

Navajo County Community College District Governing Board Study Session Minutes

May 15, 2012

2251 East Navajo Boulevard, Holbrook, Arizona, 86025

Governing Board Members Present: Bill Jeffers, Ginny Handorf, Louella Nahsonhoya, E.L. "Dusty" Parsons and Daniel Peaches.

Staff Present: President, Jeanne Swarthout; Vice President, Blaine Hatch; Vice President, Mark Vest; Information Services Director, Eric Bishop; Institutional Effectiveness Director, Dr. Leslie Wasson; Recording Secretary to the Board, Kristin Thomas.

Reports:

1. Study Session Agenda Item 1.: Request for Direction White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT) Miner Flat Dam Project (Information) – President Swarthout

President Swarthout stated the White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT) has reinitiated contact with the college to request assistance with training their tribal members to be certified employable for the Miner Flat Dam Project. Initially in November of 2011 the college received conflicting information from two separate tribal offices in respect to requests for NPC services. Shortly following all discussions were suspended. Dr. Swarthout explained the WMAT is requesting highly specialized certification and training in construction trades, welding etc. Dr. Swarthout added that the Tribe has not provided strong data that the base education level is present to conduct the requested classes or data to support specific requests. Mr. Jeffers asked if a site-specific request has been made and is there a need to justify and fulfill this request pending dam project completion. Dr. Swarthout confirmed a site-specific request has been made and the need will be reduced pending dam project completion. Dr. Swarthout noted the amount of funding offered by the WMAT for NPC to provide services is a low percentage based on the entire amount of dam project federal funding. Mr. Vest stated that the WMAT was previously requested to provide specific employment training needs and enrollment sustainability; currently substantial data to support either request has not been submitted to NPC. Ms. Nahsonhoya asked if the college can provide any training to WMAT members currently with existing programs. Dr. Swarthout confirmed that OSHA classes are offered and correlate with safety regulation needs for the dam project. Mr. Jeffers requested the college administrative staff continue discussions with WMAT and get more facts. Mr. Parsons requested a cost benefit analysis and project schedule. Mr. Jeffers invited the White Mountain Apache Tribal Representative to address the board in respect to this request.

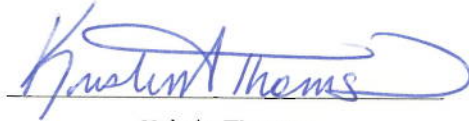
2. Study Session Agenda Item 2.: Higher Learning Commission Change Request (Information)- Director Wasson

Director Wasson stated the Higher Learning Commission has changed their distance delivery policy regulation. Director Wasson reported, although all these programs have been accredited, the Higher Learning Commission requested Northland Pioneer College complete a Substantive Change Application for Distance Delivery as a result of the HLC policy change requirement. Dr. Wasson reported this document defines the characteristics of distance delivery, specifies when institutions must notify the Commission or seek approval for distance delivery and provides the form for seeking approval. Dr. Wasson reported the change request includes video and audio classes offered dating back to 1988 in addition to the Internet classes currently offered; therefore all distance delivery or correspondence programs to date are documented. Ms. Handorf asked if the Higher Learning Commission is focused on distance learning as a result of shifts in federal regulations. Dr. Swarthout responded yes, that the Higher Learning Commission policy change is a result of the United States Department of Education regulation changes targeted at for profit distance delivery; nonetheless all accredited higher education entities must be in compliance. Dr. Swarthout confirmed as a result of the new federal regulations the college may be required to submit more change requests in the future to the Higher Learning Commission.

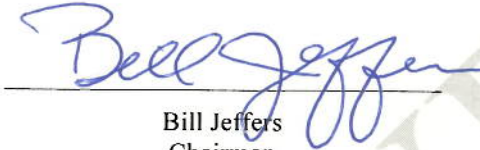
Study session ended at 9:57 a.m.



Respectfully submitted,



Kristin Thomas
Recording Secretary to the Board



Bill Jeffers
Chairman



Ginny Handorf
Board Secretary

APPROVED

