

WORKSHOP MINUTES
Arizona Western College
District Governing Board Workshop
Strategic Planning Workshop 11 am
Yuma Campus and Via Zoom
December 11, 2024

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

Board Member present by phone, Zoom: none

Board Member Absent: None

Others Present within Frances Morris Boardroom: (22)

Dr. Daniel Corr, President
Ashley Herrington, Chief of Staff
Bill Blomquist, Faculty
Bryan Doak, Vice President for Student Services
Czarina Gallegos, Interim Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services
Daniel Herrera, Faculty
David Kern, Faculty
Dr. Ellen Riek, Faculty
Dr. Kevin Kato, Faculty
Dr. Sara Amani, Faculty
Jennifer Thimmel, Faculty
Jules Floss, Faculty
Julia Howe, Human Resources
Katheline Ocampo, Chief Human Resources Officer
Lori Stofft, Vice President of Advancement
Lou Gum – KAWC
Mack Schwitzing - KAWC Student Reporter
Mandy Heil, Dean of Communications and Marketing
Noemi Barraza, Executive Administrative Assistant to the President’s Office
Paul Huggins, Faculty
Randy Hartless, La Paz County
Reetika Dhawan, Chief Executive Officer of Entrepreneurial College & Vice President of Workforce & Healthcare
Scott Estes, Chief Information Officer

Others Present within on Zoom: (35)

Ann Wilkinson	Gladys Anaya
Biri Martinez	iPhone (7)kd
C&E A/V	Jillian Mason
Cinthia Reyes	John Adriatico
Cris Gordon	Joshua Burnett
Cristina Gonzales	Kimberly Trujillo
Dr Lizzie Renaud	Kristine Duke
Earl Smith	Lorayne Chandler
Eric Hill	Lou Gum - KAWC
Erin Whitting	MarCom Conference Room
	Marlie Meza

Melody Price
Michelle Struck - AWC
Noemi Barraza
Queen Ana's iPhone
Rebecca Shelby
Renee Macaluso
Renee Munoz
Sandra Rodriguez

Sarah Snyder
Scott Estes
Tyler Vodehnal
Ulysses A/V
Vanessa Lopez
Victor Calderon

Community Member Present by Zoom: Donna Knepper Taylor

Call to Order: Board President Dennis Booth called the Workshop Meeting to order at 11:06 am.

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

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda for the December 11, 2024, meeting presented for approval.

Motion by Maria Chavoya, Seconded by Dr. Kenneth MacFarland

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Call to the Audience: There was no approach to the Call of the Audience, either in person or virtually.

Board Meeting Workshop

Summary

The District Governing Board, workshop reviewed the progress of the college's Strategic Planning Process. The session, facilitated by Dr. Corr and Lori Stofft, Vice President of Advancement, included a brief update since the process began in March 2024. Stofft identified the nine themes that had been **identified through surveys, town halls, focus groups, and community events.**

Key Discussion Points: In a discussion led by Dr. Corr, the Board emphasized the importance of language accessibility, ensuring support is available in multiple languages. There was strong interest in connecting education with business and economic success through Early College Pathways and the Entrepreneurial College, which offers flexibility, potential revenue, and enhanced fiscal stability. Expanding access to higher education remains a priority, particularly by innovative and expansive credentialing processes to allow more high school instructors to teach college-level courses and retain talent within the community.

Early College and AI: Early College programs were recognized as key to building awareness of higher education opportunities. The Board also discussed the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in instruction and operations, acknowledging its potential while emphasizing the need for careful planning to maintain educational integrity and resource alignment.

In the end, there was strong and unanimous Board support to

1. Aggressively expand the Entrepreneurial College operations
2. Continue to differentially credential instructors to expand Early College opportunities
3. Implement AI to improve the student experience and increase efficiency
4. Establish a more flexible schedule (different modalities, semester starts, length of semesters, etc)

Strategic Planning Timeline: The planning process will continue in January 2025 with a draft plan, feedback collection, and refinement with Dr. Corr. The final plan will be presented to the Board in February 2025, with implementation immediately following under the leadership of Ashley Herrington. The plan will also guide budget preparation and funding priorities.

Community Responsiveness and Board Priorities: The Board underscored the college's commitment to responsive decision-making and fiscal planning to meet evolving community needs. Priorities include expanding flexible learning environments and schedules, embracing AI in multiple areas, and strengthening ties between education, business, and workforce development.

Closing Items: No closing Items.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting will be just after this meeting, Wednesday, December 11 at 12 pm with the next Regular meeting conducted both in-person and via Zoom and at the Frances Morris Boardroom 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

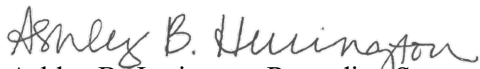
Nay: None

Abstain: None

The Board **Approved** the next meeting date and final matters of the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.

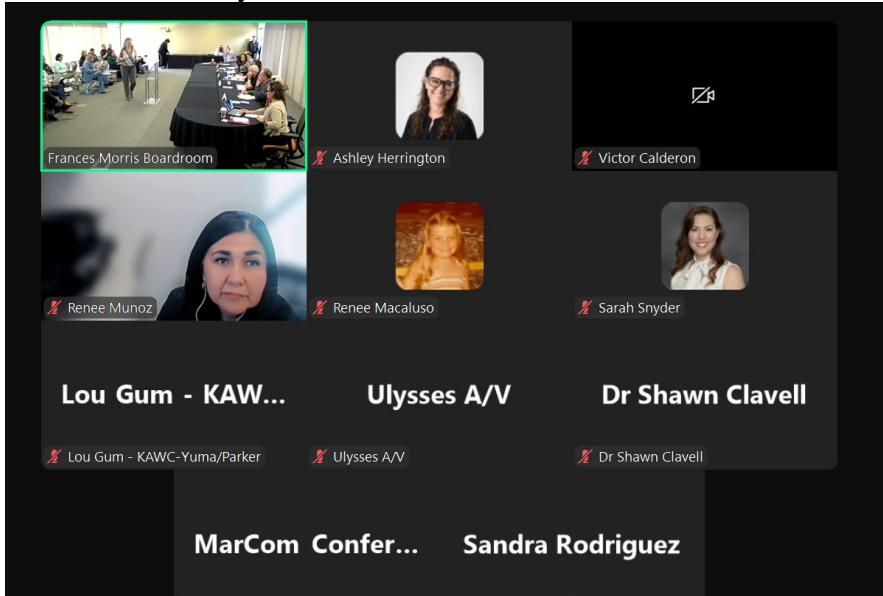
Adjourn: The meeting matters were complete.

Respectfully submitted,

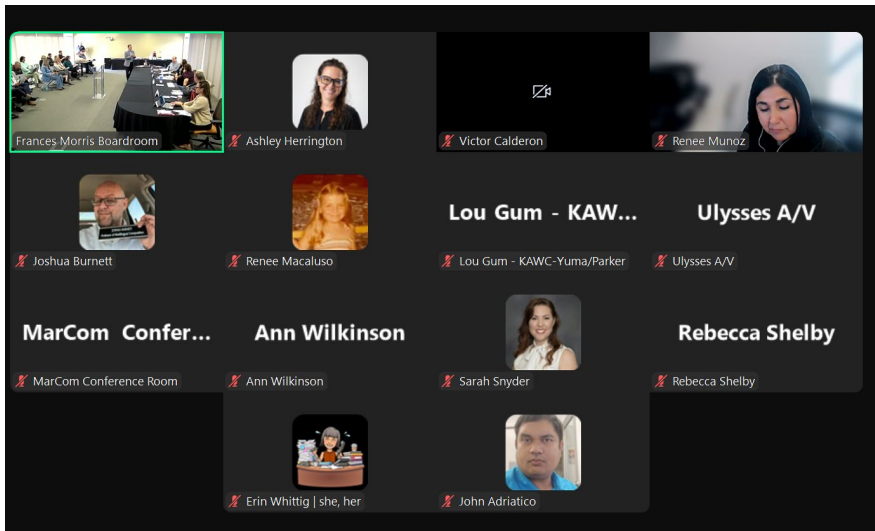


Ashley B Herrington, Recording Secretary

Attendance Virtually at 11:06 am



Attendance at 11:35 am.



MEETING MINUTES
Arizona Western College
District Governing Board Meeting
Regular Meeting 12 pm
Yuma Campus and Via Zoom
December 11, 2024

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

Board Member present by phone, Zoom:

Board Member Absent:

Others Present within Frances Morris Boardroom: (50)

Dr. Daniel Corr, President
Ashley Herrington, Chief of Staff
Alfred Neuman, Faculty
Anthony Brown, Lt Chief of Police
Bill Blomquist, Faculty
Daniel Herrera, Faculty
David Kern, Faculty
Brad Pease, Faculty
Czarina Gallegos, Interim Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services
Dr. Deltrina Grimes, Faculty
Dr. Ellen Riek, Faculty
Dr. Eric Lee, Faculty
Dr. Joann Chang
Dr. Kevin Kato, Faculty
Dr. Sara Amani, Faculty
Frances Martinez, Faculty
Jennifer Thimmel, Faculty
Jerry Smith, Director of Athletics
Jim Larson, Director of Manufacturing
Joel Ibarra, Assistant Soccer Coach
Josh Raitter, Student of the Month
Jules Floss, Faculty
Julia Howe, Human Resources
Karen Davila, Executive Administrative Assistant
Katheline Ocampo, Chief Human Resources Officer
Bruce Carroll, Faculty
Bryan Doak, Vice President for Student Services
Laura Knaresboro, Executive Director of AWC
Lorayne Chandler, Associate Athletics Director
Lori Stofft, Vice President of Advancement
Lou Gum – KAWC
Mack Schwitzing - KAWC Student Reporter
Mandy Heil, Dean of Communications and Marketing
Michael Borowski, Athletics
Noemi Barraza, Executive Administrative Assistant to the President’s Office
Paul Huggins, Faculty
Randy Hartless, La Paz County
Reetika Dhawan, Chief Executive Officer of Entrepreneurial College & Vice President of Workforce & Healthcare
Scott Estes, Chief Information Officer
Sean Haney, Adjunct Faculty
Shawn Pollard, Faculty
Stephen Suho, Chief of Police
Stuart Gibson, Associate Dean
Victor Verdugo, Head Women’s Soccer Coach, Faculty-Professor

Others Present within on Zoom: (35)

Ann Wilkinson
Biri Martinez
C&E A/V
Cinthia Reyes
Dr. Cris Gordon
Cristina Gonzales
Dr Lizzie Renaud
Dr. Jillian Mason
Dr. Sarah Snyder
Earl Smith
Eric Hill
Erin Whitting
Gladys Anaya
iPhone (7)kd
John Adriatico
Joshua Burnett
Kimberly Trujillo
Kristine Duke
Lorayne Chandler
Lou Gum - KAWC
MarCom Conference Room
Marlie Meza
Melody Price
Michelle Struck - AWC

Noemi Barraza
Queen Ana's iPhone
Rebecca Shelby
Renee Macaluso
Renee Munoz
Sandra Rodriguez

Scott Estes
Tyler Vodehnal
Ulysses A/V
Vanessa Lopez
Victor Calderon

Community Member Present by Zoom: Donna Knepper Taylor

Community Members Present in person: Dr. Kathleen Iudicello, Hector Zepeda, Zynia Zepeda, Nathaniel Zepeda

Call to Order: Board President Dennis Booth called the Regular Meeting to order at 12:33 pm.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda for the December 11, 2024, meeting presented for approval.

Motion by Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, seconded by Maria Chavoya

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Adoption of Minutes: The minutes of November 20, 2024 meeting presented for approval.

Motion by Maria Chavoya, seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Call to the Audience:

1. Dr. Eric Lee, community member and faculty, shared his response to the recent change in leadership in Learning Services.
2. Dr. Ellen Riek, Community Member and Communications Faculty, requested the District Governing Board to consider the review of the faculty qualifications for Dual Enrollment courses.
3. Bill Blomquist, Community Member and Faculty, shared his reaction to the recent change in leadership in Learning Services.
4. Jennifer Thimmell, Community member and faculty, expressed her opinion of teacher credentials and Dual Enrollment faculty compensation.

College Reports

Student Government Association, Presented by Jorge Ramirez

No Report was given.

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

Dr. Ketchum-Cardenas presented an update from the Faculty Senate for the 2024-2025 academic year, highlighting key areas of leadership, strategic initiatives, and faculty accomplishments. Dr. Ketchum-Cardenas highlighted key examples of faculty scholarship, experiential learning, and innovative pedagogy.

Student of the Month, Presented by Reetika Dhawan

Reetika Dhawan welcomed Shawn Haney, adjunct instructor at the Wellton Advanced Manufacturing Training Center, and recognized Joshua Raitter as the Student of the Month. Professor Haney highlighted Joshua's strong self-motivation and goal to excel as a repair technician at A&E. Haney also shared that his passion for contributing to student success and fostering growth in a professional environment inspired him to become an adjunct professor.

Joshua presented an electrical indicator he developed during the course, designed to prevent residential ovens from overheating. He also shared how the program has positively impacted his skills and career.

Recognition of Women's Soccer Program, Presented by Bryan Doak

Bryan Doak recognized Matador Athletics and the amazing success of our Matador Soccer, the Men's Soccer Team and Women's team who each competed in the National Tournament. The Women's Soccer Team (19-0) advanced to the NJCAA DI Women's Soccer Championship with a 2-0 win over Kansas City Kansas (14-2-6) at Scheels Stryker Sports Complex. Unfortunately, the Matadors fell just short in the championship dropping a close match in overtime 2-1.

The Women's Soccer team has earned numerous accolades both on the field and in the classroom. Jerry Smith expressed his pride in the program, led by local Head Coach Victor Verdugo, and commended the dedication of all 24 student-athletes and the Coaching Staff.

Coach Verdugo shared his gratitude for the opportunity to lead the team, crediting his mentors and community leaders for preparing him for this role. He emphasized the importance of setting an example that reflects the College's values in academics, community involvement, and athletics. A proud Yuma native, Verdugo, who became Head Coach on October 3, 2023, has brought energy, humility, and leadership to the program.

Action Items

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

Motion by Maria Chavoya seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary –

Kari Wyatt, Executive Assistant

Mirelle Adame, Nursing Lab Coordinator

Nathalia Flores, Coordinator of Student Engagement and Events

Usha Pedireddi, Professor of Agriculture

District Governing Board Action Items

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

Motion by Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, Brad Sale, 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 Arizona Western College District Governing Board hereby affirms the College’s Vision Statement of “Cultivating generations who value knowledge, foster independence, eliminate poverty, and create vital, equitable and sustainable communities.”

District Governing Board - Oath of Office for Ms. Olivia Zepeda, District #4

Ms. Olivia Zepeda completed her Oath of Office for District #4, based on the Oath Documentation from Yuma County Administrative Offices.

Recess to Executive Session: The Board recessed into executive session at 1:13 pm.

Executive Session Attendees:

Call to Order: Board President Dennis Booth called the Executive Session Meeting to order at 1:13pm.

Motion by Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Quorum confirmed.

Executive Session Attendees:

Dr. Daniel Corr, President

Ashley Herrington, Chief of Staff

II. Executive Session

1. Executive Session Discussion- A.R.S. 38-431.03 (A)(1) Personnel Matters -

[REDACTED]

Discussion:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Adjourn: The Executive Session meeting matters were complete.

Motion by Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, seconded by Maria Chavoya

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth
Nay: None
Abstain: None

Adjournment of Executive Session: The Board adjourned the executive session at 1:49 pm.

Closing Items:
No report given.


Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting will be January 16, 2025, with the next Regular meeting conducted both in-person and via Zoom and at the Parker Learning Center Campus.

Adjournment:
Motion by Maria Chavoya seconded by Dr. Kenneth MacFarland
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, 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 1:50 pm

Adjourn: The meeting matters were complete.

Respectfully submitted,


Ashley B Herrington, Recording Secretary

Attendance at 12:35 pm

A screenshot of a Zoom meeting grid at 12:35 pm. The grid contains 20 participants in a 4x5 layout. The top-left tile shows a large conference room labeled 'Frances Morris Boardroom'. The other tiles show individual participants with their names and profile pictures. Some names are partially cut off or truncated. A red 'X' icon is visible next to several names, indicating they are muted. The participants are: Ashley Herrington, Eric Hill, Jillian Mason, Scott Estes, John Adriatico, Renee Macaluso, Dr. Kristine Duke, Sarah Snyder, Biri Martinez, lizzie renaud, Vanessa Lopez, Ulysses A/V, Donna Knepper Taylor, MarCom Conference Room, Cinthia Reyes, Queen Ana's iPhone, Melody, Michelle Struck - AWC, Connecting to audio, Tyler Vodehnal, Ann Wilkinson, Kimberly Trujillo, and Cristina Gonzales.

Attendance at 1:05 pm

The screenshot displays a Zoom meeting gallery with the following participants and their names:

- Frances Morris Boardroom (video thumbnail)
- Ashley Herrington
- Cris Gordon
- Renee Munoz
- Jillian Mason
- Eric Hill
- Renee Macaluso
- Dr. Kristine Duke
- Sarah Snyder
- Biri Martinez
- lizzie renaud
- Vanessa Lopez
- Ulysses A/V
- Donna Knepper Taylor
- MarCom Conference Room
- Queen Ana's iPhone
- Lou Gum - KAWC-Yuma/...
- Ann Wilkinson
- Gladys Anaya
- Rebecca Shelby
- Cristina Gonzales
- Earl Smith
- C&E A/V