

**GREAT BASIN COLLEGE (GBC)**

**Institutional Advisory Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, April 16, 2015, 7:00 am (PST)**

GBC-Berg Hall Conference Room

Video Conference from the Meeting Site to:

**Approved Meeting Minutes**

GBC – Battle Mountain Center, BM2

GBC – Ely Center, GBC 118

GBC – Pahrump Valley Center, PVC 124

GBC - Winnemucca Center, GBC 110

GBC-Wells

GBC, Wendover HST-2

*The Great Basin College Institutional Advisory Council meeting was called to order at 7:02 a.m. by President Mark Curtis*

**ROLL CALL:**

Council Members Present: Brianne Clark, Hugh Collett, Susan Davis, Vince Juaristi (via phone), Mark Kimball, Matt McCarty (via phone), Don Miller, Will Moschetti, Dave Roden

Ex-Officio Members Present: None

Staff Present: Mark Curtis, Lisa Campbell, Mary Swetich, Lynn Mahlberg, John Albrecht, Steve Theriault, John Rice, Amber Donnelly, Sonja Sibert, Mardell Wilkins

Absent Council Members: Andrew Bath, Laura DelRio, Chuck Knight, Kent McAdoo, Chris Melville, Jolene Supp

The absence of Council Member Chuck Knight was addressed by VP Lynn Mahlberg. Ms. Mahlberg stated Mr. Knight has been in ICU in Phoenix. A family member has notified us that all life support measures are being removed and hospice will take over the care. Our prayers are with his family during this difficult time and we will update the Council as we learn more.

A quorum has been established with 9 Council members present. President Curtis handed the meeting over to Council member Brianne Clark who will conduct the meeting for Chair Matt McCarty, as he is attending the meeting via teleconference.

**1. Public Comment**

**Information only**

Brianne Clark read the public comment statement and asked for any public comment at any of the locations. There was no public comment.

2. Approval of Minutes

**For Possible Action**

**Motion:** GBC Institutional Advisory Council (IAC) member Dave Roden moved to approve the minutes of the GBC IAC meeting on February 4, 2015; Council member Don Miller seconded the motion. The motion was **APPROVED**.

3. Review the GBC Written Reports by Department

**Information only**

The GBC IAC was provided written reports from the various GBC departments and Ms. Clark asked if there were any questions or discussion of the written reports. President Curtis said the reports are listed in order and if there are any clarifications that staff who are present could elaborate.

President's Office Report - President Curtis wanted to elaborate on his report. President Curtis included two additional documents to the written report that justifies GBC's request to offer two new bachelor degrees in English and Science. The first document is a letter from NCHEMS to the Chancellor which supports additional bachelor degrees being offered by GBC and also enumerated all of the bachelor degrees offered by community colleges one by one throughout the nation. It shows that the proposed new bachelor degrees, Bachelor of Arts in English and Bachelor of Science, that GBC would like to offer are currently being offered at community colleges throughout the nation. The data shows this is nothing new. Additionally, part of the white paper that speaks to the lack of enough institutions in the state of Nevada to serve the population. President Curtis drew a comparison of the two states that he is familiar with, Michigan and Indiana, and we find in those states there are 200,000 citizens per institution and in the state of Nevada there are 400,000 citizens per institution. One of the goals of the NSHE is to achieve a more educated population. The NSHE Board of Regents have stated repeatedly their goal is to have more people receive a post-secondary education. President Curtis believes that we need to be able to be unfettered in our desire to offer more to the citizens of rural Nevada.

Another document that was provided to the IAC was the Rand Report that was written in 2001 at the request of then Chancellor Jane Nichols and delivered to the Board of Regents. At the time the document suggests the need of an additional four to six state colleges in Nevada if we had any hope of achieving the kind of coverage and educated citizenry that everyone wanted. All of these long years later nothing has changed. The state of Nevada and the entire nation has suffered through this great recession which interfered with any plans that the state might have had with expanding education. Therefore, President Curtis stated GBC is the low cost solution to an expensive problem.

President Curtis stated that one of the topics at a special Board of Regents meeting on April 24<sup>th</sup> is that the NSHE presidents have been directed to report on any policies and procedures that

are in place that are preventing us from fulfilling our mission. President Curtis will be travelling to Las Vegas to attend the meeting in person. He has identified two or three policies that are punishing GBC and causing us a lot of difficulty fulfilling our mission. The presidents are asked this question at every Board of Regents' meeting, but the presidents are either caught off guard or can't remember. Since it is now a request in advance it will give us a chance to actually report on and possibly change the policies that interfere with us fulfilling our mission. The Board of Regents know there are problems and they are now demanding that we speak directly to those problems that are part of the policy manual. President Curtis plans to report on the labyrinth of policies we must go through to offer a new degree which is why many institutions are not even trying to get a new degree approved because the policy is cumbersome. VP Mike McFarlane says the policy that requires Board of Regents' approval for an emphasis in a BAS is the only bachelor's degree that requires Board of Regents' approval for an emphasis to a degree. Dr. McFarlane feels that it is directed at GBC to prevent us from offering too many bachelor degrees. The Bachelor of Applied Science degree is only about 7-8 classes or 21-24 credits difference between these. Dr. McFarlane said the model that GBC follows from Arizona state is to have emphasis so as to add and delete an emphasis according to workforce response. Having the Board of Regents approve an emphasis severely limits us to respond to workforce needs in a timely manner. President Curtis will work with the VPs and deans to ensure that any policy that he is not aware of that is hindering us be communicated to him so as to include in his report to the Regents.

President Curtis' relayed a comment that Dr. Collett said to him during a recent interview that since GBC's inception it seems people have put hurdles in front of us and tried to make it difficult and GBC has survived and thrived despite that because of a lot of good people particularly around this table.

President Curtis reported that another policy that hinders us in starting a new bachelor program is that the new programs must first be reviewed by the presidents of the two universities and the president of the state college. They can stop it in its tracks right there. Other policy requirements are that the new degree program has to go to the Academic Affairs Council which are the Vice Presidents and the Provost of the institutions. They can say no. And finally, even if all these groups give their approval we still have to take it to the Board of Regents for formal approval. President Curtis noted there is nothing wrong with having checks and balances when launching a new program, however the ability for these other groups to say no seems somewhat self-serving and stifles competition. If it were quality and advice that were given to us to make the program better than we would take that advice gladly.

Dr. Collett questioned President Curtis if he will be asked for GBC's plan and President Curtis affirmed that we are on the agenda and he will be asking for language change on some of these policies. He will also be providing documents that were presented today (2001 Rand Study and the NCHEMS letter to the Chancellor) as backup information for the request of language change in policy and to take the handcuffs off and allow us to have a more liberal interpretation on what we are allowed to offer at the bachelors level. President Curtis added the presidents and

the Academic Standards were against GBC offering select niche degrees. The presidents wanted a definition on “niche”. They wanted to define “niche” as very narrow discipline, unusual, unique, that no one else offers. GBC’s first two degrees at the bachelor’s level were the education degrees which are hardly niche degrees and are offered by every institution in the country. GBC is defining our niche degrees geographically not on the discipline level. We will stick with that and hopefully if they remove some of the impediments we will have a chance to serve more and begin to grow again. Dr. Collett mentioned that flexibility of the community colleges is almost the most important thing they have and if they take away that flexibility it takes away the ability to teach. President Curtis agreed and stated that a one size fits all mentality does not work.

Chair McCarty asked if there are any policy or procedures that are holding us up from fulfilling our mission from a financial standpoint, specifically, the ability of our area to contribute funding that does not have to necessarily go back to the state. President Curtis said that the Foundation rolls out about \$60,000 per year to support new programs and we have used that funding to support the emphasis in graphic communications as we launched it and other ventures. It is difficult to fund operations long-term from donations. Donors usually want to see something new or different or will have something specific in mind that they want to fund. Once the program is off the ground the money doesn’t go indefinitely. There is one aspect of this that is board policy and deals with the Interim Finance Committee, that we are not allowed to carry over money from year to year, but there is a way to carry over some of our registration fees or otherwise tuition money if for instance we have quite an influx of students who register for classes and pay the registration fee and its above what we had budgeted, allowing us to hang onto that money in the next fiscal year. VP McFarlane added it is an onerous process to request fee increases for specific classes and can only occur once per year. It is a process that could be streamlined as well. President Curtis concluded his verbal report.

Institutional Research & Effectiveness – President Curtis reported we are sharing the institutional support director, Cathy Fulkerson, with WNC. She was our institutional researcher first. She is helping us with our assessment plan and a variety of other things. Sharing institutional research services with WNC was done as a cost savings measure.

Academic Affairs – VP McFarlane had nothing further to add that was not in the written report.

Student Services – VP Mahlberg had nothing further to add.

Business Affairs – VP Sibert had nothing to further to add.

GBC Foundation - Foundation Executive Director Rice had nothing further to add.

4. GBC Institutional Advisory Council Member and Ex Officio  
Verbal Report

**Information only**

Ms. Clark asked if there were any verbal reports from the GBC IAC members or ex officio members from all of the locations.

Council member Don Miller reported he was speaking with a local doctor and the topic was the shortage of nurses in the Elko area. Mr. Miller said the nurses go to school here in Elko, but leave Elko to find jobs because the wages for nurses here are lower than in other places. Also, doctors know that the nursing program is excellent here in Elko. Dr. Amber Donnelly, Dean, Health Science & Human Services, addressed the Council. She confirmed that nurses in Elko make \$5 to \$6 less than nurses in Reno and Carson City. One reason she feels there is a shortage of nurses in Elko is that our nursing program only graduates up to 20 students per year. Last year we had six nurses go to Winnemucca, two went to Battle Mountain, two went to Utah, and two went to Reno. So, yes it does cut into the nurses we are supplying to Elko. One way that we are addressing this issue is we are putting a nursing satellite program in Winnemucca and Pahrump. We will be taking thirty students this year which will help with the impact here in Elko. GBC is working with the hospital and building a strong relationship with them. Mr. Miller stated that this hospital makes the highest profit, approximately \$34 million, and they can't raise the nurses pay to keep them here – there is something wrong with that. Dr. Donnelly said it was something they could visit with them about. She stated the hospital does ask for our opinion and they do want to make the hospital and the nursing staff stronger. They are open with working with us. Dr. Donnelly confirmed that we do have a strong nursing program with a 100% passing rate for the past two years – the only program in the state that can say that. Dr. Donnelly said we were awarded a Pennington Foundation grant to purchase some additional mannequins. Chair McCarty ask Dr. Donnelly if there were any grants out there that gives incentives to serve the rural counties. Dr. Donnelly said right now there is a real push for nursing scholarships in the rural areas. The Pennington Foundation last year gave ten \$2,000 scholarships to the ADN students. They have asked her to put in for that again this year. She added the hospitals in Elko and Winnemucca give scholarships to all nurses in the BSN program each semester with a commitment from them that they stay in their community for one year after graduation. There are so many other places that are employing nurses besides hospitals. The money is there for students within Nevada and the opportunities are specific to each institution. Chair McCarty asked if there was any way to get a commitment from the students to stay in the community as a pay it forward kind of thing. Dr. Donnelly said that the nurses are staying in our communities; it's just that our service area is so large and consists of many communities. Dr. Collett recommended inviting the administrator of the hospital to attend our next meeting and ask him why this situation where they are making all this money, but our nurses are not staying because of the low wages. Dr. Curtis recommended out of respect to have Dr. Curtis and Dr. Donnelly meet with the hospital administrator in a more private meeting. Mr. Moschetti mentioned the administrator of the hospital would be a good addition as a member to this Council. Dr. Curtis said that is something to consider. Matt McCarty said that last week he met with President Curtis and Mardell Wilkins to discuss potential new members to the Council so this fits into that earlier discussion. There was a discussion about administrators from LifePoint hospitals being able to sit on advisory boards such as this. Chair McCarty said he didn't feel that it would be a problem.

Council member Vince Juaristi requested an update on legislative and budget issues at each meeting. Mr. Juaristi would like to know about the bridge funding and other legislative

activities that affect GBC going forward. President Curtis responded that the bridge funding is being pushed back with other things that require additional funds that were not in the Governor's recommended budget. There is an ongoing argument on what increased tax proposal will win the day. Until they settle on taxes that will bring in enough money they are pushing off deciding how that money will be distributed. President Curtis feels we won't know anything until the 11<sup>th</sup> hour and maybe even into a special session. One bill that is getting a lot of notice is the so called "campus carry" bill that will allow people to carry a concealed weapon on campus. NSHE opposes it and all the presidents oppose it. We are not against the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, but believe there are more bad things than good things that can come out of it. Even our own representatives are supporting it and much of the conservatives in the state are supporting it. There is a manner in which someone can request a president of an institution permission to carry a concealed weapon on campus. There are criteria to be met, but the decision is up to the president. President Curtis has not received a requests to carry a concealed weapon in the three years he has been at GBC.

Another item of interest is SB 391 Interim Committee to study the governance of community colleges and taking community colleges out of the governance of the Nevada Board of Regents which did not go in that direction. What came out of it is a STEM challenge grant that has \$5 million in which colleges in the NSHE system can apply for funding to increase the science, technology, engineering and math programs. Also, coming out of SB 391 is a \$6 million bill that is called the Workforce Rapid Response Fund that is used to help fund the startup of new programs. We can apply to this fund to get a new program off the ground that is workforce related. These are out of committee now and seem to receiving some favorable response. Constance Brooks (NSHE Vice Chancellor for Government Affairs) is permanently located in Carson City for the legislative session and sends out a weekly reports about all of the bills and the statuses. Mr. Juaristi asked that at any point in which the GBC IAC can be of assistance to you and/or to Vice Chancellor Brooks on any of these bills, to please let the Council know.

Chair McCarty said this legislative session has 1,060 bills and resolutions that have been introduced. The deadline to get them out of committee has passed. Less than 25% of those bills and resolutions died by failing to meet the deadline. Historically, that is the lowest that Mr. McCarty has seen in the twelve years he has been involved in tracking bills for the Elko Chamber of Commerce. It indicates that 75% of the bills have received hearing and some type of action has taken place on them. It means that we will have to work quickly if we want to influence the legislators.

Ms. Clark had to leave the meeting at 7:50 a.m. President Curtis took over the running of the meeting as Chair McCarty was participating via phone.

President Curtis asked if there were any additional verbal reports. At that time the power went out at 7:53 a.m. and the meeting went into RECESS.

The power came back on at 8:00 a.m. and the meeting was RESUMED. Mr. McCarty and Mr. Juaristi were not able to reconnect via phone conference.

President Curtis again asked for any other IAC verbal reports.

Council member Mark Kimball of Pahrump said he will be attending the Elko graduation and looks forward to coming to Elko for the graduation.

Council member Dave Roden of Winnemucca reported he is pleased with the progress of the nursing program in Winnemucca and also with the new electrical systems program. Mr. Roden reported that a grant has been received to build the Boys & Girls Club in Winnemucca.

**5. New Business** **Information only**

Mr. Moschetti was reminiscing about Council member Chuck Knight and thinking about the legacy that he and Dr. Collett and the others have left us and so much of it is the physical plant. When we look at the amount of space we have filled in fifty years it's impressive, and we continue to grow. Do we have room to keep growing physically? We should be thinking about if there is property in close proximity to the college and looking at acquiring that property. The day will come when we run out of land. Mr. Miller added that the old National Guard Armory is a prime property. President Curtis suggested it be an item to bring up periodically. We did have a local real estate agent approach us with some land on the other side of the highway to the north, but it was pretty pricy so we had to decline. President Curtis noted that he has been interviewing the GBC Founders for our approaching 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and one of the questions posed to the Founders was could you have imagined what we have today when you started and the Founders all seem pretty astounded with the growth of the college.

**6. Public Comment** **Information only**

Mr. Bob Himmelreich had public comment from the Winnemucca meeting location. Mr. Himmelreich is a former rural Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation supervisor/counselor. He has had positive experiences working with NNCC and then GBC in the past. Since retiring from the BVR he has been operating a private vocational rehabilitation service for the past 8 years. Mr. Himmelreich feels this is an underserved population and would like GBC to consider more services to this underserved population.

**7. Adjourn** **Information only**

**Motion:** Council member Don Miller motioned to adjourn the meeting; Council member Will Moschetti seconded the motion. Motion was **APPROVED**. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 a.m.