

MEETING MINUTES
Arizona Western College
District Governing Board Meeting
Budget Workshop 12 pm
Frances Morris Yuma Campus and Via Zoom
April 23, 2024

Board Members Present: Board President Dennis Booth, Board Secretary Olivia Zepeda, Dr. Kenneth MacFarland*, Maria Chavoya

Board Members present by Zoom:

Board Member Absent: Richard Lamb

***Quorum confirmed**

Others Present within the room: (18)

Dr. Daniel Corr, President

Ashley Herrington, Chief of Staff

Dr. Kathleen Iudicello, Vice President of Learning Services

Katheline Ocampo, Chief Human Resources Officer

Bryan Doak, Vice President of Student Services

Lorraine Stofft, Vice President for Advancement and Executive Director of AWC Foundation

Michelle Landis, Director of Financial Services and Controller

Reetika Dhawan, Chief Executive Officer of Entrepreneurial College & Vice President of Workforce & Healthcare

Ross Poppenberger, Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services

Scott Estes, Chief Information Officer

Stephen Suho, Chief of Police

Karen Davila, Executive Administrative Assistant

Dr. Joann Chang, Executive Director of Health Care Programs

Stuart Gibson, Associate Dean of Business Education, Socials & Behavioral Sciences

Miguel Alvarez, Associate Dean of Reskilling & Corporate Training

Jim Bowerman, Director of Construction Programs

Johanna Megui, Workforce Specialist

Noemi Barraza, Executive Administrative Assistant, Office of the President

Others Present within on Zoom: (14)

Juliana Garcia, Ginnellie Gutierrez, Brenda Sawyer, Omar Heredia, Patty Jimenez, Annie Welker

Cinthia Alvarez, Mandy Heil, Renee Macaluso, Dr. Nikki Hage, Kimberly Trujillo, Cris Gordon, Sandra Rodriguez, Ashley Herrington

Community Member Present by Zoom: (1)

Donna Knepper Taylor

Others Present within Boardroom: (0)

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

The Pledge of Allegiance: Pledge led by Board Chair Dennis Booth

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda for the April 23, 2024, meeting is presented for approval.

Motion by Maria Chavoya, seconded by Dr. Kenneth MacFarland

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Call to the Audience:

There was no response to the Call to the Audience.

Budget Workshop

2024-2025 Drafted Budget, Presented by Dr. Daniel P. Corr

Dr. Corr welcomed the Board and thanked them for their time for a Workshop today with the President's Cabinet and guests. He recognized the 9-month process of budget planning that included Budget Training, feedback, proposals, and requests in preparation for creating the Budget. The Student Experience Statement and the Strategic Plan continue to drive the priorities of the Budget.

Dr. Corr referenced the headlines today noting a Hiring Freeze in the State and a disruptive education landscape. Property Taxes continue to be the primary source of revenue for AWC. Additional revenue comes from new Construction, Grants, and Tuition and Fees.

AWC continued to be the single Community College that has grown in enrollment over the past six years. The Budget is built on a FTSE number of 5300, the ending enrollment number for Spring 2024. A Hallmark quality of the college is the support from the Board of Early College. Since 2017 in the Board Approved Initiative to have all under 17 tuition to \$25 per credit hour, then expanding it to under 18 in 2020, this has led to the platform of growth and pipeline for student access to higher education to earn college credits while in High School. This growth is seen within both Yuma and La Paz Counties. The current early college student population is approximately 1 in 5 students.

Looking through Enrollment trends, Arizona Western College is ranked #1 in Arizona for the % of students who transfer to AZ public universities to earn a bachelor's degree within 4 years. Through the co-located university partnerships, a strong relationship is built with students and all three state universities. The DeAnza Residence Hall will be open for the Summer of 2024 and be the first residence hall supporting AWC and NAU students. This again, demonstrates the strength of partnerships with expanded programs and shared spaces.

The program growth in La Paz County is being met with great excitement in support of the workforce needs of the county. The innovation of the Entrepreneurial College (EC) is bringing new ways to meet community needs through non-credit programming, and bring workforce funding and grant funding available in new ways.

Current budget challenges include aggressive inflation, wage compression; talent recruitment; health care costs; growing technology demands and costs; facility costs, and maintenance.

Planning of this budget utilizes the Budget Assumptions presented in January 2024 with the assumption the College will not increase property taxes, as has been the pattern for the past six fiscal years.

The College has had major growth in facilities with under-resourced to maintain, with over 120,000 square feet in new construction opening in 2023, 2024, and 2025.

This District Governing Board Meeting presents the Drafted Preliminary Budget for FY25 to seek the Governing Board’s feedback, the College will publish for public review and feedback and proposed to

bring it to the June 11, 2024, Board Meeting date for Public Hearing, Special Vote and Regular meeting for vote.

A Strong Record of Fiscal Stewardship						
Year	Approved Levy	Actual/Adjusted Levy	Tuition rate		Inflation*	Notes
2017-2018	2.00%	2.00%	+\$2.00	\$83.00	1.80%	HLC Warning
2018-2019	0.00%	(-1.73%)	+\$2.00	\$85.00	2.20%	\$538,720 Appraisal & Adjustments
2019-2020	1.73%	(-2.79%)	+\$2.00	\$87.00	2.10%	\$909,029 Solar reappraisal \$625,252 Recoverable
2020 - 2021	0%	0%	+\$2.00	\$89.00	4.40%	
2021-2022	0.63%*	0.63%**	+\$2.00	\$91.00	1.0%	Recovers \$208,417 (1/3 of solar reappraisal)
2022-2023	1.23%*	1.23%*	+\$2.00	\$93.00	10.90%	Recovers \$416,835 (2/3 of solar reappraisal)
2023-2024	1.91%	1.9%	+\$2.00	\$95.00	6.0%	
2024-2025	0	0%	+\$3.00	\$97.00	3.2%	
8 Year Total	7.50%	1.24%	\$17.00	+20.48%	41.19%	Total

Source: *Phoenix, AZ Based CPI-US Bureau of Labor Statistics

The College is not asking for a Tax rate increase this year. It will remain at 0% through great planning. Dr. Corr reviewed the strong fiscal stewardship record over the past 8-years with a look back of the Tax Levy, tuition rate

and value of inflation since 2017-2018. The College is also \$7,040,393 UNDER the Expenditure Limitation (EL). This year includes \$100M value of new construction to College facilities supporting the growth and partnerships across the State and Nation.

The College is seeking a 4% compensation increase, marginal change to the cost of health care benefits to employees, with an average monthly health benefit of \$740 dollars. The investment in retaining and developing talent is a key driver to the recommendations brought forward.

The College is committed to being an economic driver to build on the BHAG and a virtuous cycle of prosperity for students, the community and role of the college. Leveraging partnerships, engaging in innovative programming and direct link to the workforce. The College looks to lead a new Strategic Plan in early 2025, with a Workshop planned for May with Strategic Planning discussions next month.

Dr. Corr closed with the Mission Statement, reflecting on the service to the community, and students, and opened the discussion and any questions from the District Governing Board at approximately 1:05 pm.

Dr. MacFarland sought the desire to bring greater enhancements to the economic development in La Paz County, in the same manner it is more obvious in Yuma County.

Closing Items:

Dr. Corr shared closing remarks. He commended the team for an unmodified clean audit on the federal and fiscal side and looks to the continued best practices each year across the District.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting will be April 23 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

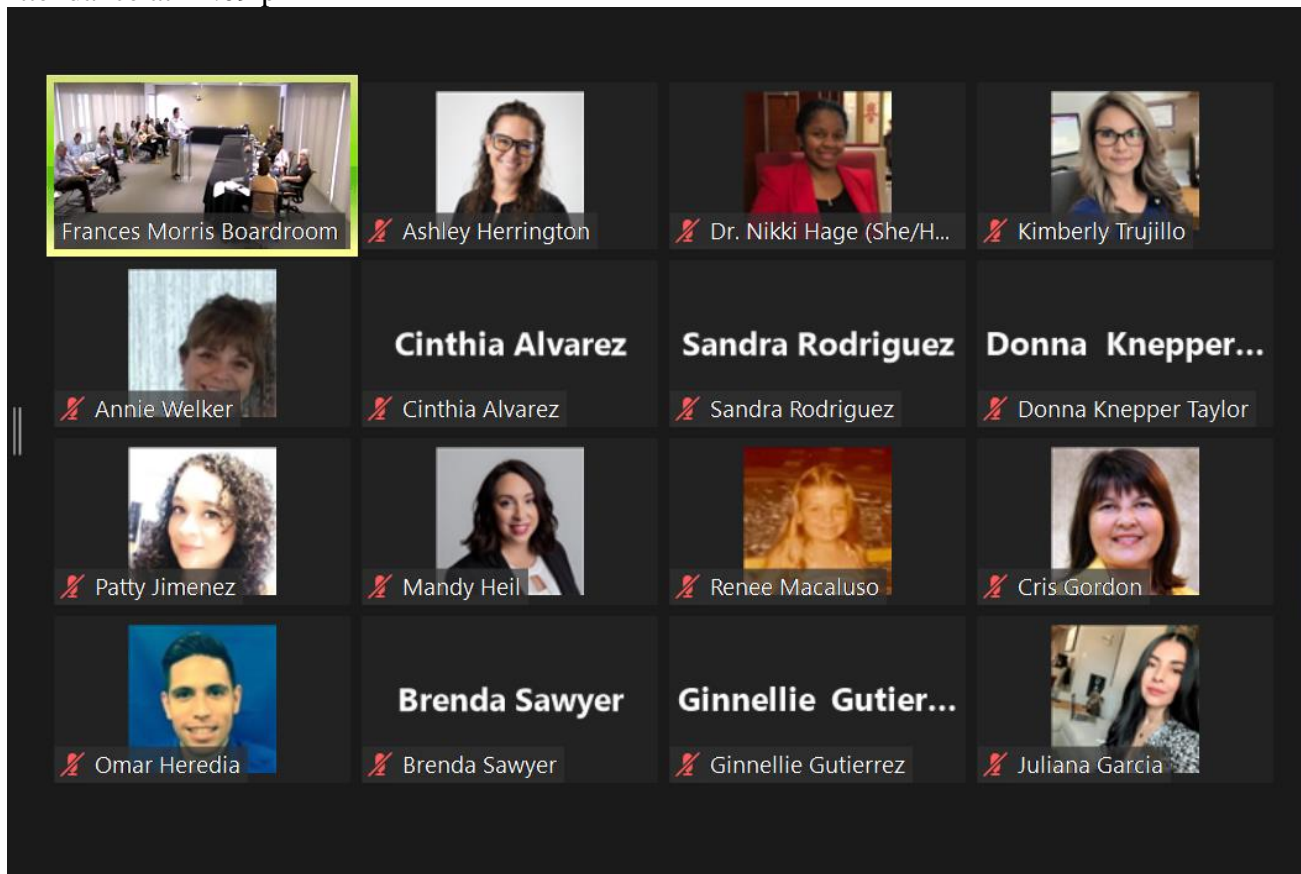
The Board **Approved** the next meeting date and final matters of the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:09 pm

















Adjourn: The meeting matters were complete.

Respectfully submitted,


Ashley B Herrington, Recording Secretary

Attendance at 12:09 pm



 Frances Morris Boardroom	 Ashley Herrington	 Dr. Nikki Hage (She/H...	 Kimberly Trujillo
 Annie Welker	 Cinthia Alvarez	 Sandra Rodriguez	 Donna Knepper Taylor
 Patty Jimenez	 Mandy Heil	 Renee Macaluso	 Cris Gordon
 Omar Heredia	 Brenda Sawyer	 Ginnellie Gutierrez	 Juliana Garcia

MEETING MINUTES
Arizona Western College
District Governing Board Meeting
Regular Meeting 1 pm
Yuma Campus and Via Zoom
April 23, 2024

Board Members Present: Board President Dennis Booth, Board Secretary Olivia Zepeda, Dr. Kenneth MacFarland*, Maria Chavoya

Board Member Absent: Richard Lamb

***Quorum confirmed**

Others Present within the room: (20)

Dr. Daniel Corr, President

Ashley Herrington, Chief of Staff

Dr. Kathleen Iudicello, Vice President of Learning Services

Katheline Ocampo, Chief Human Resources Officer

Bryan Doak, Vice President of Student Services

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

Ross Poppenberger, Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services

Scott Estes, Chief Information Officer

Stephen Suho, Chief of Police

Karen Davila, Executive Administrative Assistant

Dr. Joann Chang, Executive Director of Health Care Programs

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

Randy Harless, Associate Dean for La Paz County

Noemi Barraza, Executive Administrative Assistant, Office of the President

Johanna Megui, Workforce Specialist

Shara Skinner, Coordinator of Student Leadership & Activities

Dimercia Poulain, Student Government Association

Josett Clark, Student of the Month

Rosalba Soto Robles, Student of the Month

Others Present within on Zoom: (14)

Juliana Garcia, Ginnellie Gutierrez, Brenda Sawyer, Omar Heredia, Patty Jimenez, Annie Welker

Cinthia Alvarez, Mandy Heil, Renee Macaluso, Dr. Nikki Hage, Kimberly Trujillo, Cris Gordon, Sandra Rodriguez, Ashley Herrington

Community Member Present by Zoom: (1)

Donna Knepper Taylor

Others Present within Boardroom: (1)

Bruce Luna

Call to Order: Board President Dennis Booth called the Regular Meeting to order at 1:20 pm.

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

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda for the April 23, 2024, meeting is 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:

Bruce Luna, a Yuma County Resident, shared his perspective of qualifications with NSF Work Based Experienced Internship offered at AWC, and provided a printed packet for review.

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.

Student of the Month, Presented by Stuart Gibson

Stuart Gibson shared the recognition of the two All-Arizona recipients, Josett Clark and Roseaelba Soto Robles.

Ms. Soto Robles shared that she is thankful for this great opportunity to continue her education and do so with tuition covered. She shared her plans to attend the local campus location for the University of Arizona Yuma to continue her studies in Sustainable Plant Systems.

Ms. Clark conveyed her thanks for this recognition and for those in the programs. She also shared her plans to attend the local University of Arizona Yuma to continue her studies in Agriculture Systems Management.

Action Items

Action Item #1 – Human Resources, Consideration to Approve Candidates for Exempt Positions –

Presented by Katheline Ocampo

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

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

Summary –

- Hermes Soto, Learning Management Coordinator
- Joel Ibarra, Outreach/Early College Services Coordinator/Assistant Women’s Soccer Coach

Action Item #2 – Consideration to Approve the 2024-2025 Preliminary Budget- 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 Action Item as Presented.

Summary-

The 2024-2025 Preliminary Budget is ready for review and approval by the District Governing Board. The budget planning and building process began in October 2023 and has included an evaluation of needs, considerable input from the College community, and engagement from the District Governing Board.

Dr. MacFarland asked about the current fiscal position of the college, requesting the balance of cash on hand. Mr. Poppenberger shared the goal is to maintain cash available for 50% of expenses throughout the year.

Mr. Dennis Booth asked for the benefit of the solar panels to offset costs. Those values were not immediately available by Mr. Poppenberger, though there is a benefit to offset the costs.

Action Item #3 – Consideration to Approve Intergovernmental Agreement with the Arizona Board of Regents for SDLES Scholarship Program – 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 Action Item as presented.

Summary-

The college is seeking approval to enter into an agreement with the Arizona Board of Regents for a new tuition scholarship funding established for the Spouses and Dependents of Law Enforcement Officers Tuition Scholarship (SDLES). The tuition scholarship funds will be available for spouses and dependents of law enforcement and correctional officers enrolled in eligible programs and used towards tuition and mandatory fees on a first-come, first-served basis. This agreement would bring new tuition scholarship funding for students beginning this Fall 2024 semester. The proposed term of the Intergovernmental Agreement is Fall 2024 through fiscal year 2026-2027.

Action Item #4 - Consideration to Approve Technology Purchase– 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- The College is seeking approval to purchase Technology to complete the final phase of the technology modernization plan of the Technology Strategic Objective. Following the technology hardware assessment and usage across the District, this purchase is for computers and laptops for classroom, faculty, employee, and student use. Lead times for computers are between 3 to 5 weeks, and all FY24 purchases must be on-site before the end of the fiscal year. While the best pricing is negotiated with vendors, AWC Technology is seeking approval to purchase technology assets for a sum not to exceed \$600,000.00. If approved, we will provide an information item at the May or June meeting of the total confirmed value spent.

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

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

Summary-

Summary of Revenues and Expenditures for the Month Ended March 31, 2024 - Operational and Capital Funds

Summary

The result of fiscal operations for the month ended March 31, 2024, indicated that expenses exceeded revenues*. On March 31, 2024, the cash balance was \$13,909,067 compared to \$16,936,710 on the same date last year.

Operational - Fund "O"

The District received 77% of its anticipated revenues and expended 69% of its budgeted expenditures, compared to 72% and 67%, respectively, last year.

Compared to 20,352 credit hours billed to students last year, this year 27,032 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 \$1,865,175 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 90% of its budgeted expenditures, compared to 24% last year.

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

President's Report

Entrepreneurial College, Presented by Reetika Dhawan



Ms. Dhawan welcomed the Board and thanked them for their strong support of student and program success across the District. Dr. Corr celebrated the recent recognition of Reetika, who has been selected into the Aspen Institute's Rising Presidents Fellowship with engagement planned for April 2024 – 2025.

Reetika shared the robust team supporting the transformation through the Entrepreneurial College (EC). Additionally, in this first year, the EC has staff who are recognized as leaders in the classroom through the League of Innovation and through new programs through funding channels such as QUEST.



Partnerships at work along with funding through external resources, featuring the Industrial Assessment

Center through the US Department of Energy awarding of \$2 Million dollars to Arizona Western College.

Additionally, with the Department of Education, AWC will be awarded 1.11 Million dollars for CTE pathways and programming.

Gross Revenue YTD is \$300,000
16 Certifications
10 Refresher/Renewals Certifications:
799 Ed2Go Courses
64 Workshops
22 Workshops provided in Spanish

Reskilling & Technology Center

Short-term programs are driven by the ability to offer quick in-person and remote programming options to meet student and community demand. The Reskilling and Technology Center campus locations are leveraging the offering of non-credit, Certificates, Courses, and Workshops.

CTE Enrollment Programming continues to grow, with a 24% increase overall.

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 as the ‘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 May 16, 2024, 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

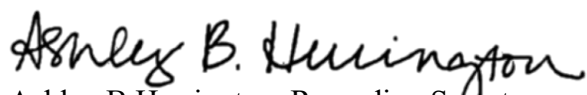
Nay: None

Abstain: None











The Board **Approved** the next meeting date and final matters of the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:21 pm

Adjourn: The meeting matters were complete.

Respectfully submitted,


Ashley B Herrington, Recording Secretary

Attendance at 1:50 pm

 <p>Frances Morris Boardroom</p>	 <p>Ashley Herrington</p>	 <p>Annie Welker</p>	Cinthia Alvarez Cinthia Alvarez
Sandra Rodriguez Sandra Rodriguez	Donna Knepper... Donna Knepper Taylor	 <p>Patty Jimenez</p>	 <p>Mandy Heil</p>
 <p>Cris Gordon</p>	 <p>Omar Heredia</p>	Brenda Sawyer Brenda Sawyer	Jennifer Ericson Jennifer Ericson
Mayra Carrasco Mayra Carrasco	 <p>Kimberly Trujillo</p>	 <p>Michelle Landis</p>	 <p>Miguel Alvarez</p>