

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

Board Members Present: Board President Dennis Booth, Board Secretary Olivia Zepeda, Brad Sale
Board Member present by phone, Zoom: Dr. Kenneth MacFarland and Maria Chavoya
Board Member Absent: None

Others Present within Frances Morris Boardroom: (24)

Dr. Daniel Corr, President
Ashley Herrington, Chief of Staff
Angel Madrigal, Conference & Events
Bruno Ramirez, Service Desk Technician
Bryan Doak, Vice President for Student Services
Czarina Gallegos, Director of Financial Services
Dr. Joann Chang, Executive Director - Dean of Healthcare Programs
Dr. Kathleen Iudicello, Vice President of Learning Services
Dr. Nikki Hage, Dean of Students
Emily Kerr, Professor of English,
Estefania Frias, Student of the Month
Gabe Urena, Risk Management Technician
Jane Peabody, Coordinator of Physical and Wellness Education
Jorge Ramirez, Student Government Association
Kaitlin Kessler, Payroll Specialist
Katheline Ocampo, Chief Human Resources Officer
Lori Stofft, Vice President of Advancement
Miguel Alvarez, Associate Dean of Reskilling
Noemi Barraza, Executive Administrative Assistant
Raquel Esparza, Student of the Month Guest
Renee Munoz, Executive Administrative Assistant
Saul Cruz-Oros, Network Administrator
Scott Estes, Chief Information Officer
Steve Eckert, Director of Facilities

Others Present by Zoom: (6)

Melinda Rico, Financial Aid Disbursement Specialist	Patrick Brown, Coordinator of IT Stackable
Jennifer Ericson, Director of Corporate Training	Certifications
Tyler Vodehnal, Director of Project Management	Kimberly Trujillo, Director of Human Resources
Marcela Castro, Administrative Assistant IV	

Community Members Present by Zoom: (1) Zafer Genc

Community Members Present in room: (0)

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

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

Motion by Olivia Zepeda, 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 August 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

Arizona Association of Community College Trustees Update:

Ms. Chavoya shared her report. Ms. Chavoya shared AACCT and AC4 will partner to work collaboratively on legislative priorities for the upcoming legislative cycle. The opportunity to support student attraction, success and completion is critical. The upcoming ACCT Conference in Seattle will have a breakfast and evening event for Arizona colleges.

Association of Community College Trustees:

ACCT Delegate for the upcoming ACCT Conference hosted in Seattle, WA will be Ms. Olivia Zepeda.

Call to the Audience:

No one responded to the Call of the Audience.

District Governing Board - Oath of Office for Ms. Maria Chavoya, District #5

Ms. Chavoya joined the meeting virtually today due to illness and will postpone her Oath of Office until the next meeting she is present in person.

College Reports

Student Government Association, Presented by Jorge Ramirez

Jorge Ramirez, the SGA President for the 2024-25 school year, introduced himself as a second-year student double majoring in political science and psychology. Jorge provided an overview of recent and upcoming activities by the Student Government Association (SGA) at AWC.

Past Events:

- **Bring a Friend Day:** Held on August 20th at 3:00 PM, this initiative successfully attracted new members to be involved in Student Government.
- **Club Fair:** On August 28th, SGA co-hosted the club fair to promote SGA. Their booth featured interactive games to engage students and showcase the fun and opportunities within SGA. The Club Fair included tables and resources from AWC programs, NAU Yuma campus, and community partners.

Upcoming Events:

- **Ping Pong Tournament:** Scheduled and hosted at the MAC to attract new members and enjoy time together as students.
- **Constitution Day:** On Sept 17, SGA will host Constitution Day with other clubs with interactive games to engage students and test their constitutional knowledge.
- **Salsa Contest:** On Sept 25, SGA will host a Salsa Contest to bring the flavors of delicious food and celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.

Jorge concluded by expressing gratitude for the opportunity to provide updates and affirmed SGA's

commitment to contributing positively to the board in the future.

Classified Employee Association, Presented by Gabe Urena

Gabe Urena, DGB and CGC Representative, provided an update on recent activities within the Classified Employee Association (CEA). He announced that the CEA will be hosting a Workshop Survey to encourage collaboration among members. Additionally, the CEA is excited to organize a Pumpkin Painting contest on October 31st, taking place in the 3C Breezeway from 10:30 to 11:30 AM.

Student of the Month, Presented by Dr. Kathleen Iudicello

Dr. Iudicello announced the Student of the Month, Guadalupe Estefania “Stephanie” Frias Verduzco. She was nominated by Professor Dr. Emily Kerr. Dr. Kerr shared her nomination reasons: Stephanie is an exemplary student who balances a full-time 12-credit course load at AWC while working, being married, and raising her 2-year-old daughter. She moved to Yuma from Mexico to learn English and expand her career opportunities in the U.S., and her dedication has led to significant improvement in her language skills. Stephanie's leadership and support of her classmates, combined with her commitment to academic success, make her a standout in the classroom.

Action Items

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

Motion by Olivia Zepeda, 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 Action Item as Presented.

Summary –

- Ray Roberson, Grant Writer Coordinator, Entrepreneurial College
- Robert Boeskin, Professor of Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC)

Action Item #2 – Consideration to Approve New Curriculum- Presented by Miguel Alvarez

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

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

Summary-

New Certificates proposed in:

- CERT.GAB Grief and Bereavement Certificate – 10 credits
- CERT.HWC Health Coach Certification – 20 credits

Action Item #3 – Consideration to Approve Fee Adjustment - Presented by Miguel Alvarez

Motion by Olivia Zepeda, 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 Action Item as Presented.

Summary-

For the benefit of program students, the College is seeking approval to remove course fees for PIT 130 AWS Academy Cloud Foundations and PIT 131 AWS Cloud Architecting. The fee is currently \$150 for each course. If approved, this will remove a significant financial burden to students. Procedure 515.1 recognizes the District Governing Board's authority to approve the annual schedule of tuition and fees each year. With program and partnerships growing regularly, the adjustment of this fee allow would allow the College to remain responsive to industry needs. The budgetary impact of this Fee removal would be largely offset by the increase in program enrollment.

Action Item #4 - Consideration to Authorize Payment- Presented by Dr. Daniel P. Corr

Motion by Olivia Zepeda, 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

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

Summary- For the benefit of all members of the Yuma community, including College students and employees, the College administration recommends that the District Governing Board authorize the College to make a payment of \$ 4,898,760.00 to Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System administration ("AHCCCS"). The result of the payment will directly benefit the Yuma Regional Medical Center and thus the Yuma community in the form of enhanced medical facilities and hospital programs.

Action Item #5 - Consideration to Approve Construction Services - Presented by Dr. Daniel P. Corr

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

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

*Summary-*The Yuma Future48 Workforce Accelerator, launched in partnership with Arizona Western College ("AWC"), will offer workforce training in electrical technology, advanced manufacturing, broadband fiber optics, and solar installation in support of the region's aerospace and defense industries. The partnership will include a 5,600-square-foot expansion of the Wellton Manufacturing Training Center with expected completion in 2025.

AWC's Wellton facility offers degree, certificate & non-credit workforce training in Electrical Technology, Advanced Manufacturing, Broadband Fiber Optics & Solar Installation in support of the region Aerospace & Defense Industries. The Wellton Advanced Manufacturing Center currently serves approximately 250 students each semester. After the expansion is completed, it is anticipated that the

Wellton Advanced Manufacturing Center will enroll approximately 500 students each semester in a variety of credit & non-credit course offerings.

The expanded facility will allow AWC to better serve its existing industry partners such as TRAX International, the United States Army Yuma Proving Ground (“YPG”), the General Motor Proving Grounds, the Gowen Company, ALLO Fiber, D&H Electric, Sunray Electric, Yuma Electric, and many others. On November 15, 2023, the District Governing Board approved architectural and engineering for design services for this project. The college is now seeking approval for construction services. The total cost for construction services will not exceed \$3,297,405.00 Dollars. The cost for the preconstruction fee will not exceed 0.8% and the cost for the construction fee will not exceed 8%.

Action Item #6 – Consideration to Approve Vouchers for August 2024– Presented by Czarina Gallegos
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

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

Summary-

Fiscal Status Overview:

• **All Funds Cash Balance**

Fiscal Year End: \$74,774,031 ending 2024, compared to \$73,157,928 ending on August 31, 2023.

Monthly: \$60,278,091 August 31, 2024, compared to \$64,186,981 on August 31, 2023.

• **Monthly Operating Cash Balance:** \$13,456,023 August 31, 2024, compared to \$8,508,573 on August 31, 2023.

• **Current Strength:** \$13,456,023 August 31, 2024, compared to \$8,508,573 on August 31, 2023.

• **Revenues vs. Expenses:** The District received 17% of anticipated revenues, with 16% of the budgeted expenditures spent.

Fiscal Revenue Analysis:

• Year-over-Year Comparison Revenues:

o FY24/25 Actual Revenues: \$9,800,109

o FY23/24 Actual Revenues: \$9,332,419

o Percentage Change: An increase of approximately 5.0% in actual revenues.

• Year-over-Year Comparison Expenditures:

o FY24/25 Actual Expenditures: \$10,380,680

o FY23/24 Actual Expenditures: \$12,434,578

o Percentage Change: A decrease of approximately 16.5% in actual expenses.

Enrollment Status:

• Current Enrollment: 1,177 credit hours for dual enrollment.

• Comparison with Previous Year: Reflects significant growth from 706 credit hours.

Dual Enrollment Highlights:

• Current Enrollment: 1,177 credit hours for dual enrollment.

• Comparison with Previous Year: Reflects significant growth from 706 credit hours.

Detailed Financial Data & Key Observations:

1. Fiscal Strength: Despite a decrease in cash balance, the district maintains a strong fiscal position with revenues consistently outpacing expenses.
2. Revenue Growth: There is a notable increase in tuition revenue due to increased enrollment.
3. Enrollment Expansion: The growth in dual enrollment signifies a positive trend in student participation, providing significant savings to students and fostering community engagement.

President's Reports

a. Advancement: Strategic Planning Update – Presented by Lori Stofft

Lori Stofft, Strategic Planning Tri-Chair and VP for Advancement and Executive Director of the AWC Foundation, presented an update on Arizona Western College's Strategic Plan. The presentation focused on key data-driven questions regarding student outcomes, equity, and engagement. Key metrics discussed included the number of students completing critical "gatekeeper" courses (English/Math) in their first semester and year, the completion of 30-credits within the first three semesters, and the total number of credits accumulated by associate degree earners. These data points were disaggregated by ethnicity/race, highlighting AWC's commitment to addressing equity in student success.

The presentation also covered student engagement data, drawn from the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE), which identified areas where AWC could improve to enhance the student experience.

A detailed process for data review was outlined, which included analyzing why the research questions were important, summarizing the data findings, evaluating the meaning of the data, and identifying practices currently addressing these issues. Teams were tasked with proposing new initiatives and establishing SMART goals for the next 18-24 months to improve student outcomes and institutional effectiveness.

The strategic planning process emphasizes transparency, shared governance, and continuous feedback, ensuring that both employees and students can actively participate. The update highlighted the institution's efforts to involve various internal and external constituents in shaping AWC's strategic direction.

Looking ahead, the presentation announced the Horizon Symposium, an upcoming event scheduled for November 15, 2024. This interactive, TED Talk-style event will bring together college staff and community members to explore innovative ideas for the future of higher education. The event will include presentations from thought leaders like Liz Murphy, CEO of CampusWorks, Dr. Marla Franco, VP for Hispanic Serving Institution Initiatives at the University of Arizona, and Ash Black, a creative technologist focused on student engagement.

The Final draft of the plan will be presented to the District Governing Board in February 2025.

b. Technology: Modern Technology at Arizona Western College – Presented by Ashley Herrington, Scott Estes

The presentation on Modern Technology at Arizona Western College provided an overview of the college's significant technological advancements and future plans. Since the Strategic Plan 2025 launched in 2018, AWC has transformed its technology infrastructure, largely due to its strategic partnership with CampusWorks in 2021. This partnership has allowed the college to upgrade 25,000 assets, creating a tech-literate workforce supported by cloud-based, centralized software systems designed to meet the needs of both students and faculty.

Several key initiatives include the introduction of VR simulation labs, Cross-District campus upgrades to facilities and program technology for Journalism, Nursing, RadTech and CTE programs. Additionally, the New DeAnza Residence Hall has been enhanced with new technology, providing a modern living experience. A variety of student support projects have also been implemented, such as the renovation of the Testing Center, improvements to FAFSA processing, and new classroom resources for medical assistant and phlebotomy training. Student support services have been expanded with the continued laptop rental program for students and the implementation of 24/7 customer service, ensuring constant support for students. The infrastructure has been further strengthened with enhanced Wi-Fi access throughout campus facilities and parking areas.

Looking to the future, AWC is focusing on continued modernization. Plans include increased automation, the use of AI tools to improve student support, and ongoing technology integration to key facilities like the Law Enforcement Training Academy (LETA), the Academic Library, and the Parker Welding Lab. These efforts aim to keep AWC at the forefront of educational technology. The presentation also emphasized the dedication of the IT team to the college's mission. Personal stories were shared to highlight the team's commitment to providing excellent service, with special recognition given to employees like Saul Cruz-Oros and Bruno Ramirez for their exceptional contributions. The presentation concluded with a vision for the future, outlining how AWC will continue to leverage technology to support its core objectives of Access, Excelencia, and Disruption.

Closing Items:

Dr. Corr highlighted a strong start to the Fall Semester, emphasizing the exceptional student experience and the positive impact of Outreach and Early College programs in driving enrollment growth and degree completions.

AWC was invited by the Arizona Commerce Authority to join a Trade Mission to Belgium and the Netherlands to attract economic opportunities. Reetika Dhawan will represent AWC's workforce pipeline programs on this trip.

The Governor's Office announced a new Workforce Cabinet initiative, focusing on the intersection of workforce development and education.

Matador Athletics is competitive, with Volleyball and Men's and Women's Soccer teams in the thick of conference play.

The Law Enforcement Training Academy (LETA) will open for its next session on October 7, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 28. DeAnza Residence Hall recently opened, offering modern, welcoming living spaces that complement the college's world-class campus facilities.

Dr. Corr reminded the Board about the AWC Foundation Schoolhouse Soiree on October 4 at 6 p.m., a fundraising event supporting scholarships for AWC students.

He also expressed appreciation for the Board's support of the transition to managed services with CampusWorks in September 2021. This strategic move turned technology from an institutional liability into a strength, backed by a professional, loyal technology team dedicated to AWC's mission.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting will be October 15, 2024, with the next Regular meeting conducted both in-person and via Zoom and at the San Luis Learning Center Campus.

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

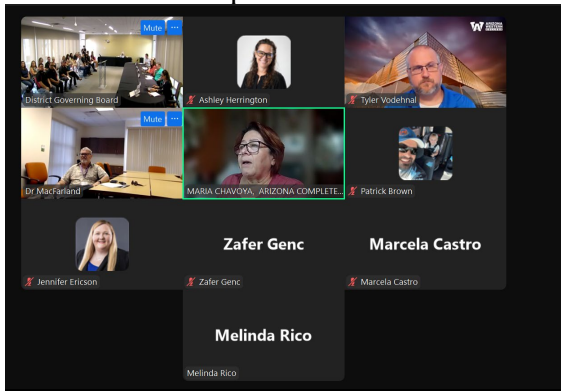
The Board **Approved** the next meeting date and final matters of the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:21 pm

Adjourn: The meeting matters were complete.

Respectfully submitted,


Ashley B Herrington, Recording Secretary

Attendance at 12 pm



Attendance at 1:20 pm

