WESTERN NEVADA COLLEGE

Institutional Advisory Council

Nevada System of Higher Education

Wednesday, October 28, 2020, 11:00 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

**1. Call to Order and Roll Cal**l - **A quorum is present.**

Tim Dyhr - Present

Rob Hooper, Chair - Present

Mike Jackson - Present

Michelle Joy - Absent

Alan Jurkonis - Present

Ricky Medina - Present

Jim Peckham - Present

Mary Pierczynski - Present

Cary Richardson - Present

Rupert Ruiz - Present

Bus Scharmann - Absent

Richard Stokes - Present

**Guests:**

Amy Carvalho, Regent

Andrew Haskin, NNDA Deputy Director

Nate Mackinnon, NSHE Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges

Laura Perkins, Regent

Craig von Collenburg, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges

**WNC Faculty/Staff/ASWN:**

Gabby Clark, ASWN President

Deb Conrad, Assistant to the President/Higher Education in Prison Program Director (Recorder)

Kyle Dalpe, Provost & Vice President of Finance

Jeff Downs, Interim Vice President of Student Success & Support Services

Mark Ghan, Vice President for Special Projects/General Council

Niki Gladys, Executive Director of Advancement

Bob Morin, Academic Faculty Senate Chair

Vincent Solis, President

Georgia White, Director of Professional & Applied Technology

**2. Public Comment**

Chair Hooper requested public comment and there was none.

**3. Approval of Minutes from July 29, 2020 Meeting**

Chair Hooper requested a motion regarding the approval of the minutes from the July 29, 2020 meeting. Mary Pierczynski motioned to approve the minutes. Richard Stokes seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

**4. Remarks from WNC President Vincent Solis**

President Solis reviewed the status of fall 2020 enrollment and instructional modalities as well as providing an update on Covid-19 cases on campus. Solis announced that campus operations would go remote as much as possible after Thanksgiving while maintaining some level of in-person services in student services areas. Spring operations look the same and the college will re-evaluate in mid-February how the rest of the semester will run. Solis provided an overview of new initiatives, announced the second annual Women’s Leadership Conference and congratulated the Foundation on another successful Golf for Education event.

**5. Remarks from WNC IAC Chair Rob Hooper**

Chair Hooper thanked everyone on the IAC for their contributions and said he is proud to present to the board what this IAC is doing.

**6. Remarks from WNC IAC Members**

Cary Richardson took the opportunity to recognize the late Mayor Bob Crowell for all his contributions to the community over his life and said he will be truly missed.

**7. Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges Update**

Vice Chancellor Nate Mackinnon provided an update including announcing regents’ new roles on the Board of Regents, acknowledging the new Assistant Vice Chancellor for Community College Craig von Collengberg. Mackinnon said the new chancellor, Dr. Melody Rose, hit the ground running and is working to develop metrics for each of NSHE’s five goals, among other things. Mackinnon reviewed the recent Joint Meeting of IAC Chairs and said the charge of the Community College Committee was being reviewed. Mackinnon updated the members on grants received, the launch of ME3, which helps students discover which degrees they can pursue at which institutions, Nevada Promise status and the possibility of more CARES funding coming in the future.

**8. Presentation on Growth and Development in Fernley**

NNDA Deputy Director Andrew Haskins gave a presentation on the various developments in various stages of progress in the Fernley area.

**9. Update WNC’s Fernley Expansion Project**

President Solis reported on WNC’s efforts to secure a foothold on a permanent basis in Fernley. Facility cost and budgets present a challenge, but the college is putting together proposals for some long-shot grant opportunities regardless. Expansion to Fernley in light of the growth makes sense for students and the community.

**10. Report on NSHE Joint Meeting of the IAC Chairs**

Chair Hooper provided an overview of the recent NSHE Joint Meeting of the IAC Chairs. During the meeting Chancellor Rose explained how she is approaching evaluation of unemployment issues and the geographical differences within the state; in the north a diversification process has already occurred, but in southern Nevada the pandemic has hurt them more. Hooper commented that as we move forward, we have to stay current with certifications etc., and be prepared to move with industry not after. IAC members need to get input from their industries and keep the college, chancellor and board updated. VC Mackinnon added that the IAC members are responsible for providing an industry-wide perspective.

**11. Review of NSHE’s Five Strategic Goals**

Chair Hooper reviewed NSHE’s five strategic goals (Access, Student Success, Closing the Achievement Gap, Workforce, Research) with the members of the IAC and emphasized the importance of understanding these five strategies. VC Mackinnon added that the importance of these is that they are the “north star” for all the colleges’ efforts. Understanding these goals will help the IAC make appropriate recommendations to the Board. Chair Hooper asked Deb Conrad to send the IAC charge and the NSHE goals to IAC members.

**12. Discussion regarding role of the IAC in the 2021 Legislative Session**

 In light of the upcoming legislative session, Chair Hooper discussed the role of IAC members in supporting NSHE as needed and appropriate during the session. If the System needs support, and the item is something that an IAC member also supports, members may be called upon to represent a voice of their industry on the matter. Chair Hooper said the chancellor is aware of a need for a coordinated method of ensuring the IAC is on the same page as the chancellor in these matters. It is also really important we know what the board’s priorities are and transferred back to the IAC.

**13. Discussion on the prioritization and advisory process for the IAC**

Chair Hooper said the IAC has pledged to provide a higher level of input and the process of the work the IAC does cannot be two hours once a quarter. Chair Hooper put forth the idea that if priorities from the Board of Regents could be provided far in advance of the IAC meetings, then the IAC members can reach out to people in their fields and industries to receive feedback on these priorities so that when the quarterly meeting takes place, the IAC can put together an advisory document summarizing the feedback that would go back to the Board. In return, the Board would then continue the communication back to the IAC. Rupert Ruiz added that he felt this kind of communication loop would be useful.

**14. IAC Special Topic: Enrollment**

Chair Hooper announced that this group would be taking a look at enrollment at WNC so that members know more about the ongoing efforts to address challenges with enrollment and to help the college address the gaps in enrollment. President Solis said he would present on this topic at the next IAC meeting. Tim Dhyr suggested finding avenues to showcase the success stories. Jim Peckham added that ROADS can help if there are students who drop out due to financial or housing issues.

**15. New Business**

Chair Hooper asked if there was any new business and there was none.

**16. Public Comment**

Chair Hooper asked for public comment and there was none.

**Meeting adjourned: 12:20 p.m.**