

GREAT BASIN COLLEGE
Institutional Advisory Council
Thursday, November 16, 2023 7:00 am (PST)

MEETING MINUTES
(approved at 4/11/24 GBC IAC Meeting)

Call to Order and Roll Call - IAC Chair John Tierney called the meeting to order at 7:01 am and requested a roll call.

GBC IAC Members Present: Terri Clark, Caroline McIntosh, Dave Roden, Stacy Smith, John Tierney

GBC IAC Members Absent: Billie Crapo, Barbara Gallagher Kidwell

GBC and NSHE Staff Present: Natalie Brown, Becky Coleman, Amber Donnelly, Mardell Dorsa, Mary Doucette, Joyce Helens, Jake Rivera, Sam Spearing, Karl Stevens, Mary Swetich

Public Comment: No public comment.

Approval of Minutes: Dave Roden made a motion to approve the minutes of the GBC IAC meeting on September 21, 2023; Caroline McIntosh seconded the motion; the motion was approved.

GBC IAC Chair Report: Chair Tierney reported on the early educator teacher's conference. There were 116 participants. Chair Tierney will be communicating with the superintendents about a \$1,250 stipend for 1st and 2nd year teachers if they choose to be a part of a mentoring program from January to June. The stipend may be available for 3rd and 4th year teachers who are interested as well.

GBC IAC Member Report: Ms. Terri Clark verified the date of the holiday event. They will have a sensory sensitive Santa for those in the community who have sensory challenges. The hospital is also promoting mammography through the end of the year.

Ms. Caroline McIntosh thanked the college for the work they have done with the CTE. Meetings have happened and an industry workforce training survey has been done. Dual Credit is the priority now. Superintendent Adam Young has offered space at the high school for its construction trades. Ms. McIntosh stated that she was alarmed at the recent meeting that was held regarding the GBC presidential search with the Chancellor and Board chair. The meeting was too hastily put together and not transparent.

Mr. Dave Roden reported that work on the man camp for the Lithium mine is moving forward. There is a possibility that a railroad spur will be built at the airport so that the lithium can be brought there to be shipped out. They could also start sending the lithium out directly from the mine site to the Panasonic plant in Reno.

Ms. Stacy Smith reported that Nye County has a new school superintendent. His name is Joe Gent. He is a local educator and administrator. Graduation for the Brownfields training program will be on November 29th. The training is funded by a grant that was received from the Environmental Protection Agency. The people that attend get quite a few nationally recognized certificates such as OSHA training certificates, asbestos abatement, things of that nature. Hopefully that will open up some job opportunities for them. Christopher Solute, the new director for the Pahrump GBC Center, spoke at our coalition meeting yesterday we had probably about 560 people in attendance. It was a good representation of a variety of sectors across our community and Dr. Salute did a great job of creating some enthusiasm and garnered lots of questions. Ms. Smith is finding it a challenge to find quality training for the solar power industry. When she talks to industry professionals about their needs and investing in that training, she just has not been able to meet their needs. There is a need in the community for solar installation training. Maybe GBC can help.

President's Report: President Helens mentioned that GBC has hired Leslie Maple as the Executive Director of the GBC Foundation. Some of you serve on the Foundation board as well as this board and that is important and appropriate to have some overlap. The mission of both organizations is the sustainability of Great Basin College and access to higher education in rural Nevada.

And so that's my segue because in terms of rumor control, there are some who feel that GBC should just be an Elko college. We have local elected officials that wonder why we can't just get rid of Pahrump and the other centers. But our mission is important and clear: to have access to higher education in rural Nevada. GBC is a rural Nevada college. And so, there is going to be that tension that really the GBC IAC and the GBC Foundation can help to remind everyone that yes, higher education started in Elko in the 1800s and then moved to Reno. Then there was a gap, and it was filled again with the creation of Elko Community College and then it grew again. But it doesn't mean Elko owns it. All of our campuses are equally important to those communities we serve.

The Governor gave state workers a 12% COLA raise in this past July and another 11% COLA for FY 2025. It was very difficult to make that happen because we don't get full reimbursement for it. We had to let positions go that were not filled to make the first 12% COLA and we did not have to lay people off. We still have to come up with a way to cover the next 11% COLA. The formula funding system is broken. We are all funded from the same pie, so if we are going to get more it will have to come from a different source.

President Helens talked about 17 successful MOUs that we have with UNR. President Brian Sandoval and President Helens are committed to making sure the Mining Center for Excellence is a successful venture.

Vice President for Student and Academic Affairs Update: Vice President Rivera reported we are closing in on the end of our CTE courses for the fall semester. We have holidays around the corner, and then all of our other courses will end in mid-December. Fall enrollments are down about 4% to date. On a positive note, Winnemucca, Battle Mountain, Ely and Pahrump were all in the positive over last year even with considerable change with staffing. There were three were the primary contributors of the enrollment decline. Elko dual enrollment, out of state or internet enrollment, and a good economy. When the job market is doing well colleges and universities tend to see enrollment

declines. Just as just as an example. Dr. Spearing and VP Rivera met with Nevada Gold this week and they are concerned about filling over 140 positions. With the positive job outlook in Elko, enrollment at the Elko campus will require new approaches to increasing Elko seats, as well as the challenge of recruiting faculty in high demand job areas such as diesel, which led to less sections being taught. Dual enrollment shifted downward towards the end of the pandemic, when we lost over 200 Nevada State High School Online students that live in the Las Vegas area. At one time, we were teaching over 400 Nevada State High School online students. GBC lost some of those online Nevada State High School students to CSN because CSN was able to offer the in-person classes that students wanted that particular experience during that transition from pre pandemic to post pandemic. GBC just didn't have the resources to regain those dual enrollment students at Nevada State High School. Affordability of dual enrollment has also been a factor impacting many of our dual enrollment sites. As President Helens indicated earlier about funding the COLA increases, the college faced a temporary loss of open positions, including that of our dual enrollment coordinator. This position has now been filled and we are working on several initiatives to improve dual enrollment. So, there are opportunities to make gains with dual enrollment. Earlier contact with high school students, direct parent communication, surveying high school students as to what are their interests rather than telling them what options we have for them, congratulating high school students on their academic successes, identifying scholarship waiver opportunities for dual enrollment, and finally ensuring our dual enrollment students stay with GBC to be degree seeking students will be the comprehensive approach taken to regain our dual enrollment students.

GBC will soon go live with an updated admissions application. This application will remain in place until summer 2024, when we hope to roll out the new customer relationship management system (CRM) that will have its own application. The Accuplacer placement test scores are now being submitted to advisors automatically which allows students to register earlier.

Starting January 1, 2024, current nursing faculty Staci Warnert, will be our new Dean of Health Sciences. We have a new Director of Student Life and Housing, James Kendall. He is quickly adjusting to his new role. We are still searching for a Director of Enrollment Services and Director of Communications and Marketing. The Director, Ely Center should be closing soon.

Dr. Sam Spearing reported on the CTE programs. The diesel program in Ely has been restarted after a two-year hiatus. The instrumentation program in Winnemucca is doing very well as is the electrical program. We just have limited space for moving forward. We are looking into grants for mobile training centers. In Pahump Beatty High School students get bussed in on Friday for a section specifically for them. This is the first time that a program has been offered to them. This is all possible thanks to the part time instructor, CTE advisor, and recruiter and the grants team.

Dean Mary Doucette reported on the PCE grant that we received from DETR. We were awarded \$293,000. We started with a cohort of 30 students. The grant paid their tuition, books and funds to hire a part-time employee. We still have 27 students left. Other programs we are working on to get funded through the grant are an 18-credit certificate in paraprofessional and a skills certificate in dispatch for emergency medical, fire, etc.

Dean Doucette reported that \$154,500 was awarded to dual enrollment students. The institutional assessment plan is completed and has been forwarded to the President for approval. GBC has been awarded \$356,000 for the Teach Nevada scholarship. This will help the student teachers. GBC partnered with TMCC, WNC and UNR and received a grant from the National Science Foundation. This will be for a mid-level engineering 100 class and to help build a 2+2 program for engineering.

Dean Karl Stevens reported the Strengthening Community College's Grant that we are pursuing to help create an AAS in data science and analysis. The business department has met and just selected our own internal course review just to look at each of our courses to ensure the courses are covering what they should be and that there are no gaps or overlaps. Yesterday, we received a request from the Nevada State High School to increase the number of seats in our economics 101 course by 30 for the upcoming winter semester. It would be a 4-week session and the 150 seats were filled and they needed 30 more. We were happy to do that.

Associate Vice President Amber Donnelly stated you can see from some of the reports from the deans that GBC has really been working hard to ensure all the grant money we bring in is focused on GBC, different programs and locations.

The other grants that we're looking at are specifically targeting the lithium processing plant. In those. There is also a salmon farm in Winnemucca and ironically, what those two different companies need, we can provide the training.

In December we will have our first 16 graduates in the Bachelor of Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography program. We would not have been able to graduate these students without outside funding sources.

We appreciate the \$500,000 GBC received through SB 375, the legislative funding that was set aside specifically for nursing and to grow all of the nursing programs in Nevada. We are using that money to grow capacity in Elko, Ely and Pahrump. We are adding a nursing navigator that helps recruit and work with students as they travel through our nursing program. You might not be aware of this, but 38% of GBC's nursing students are Hispanic. We want to make sure that we are setting up those students up for success. It starts taking those prerequisite classes, even before they get to our nursing program so that we have a strong pipeline. Our Ely nursing program is the strongest it's ever been. Our nursing instructor there is homegrown from Ely.

AVP Donnelly has also been working on a review of all curricula and we have formed a committee to review and update GBC policies. We also have hired a new Childcare Center Director.

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development and Community Colleges – Chair Tierney read a statement from Natalie Brown, who was unable to attend.

“System administration welcomed Dr. Daniel Archer, as the new Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, who started November 30, 2023, and will primarily be based in Las Vegas in the Las Vegas system administration office. The Ad Hoc Committee on Higher Education Funding held their first meeting on November 14, 2023, to provide an

overview of the work plan, overview of the current funding formula and plan schedule of meetings. For those interested in following the work of the committee, agendas are posted on NSHE's website, along with links for public viewing. The next quarterly board meeting will be held November 30 – December 1, 2023. On November 30, the Workforce Committee will meet and all NSHE institutions, including GBC, will provide updates and highlights regarding workforce programs."

Call for new business. There was no new business.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:21 am.