

MEETING MINUTES
Arizona Western College
District Governing Board Meeting
Regular Meeting 3 pm
San Luis Learning Center and Via Zoom
March 20, 2024

Board Members Present: Board President Dennis Booth, Board Secretary Olivia Zepeda
Board Member present by Zoom from Parker Learning Center: Dr. Kenneth MacFarland*,
Maria Chavoya

Board Member Absent: Richard Lamb

***Quorum confirmed**

Others Present within the room: (17)

Dr. Daniel Corr, President
Ashley Herrington, Chief of Staff
Bryan Doak, Vice President for Student Services
Dr. Kathleen Iudicello, Vice President of
Learning Services
Karen Davila, Executive Administrative
Assistant
Katheline Ocampo, Chief Human Resources
Officer
Lorraine Stofft, Vice President for Advancement
and Executive Director of AWC Foundation
Reetika Dhawan, Chief Executive Officer of
Entrepreneurial College & Vice President of
Workforce & Healthcare

Frances Martinez, Faculty
Magda Osegura, student of the Month
Ross Poppenberger, Vice President for Finance
and Administrative Services
Julia Howe, Director of Organizational
Effectiveness and Development
Cinthia Alvarez, Dean of Career and Technical
Education
Maria Guzman, Advisor, South Yuma County
Omar Heredia, Interim Associate Dean of South
Yuma County
Victor Mata, IT Support
Alan Lopez, IT Support

Others Present within on Zoom: (10)

Noemi Barraza, Executive Administrative
Assistant to the President's Office
Dimercia Poulain, Student Government
Association President
Dr. Joann Chang, Executive Director & Dean of
Healthcare Programs
Scott Estes, Chief Information Officer
Annie Welker, Administrative Assistant IV

Jodi Trout, Administrative Assistant IV
Noemi Barraza, Executive Administrative
Assistant to the President's Office
Ginnellie Gutierrez, Chief of Staff for
Entrepreneurial College
Dr. Monica Ketchum-Cardenas, Faculty Senate
Association, Faculty
Desiree Gunderman, Administrative Assistant

Community Member Present by Zoom: (1)

Javier Vargas, San Luis Council Member

Others Present within Boardroom: (11)

Rob Jankowski – SLHS Principal, Maryela Saucedo – SLMS Principal, Guadalupe Polage – SMMS
Principal, Luis Reyes – SWJH Principal, Lizette Esparza – GESD #32 Superintendent, Omar Duron –
GESD #32 Associate Superintendent, Tadeo Azael De La Hoya, San Luis Council Member, City of
Somerton Council Members, Mayor & Vice-Mayor, Student of the month mom

Call to Order: Board President Dennis Booth called the Regular Meeting to order at 3:04 pm.

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

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda for the March 20, 2024, meeting is presented for approval.

Motion by Olivia Zepeda, seconded by Maria Chavoya

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes: February 13, 2024, Board Regular Minutes presented for approval.

Motion by Maria Chavoya, seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Call to the Audience:

Robert Jankowski, principal at San Luis High School. He thanked the Board for AWC’s support of students in South Yuma County and the dual-enrollment program within the High School. He announced his acceptance of the Assistant superintendent role for Yuma Union High School District and noted the continued access for all students across Yuma Union District to higher education thanks to the strong partnership with AWC.

District Governing Board Action Items

Action Item #1 –Consideration to Approve the Mission Statement – Presented by Dennis Booth

Motion by Olivia Zepeda, seconded by Maria Chavoya

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Summary –

The District Governing Board is the publicly elected Governing Body of the five Districts representing La Paz and Yuma counties.

The College embarked on an ambitious Strategic Planning Process in January 2017. Strategic Planning evolves from collaborative engagement with the college and local, and regional, communities to articulate a shared mission, vision, and set of values that drive decision-making at Arizona Western College. The Strategic Plan developed out of this process has been dynamic and provided a flexible but focused framework for our future. During the February 13, 2024 Board Workshop session, the Board reviewed the College’s Mission and Vision Statements from 2017. The first step of the upcoming Strategic Planning process is the review of the Mission and Vision Statements.

The Arizona Western College District Governing Board hereby affirms the College’s Mission Statement of “Transforming lives through education and partnerships to create thriving communities”.

Employee Reports

Student Government Association, Presented by Dimercia Poulain

Ms. Dimercia Poulain, President of SGA, reported on behalf of the Student Government Association. She

is a sophomore and enrolled in an engineering program at Arizona Western College. She shared recent activities and upcoming events. Throughout February, Black History events, including Karaoke, are held in San Luis, Yuma, and Parker Centers. SGA members volunteered at the Yuma Humane Society walking dogs at the shelter. SGA is excited to celebrate Mr. and Mrs. Matador's school spirit and talent show Thursday, March 21 and San Luis Game night the same night. Additional student events scheduled into May including Yuma and San Luis Students were described. Open Mic night is scheduled for students to bring along hidden talents in music and poetry following the Student Showcase event celebrating unique student talents across the College. MAC has a popular Nap pod and Air Hockey table.

Faculty Senate Association, Presented by Dr. Monica Ketchum-Cardenas

Dr. Ketchum-Cardenas presented the recent activity from the Faculty. She celebrated growing engagement by Faculty and expanded representation of four Senate seats for the Entrepreneurial College. This brings a total of 19 Faculty Senators representing the faculty voice.

Ila Peterson, Instructional Excellence Coordinator is on board to support year-long Faculty development and training in partnership with the Organizational Development Office. This will also support strengthening Faculty onboarding and orientation throughout their first year at AWC.

AWC recently hosted AgSummit, featuring the large Agriculture industry within the region. She gave kudos to the Agriculture department, use of the Ag Lab and student volunteers throughout the week. AWC and UA Yuma students presented their keynote presentations to industry experts.

Upcoming events include Student Showcase, Open Mic, and Commencement, with a Tacos and Tassels celebration ahead of the formal Commencement events.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary –

- Abdul-Rahman Nasser, Professor of Mathematics
- Camary Newman, Videographer
- Iskra Nunez, Professor of Mathematics
- Jennifer Ericson, Director of Corporate Training
- Quentin Hennig, Professor of Cybersecurity/Head E-Sports Coach
- Seth Miner, Professor of Philosophy

Action Item #2 – Consideration to Approve New Curriculum– Presented by Reetika Dhawan

Motion by Maria Chavoya, seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary-

New Certificates proposed in:

- CERT.CDL. Commercial Driver's License
- CERT.GYC. Cybersecurity

The Google Cybersecurity course is another stackable certificate. The CDL program will be available across the La Paz and Yuma Districts. La Paz/Mohave Workforce board is excited about this offering. The CDL is offered in partnership with Truck Driving Training with Workforce dollars. Following approval, this program will be offered under the employer training program (ETP) to cover student costs

Action Item #3 – Consideration to Approve Differential Tuition – Presented by Ross Poppenberger

Motion by Dr. Kenneth MacFarland seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary-

Annually, the District Governing Board reviews the tuition and fees and other charges that will be part of the drafted Annual Budget. The Tuition, Fees and Budget require the District Governing Board approval for the coming fiscal year. The Schedule of Tuition and Fees for the Summer 2024 semester term through the Spring 2025 semester term were presented and approved on February 13, 2024.

The College is seeking approval from the District Governing Board to convey authority to the College President to review and approve a Differential Tuition rate for programs created outside of the annual cycle. With programs and partnerships growing regularly, this allows the College to remain responsive to industry needs, and program funding with public funding.

Action Item #4 - Consideration for Approve Budget to Actuals for Fiscal Year 2023– Presented by Ross Poppenberger

Motion by Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, seconded by Maria Chavoya

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary-

This calculation adjustment for the expenditure limitation allows districts to reduce their budgeted expenditure amounts to actual following the closing of the fiscal year and annual audit. These post-year-end budget reductions to the combined current operating and plant funds reduce budgeted expenditures to actual expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. This allows the district to carry forward its unused exclusions to future periods.

	CURRENT FUNDS			PLANT FUNDS		Other Funds 2022	Total All Funds 2022
	General Fund 2022	Restricted Fund 2022	Auxiliary Fund 2022	Unexpended Plant Fund 2022	Retirement of Indebtedness 2022		
Adopted Budget	\$ 57,898,478	\$ 45,671,000	\$ 8,548,098	\$ 44,533,668	\$ 5,824,131	\$ -	\$ 162,475,375
Budget Adjustment	(4,657,963)	(13,831,824)	(930,044)	(19,906,284)	(212,042)	-	(39,538,157)
Revised Budget	53,240,515	31,839,176	7,618,054	24,627,384	5,612,089	-	122,937,218
Actual Expenses	53,240,515	31,839,176	7,618,054	24,627,384	5,612,089	-	122,937,218
Variance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Action Item #5 – Consideration to Approve Voucher for February 2024– Presented by Ross Poppenberger

Motion by Maria Chavoya seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary-

Summary of Revenues and Expenditures for the Month Ended February 29, 2024 - Operational and Capital Funds

Summary

The result of fiscal operations for the month ended February 29, 2024, indicated that expenses exceeded revenues*. On February 29, 2024, the cash balance was \$18,419,754 compared to \$23,334,656 on the same date last year.

Operational - Fund "O"

The District received 76% of its anticipated revenues and expended 62% of its budgeted expenditures, compared to 71% and 60%, respectively, last year.

Compared to 19,448 credit hours billed to students last year, this year 25,854 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 \$1,783,893 or 3% 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 78% of its budgeted expenditures, compared to 23% last year.

*Yuma/La Paz Counties taxes received through January 31, 2024, at February 29, 2024.

Information Item #1 – Information Review – Purchases over \$50,000 – Presented by Ross Poppenberger

No Action vote required for this Information item.

The **Board Acknowledged** the Information Item as presented.

Summary-

Since this purchasing threshold in January, the college committed to communicating purchases reviewed and approved over \$50,000 between District Governing Board meetings.

Department	Purchase	Cost Paid Per Yr. (FY2024-2026)	Grand Total for 3-year Contract	Fund Source
Information Technology	Pantheon System, Inc. Cloud-Hosted Solution Subscription; Website and Web Services	\$35,955.00 per yr.	\$107,865.00	From IT each year's annual budget

Spotlight on South Yuma County

Spotlight on South Yuma County, Presented by Omar Heredia

Mr. Heredia welcomed the Board.

He recognized the partners in the room who are part of the strong support of student success in South County.

Student of the Month, recognition, Student Karla Leon



Karla is a graduate of San Luis High School and is a graduating sophomore from AWC. She supports first-gen students in their admissions to AWC and feels ‘like an older sister guiding them through this process’. She recognized the San Luis Learning Center Outreach and Advising team for supporting her and giving her the confidence to pursue higher education. She is happy to give that gift back to other students. Karla plans to remain local and transfer to NAU Yuma to pursue her Bachelors in Psychology and become a

San Luis High School Counselor.

Student of the Month, recognition, Student Magda Oseguera



Magda thanked her professor, Ms. Martinez, who cares deeply for her students’ success.

Recognition of the All-Arizona Honors Transfer Scholar Students, *Kassandra Siairos*

The All-Arizona Students selected came to the top of the student nominations through a very competitive process. These are two of the total four students who represent AWC in this All-Arizona Honors Transfer Scholars.

Kassandra the deep honor she shared this is to give her the confidence and hope that she will be able to bring her dreams to reality. Kassandra recognized the supportive environment from San Luis High School



Recognition of the All-Arizona Students, Abel Morales

to San Luis Learning Center as a person, student, and woman. She plans to attend Medical School and bring her background at AWC in Biology and Nutrition, with her plan to pursue her Bachelors in Nutrition and Pre-Med tract with a goal to be part of the Yuma Regional Medical Center Residency program to serve her local community. Her goal is to eliminate disparities in health care and bring service into the community.



Abel thanked the AWC ESL program in 2019 that brought the resources to build his confidence in English and be comfortable in a large group. He noted the care AWC has to bring those resources and encourage students to try something new, even if it is scary. He said his advisor, Omar Heredia, supported his confidence to continue in higher education. He believes this continued support will transform lives in South Yuma County. He plans to pursue his Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Sociology at NAU-Yuma and then earn his

Masters at ASULocal Yuma for his Masters in Social Work. He plans to serve in San Luis following the completion of his degree.

Matador Ambassadors

- The SYC Matador Ambassador program continues to thrive!
- The focus continues to be outreach/recruitment and operating the welcome center
- They happily serve our communities and provide great guidance to our students
- Active in outreach and recruitment activities in San Luis and Somerton

Omar continued in his Spotlight celebrating the Matador Ambassadors in San Luis to further service into the community.

Innovation Funds continue to drive new ideas and opportunities across the District, and a recent Project was funded, including the leadHERship project.

Innovation Fund 2023

leadHERship

leadHERship is an initiative aimed at fostering women empowerment and gender equality within the community.

Women in Leadership: Panel Discussion

Charlene Fernandez	Maria Chavez	Diana Gomez	Beekha Dhanraj

March 25, 2024 3:00-4:30 PM San Luis Learning Center 104

Partnerships at work, continuing the San Luis High School, with shared spaced and the top FAFSA Completion in the State and bring continued access.

Degree and Certificate programming continues to grow in San Luis with comprehensive ESL Programming, Short-term training programs, Credit and upskilling programming and workshops hosted by the Small Business Development Center (SBDC).



Visibility of Science and Nursing programs has driven an increase in interest in Health programming at the certificate and degree pathway level.

Short-term programs are driven by the ability to offer quick in-person and remote programming options to meet student and community demand.

Community Health Worker Program

AWC was awarded over \$129,000 by the Arizona Department of Health Services to support local healthcare infrastructure with more frontline community health workers. This initiative will cover tuition and program fees for 50 students!

The first cohort in South County started this Spring semester and will provide 24 students an opportunity to earn their Community Health Worker Occupational Certificate.

Streamlined Offering	
SPRING 2024	SUMMER 2024
CHW 110 - SLCC	CHW 210 - Online
CHW 120 - SLCC	CHW 220 - Online
CHW 106 - Online	CHW 230 - Online



OVER \$350K IN SUPPORT

Thankful for the tremendous support from AWC leadership!

- Bathroom Renovations - Reetika Dhawan
- SLTI Gates - Ross Poppenberger
- SLCC & SLTI Keypads - Reetika Dhawan
- leadHERship Innovation Fund - Dr. Corr
- PT Employees - Dr. Kathleen Iudicello and Reetika Dhawan
- Classroom Technology Upgrades - Ashley Herrington
- Lunch Lounge (coming soon!) - Reetika Dhawan
- Hungry Matador Innovation Fund - Dr. Corr and Lori Stofft



The Center has been updated and renovated to serve the large and small details at the center. SLCC has a very active Student Club to be immersed in the college experience outside of the classroom, including Salsa Club, JOY Club and ACAS Club. In the past year, over \$350,000 in support of improvements with an eye to support the student experience. Omar shared a video clip from Susanna Zambrano and a thank

you for the continued support of student success across the District.

Omar thanked the Board and offered a VIP access to the Community of Learners celebration May 3 in San Luis.

Closing Items:

Dr. Corr shared closing remarks. He recognized the amazing partnerships that support this experience in San Luis. He noted the passion, optimism, and energy in South County and 'magic' occurring within the community and the pride AWC has to be part of it.

There is a 32% Dual-Enrollment growth due to the strong partnerships between Yuma Union High School District. Overall enrollment is up over 11% and there is a bustling energy across the campus.

AWC is looking forward to the Cyber Security Lab opening at the Yuma campus this Spring semester. This new program is designed to meet a strong local workforce need.

April Meeting will bring the Drafted Budget for FY25 to continue to meet the student needs across the District.

Ms. Zepeda shared her thanks to everyone involved in the education of our community and recognized the magic Dr. Corr referenced. She recognized the students and their dedication to remain engaged and dedicated, closing with 'the magic is you'.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting will be in April with the next Regular meeting conducted

both in-person and via Zoom and at the Yuma Campus.

Motion by Maria Chavoya seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

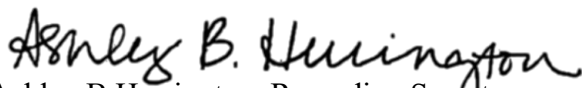
Nay: None

Abstain: None

The Board **Approved** the next meeting date and final matters of the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 4:23pm

Adjourn: The meeting matters were complete.

Respectfully submitted,



Ashley B Herrington, Recording Secretary

Attendance at 3:05pm

