

## MINUTES

### WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMISSION MEETING March 21, 2016

#### Teleconference

The March 21, 2016 Wyoming Community College Commission meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Sandra Meyer at 11:00 a.m.

Commissioners present telephonically: Commissioners Charlene Bodine, Katherine Dooley, Sherri Lovercheck, Sandra Meyer and Wendy Sweeny. Commissioners Larry Atwell and Bruce Brown were not present.

Commission staff present: Executive Director Jim Rose, Deputy Director and Chief Financial Officer Matt Petry, Fiscal Team Leader Larry Buchholtz and Administrative Services Manager Claire Smith.

A roll call was taken. A quorum was present. Due notice had been published.

**Motion:** Commissioner Dooley moved and Commissioner Lovercheck seconded a motion to approve the agenda. **Motion passed unanimously.**

#### CONSIDERATION OF 2016/2017 ACADEMIC YEAR TUITION

Dr. Rose stated the college presidents had a phone call during the prior week to discuss tuition and agreed to ask the commissioners to consider a simple tuition increase for the coming academic year only. A more detailed, long-range revision and refinement to the policy will be done in June.

Our current tuition policy says we will use two metrics to compare ourselves to comparator states, but they do not provide many details. The data capacity we have now provides more details and can be used in the tuition discussions to take place in June. Commissioner Atwell had previously suggested an increase of \$6/credit for residents, \$9 for Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) students and \$18 for nonresidents. This would help offset funding decrease mandates from the legislature. The \$5 increase recommended by Dr. Rose was based on what took place in the legislature, without having a devastating impact on the students.

Commissioner Lovercheck discussed information she found on the Department of Workforce Services website stating WY has the largest unemployment increase in the country. As of January 2016, unemployment increased 4.7% statewide with the largest increases in Fremont, Johnson, Sheridan, Campbell, and Natrona counties. A total of 8,500 jobs have been lost and 17,485 people are unemployed. We know enrollments increase when unemployment increases so the higher number of students paying tuition should be considered in the discussion. The legislature has also cut many support services throughout the state.

Commissioner Sweeny said she is comfortable with raising tuition because we need to show the legislature we are willing to help ourselves and students need to have buy-in to appreciate their education.

**Motion:** Commissioner Sweeny moved and Commissioner Bodine seconded a motion to increase tuition for the next academic year by \$5 per credit hour for in-state tuition with impacts on WUE and out-of-state tuition accordingly.

Dr. Rose further clarified what the per-credit tuition rates would be with a \$5 increase: \$88 for residents, \$132 for WUE students and \$264 for nonresidents. He asked for the colleges to provide input. Dr. Leach, WWCC stated they are currently working on budgets and in order to serve the increased enrollments, they must raise tuition. Dr. Young, NWCCD said they support an increase though some schools would like to see more of an increase. He understands there will be more comprehensive discussions later. Dr. Schaffer, LCCC agreed with Dr. Young's comments and the need to increase tuition but he supports a \$6 increase. Even with a \$6 increase, LCCC will still have to do cuts on their campus. Dr. Patterson, EWC supports an increase. Mark Kitchen, speaking for NWC, supports a \$6 increase. Commissioner Sweeny and Commissioner Bodine withdrew the motion and second for a \$5 increase.

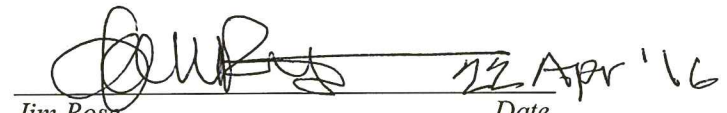
**Motion:** Commissioner Bodine moved and Commissioner Dooley seconded a motion to increase tuition for the next academic year by \$6 per credit hour for in-state tuition, for a total cost of \$89 per credit hour for in-state students, \$133 for WUE students, and \$267 for out-of-state students. Those in favor: Commissioners Bodine, Dooley, and Meyer. Those opposed: Commissioners Sweeny and Lovercheck. Those absent from voting: Commissioners Atwell and Brown. **Motion passed.**

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion:** Commissioner Sweeny moved and Commissioner Dooley seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:30a.m. **Motion passed unanimously.**

  
Sandra Meyer  
Commission Chair

4/22/16  
Date

  
Jim Rose  
Commission Executive Director

12 Apr '16  
Date