr. Corr expressed appreciation to the Governing Board for its leadership, support, and commitment to the college's mission, noting the collaborative relationship and shared focus on serving students and the community. Board members returned gratitude and kind remarks to Dr. Corr and reflected

on his impact on taking the College to “the next level”.

Recess into Executive Session; Motion to Recess into Executive Session at 3:53pm

Motion made by Maria Chavoya, seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

>>>Executive Session Minutes following <<<

Call to Order at 3:58pm, by Dennis Booth

Board Members Present: Board Chair Dennis Booth, Maria Chavoya

Board Member present by phone, Zoom: Board Secretary Olivia Zepeda, Brad Sale

Board Member Absent: Dr. Kenneth MacFarland

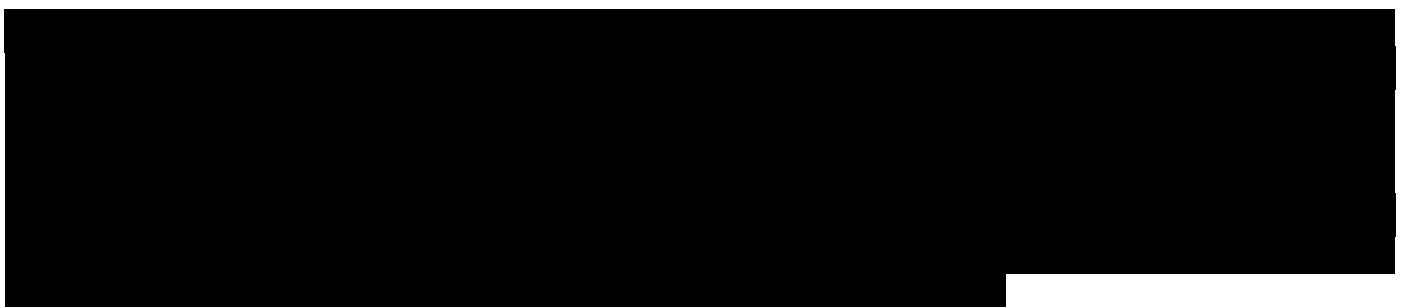
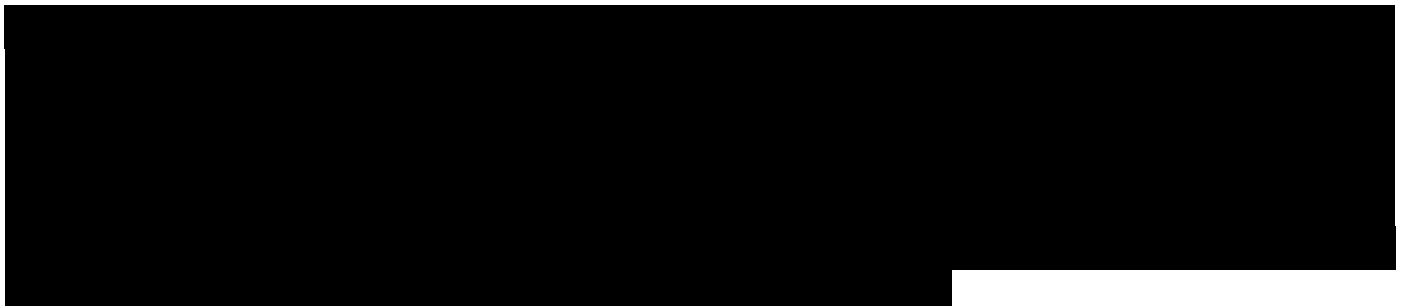
Others Present within Meeting room: (8)

Dr. Daniel P. Corr, Lorraine Stofft, Dr. Reetika Dhawan, Scott Estes, Czarina Gallegos, Bryan Doak, Katheline Ocampo, Jennifer Freedman

Others Present Virtually (0): N/A

Katheline Ocampo read the Admonition Open Meeting Law Statement for Executive Session confidentiality in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03.

1. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(9), for discussion regarding the College’s Information Technology Security Plans, Procedures, Assessments, Measures or Systems.



Time Stamp: 4:09 pm

Scott Estes, Katheline Ocampos, Lorraine Stofft, Dr. Reetika Dhawan, Scott Estes, Czarina Gallegos, Bryan Doak left the discussion.

2. 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.

Dr. Corr reported on a historically successful year for the college, highlighting record enrollment growth and strong institutional performance across multiple measures. Total enrollment reached its highest level, exceeding 6,350 students, with increases of 10% in the fall and 6% in the spring, representing approximately 45% growth over the past five years. Early college (dual and concurrent enrollment) programs experienced significant expansion, increasing more than tenfold in recent years, with an additional 20% growth this year, contributing to a strengthened college-going culture within the community. The college also reported leading the state in student transfers and achieving record participation in several academic and career and technical education programs, including nursing and medical assistant completions, as well as increased enrollment at the Parker campus.

Financially, the college remains in a strong position, operating well below the state expenditure limitation, maintaining stable tax rates, growing fund balances, and holding a triple-A bond rating. The institution also continues to invest in future growth, including planned development of new medical training programs supported by grant funding.

Dr. Corr further emphasized qualitative improvements across the institution, noting enhanced professionalism, operational effectiveness, and organizational capacity. In recognition of these accomplishments, the President announced the intent to award performance-based stipends to Cabinet members for exceptional service during the past year, following the Board's approval of updated Policy 405 authority. The stipends are one-time awards based on prior performance and are not added to base compensation. Board members expressed agreement about the Cabinet's high-level of performance and contributions. The President concluded with remarks of appreciation to the Board and reflected on his tenure, noting his commitment to continued support during the leadership transition.

Time Stamp: 4:22pm

Dr. Daniel Corr left the discussion

Motion to Adjourn from Executive Session:

Motion to adjourn by Maria Chavoya, seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

>> Resume Regular Meeting<<

Time Stamp: 4:27pm

Action Item

Action on any items discussed in Executive Session allowable pursuant to A.R.S. 38.341.01

(1) ITSS Plans- No action

(2) Personnel Matters

Motion to approve Performance-Based Stipend for the President as discussed in Executive Session:

Motion by Brad Sale, 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.

Next Meeting: The next meeting scheduled will be June 17, 2026, conducted both in-person and via Zoom and at the Yuma Campus.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Brad Sale, 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 next meeting date and final matters of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Adjourn: The meeting matters were complete.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Freedman, Recording Secretary

Time stamp 3:47pm

A screenshot of a Zoom meeting participant list. At the top is a search bar with the text "Find a participant". Below it is a list of 14 participants, each with a profile picture or initials, name, role, and status icons (mute, video). At the bottom are three buttons: "Invite", "Mute all", and a three-dot menu icon.

Participant	Role	Mute	Video
Jennifer Freedman	(Host, me)	On	On
FM	Frances Morris Boardroom	Off	Off
OZ	Olivia Zepeda	Off	Off
Adriana Perez		Off	Off
AM	Angel Madrigal	Off	Off
BS	Brad Sale	Off	Off
JY	Jolie Yabuka Olingende	Off	Off
Juliana Garcia		Off	Off
Kimberly Trujillo		Off	Off
Lisa Swenson		Off	Off
Mandy Heil		Off	Off
MC	Marcela Castro	Off	Off
Nancy Ney		Off	Off
SK	shadi kilani	Off	Off
W	wendy.wrenn1@azwestern.edu	Off	Off