
INSTITUTIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Friday, February 25, 2022 9 a.m.–Noon

Truckee Meadows Community College via Zoom

Call to Order: 9 a.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Chair B J North, Vice-Chair Nancy McCormick; Council Members: Marissa Brown, Robert Chisel, Dr. Sesh Commuri, Edward Estipona, Joseph Greco, Jennifer Kenney, Joseph Nannini, Steve Reid, and Milton Stewart.

Guests: Regent Carol Del Carlo, Vice Chancellor Crystal Abba, Vice Chancellor Caleb Cage, and Assistant Vice Chancellor Craig von Collenberg.

Ex Officio Members: Dr. Mindy Lokshin, TMCC Foundation President; Jamie Gudino Vargas, Student Government Association (SGA) Representative; Cheryl Cardoza, Nevada Faculty Alliance (NFA) Representative; Tina May, Classified Council President.

Staff: President Karin Hilgersom; Vice President of Student Services and Diversity, Estela Gutierrez; Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Jeff Alexander; Associate Vice President Elena Bubnova; Amy Williams, Dean of Business and Social Science; Dr. Natalie Russell, Dean of Liberal Arts; Dr. Natalie Brown, Interim Executive Director of Facilities and Capital Planning, Dr. Ayodele Akinola; Interim Executive Director of Finance and Budget Elise Bunkowski, General Counsel John Albrecht, TMCC Foundation Executive Director Gretchen Sawyer, Executive Assistant to the President and Recording Secretary Lisa Farmer, and Administrative Assistant Valerie Kelley.

Absent: Council Members: Eric Brown, and Kris McLean Ex Officio: Debra Biersdorff, Washoe County School District (WCSD) Deputy Superintendent and Dr. Virginia Irintcheva, Faculty Senate Chair Chair Hutter recognized Nevada System of Higher Education Regent Carol Del Carlo and John Madole, former Executive Director of the Associated General Contractors.

2. Public Comment

Chair North called for public comment. There was none, public comment was closed.

3. Approval of Minutes – November 5, 2021

Council Member Chisel made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Council Member McCormick seconded the motion. The motion was APPROVED by a vote of 11-0-2.

4. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Revised Meeting Schedule

Council Member McCormick made a motion to approve the revised meeting schedule as presented. Council Member Greco seconded the motion. The motion was APPROVED by a vote of 11-0-2.

Vice Chair McCormick asked if the IAC would be meeting face to face format going forward. Dr. Hilgersom answer said it was on her list to discuss with Chair North on whether or not to continue to meet on Zoom three times a year, and then face to face two times a year. This item will be added to the agenda for the May meeting.

5. Chair's Update Including, but Not Limited to:

a) Introduction of New Members

Chair North introduced new Council Members Jennifer Kenney, Director of Learning and Development, Grand Sierra Resort and Milton Stewart, CEO, Nevadaworks. President Hilgersom announced that Washoe County Manager Eric Brown had been appointed to the TMCC IAC as well, but would not be joining this meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

b) IAC Chairs Meeting

Chair North attended a meeting with Vice Chancellor Abba and the other IAC Chairs. It was a very productive meeting in which one of the charges was to clarify the work of the IAC and what it does. The role of the IAC has always been a little unclear and undefined since its inception, and intentionally so. The Chairs are engaging in discussions to create a new document to refine the charge of the IACs to better advocate and assist the community colleges.

6. President's Update

a) Spring Semester Opening Update

Dr. Hilgersom was happy to report that activities at TMCC were going extremely well. Students are on campus, parking lots are full, students, faculty and staff were still abiding by safety protocols even though the mask mandate had been lifted by Governor Sisolak. Enrollment was down by 3% in Full-Time Equivalency (FTE), but that was welcome considering how community colleges across the nation were being impacted by the pandemic. She was hopeful that the Fall semester would see the return of enrollment back to pre-pandemic levels.

b) Legislative Budget and Planning

The Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) had been meeting with the individual institutions to discuss budget requests and capital plans for the next biennium. The collective findings will be presented at the Board of Regents meeting on [March 3-4, 2022 at Nevada State College](#). President Hilgersom was working with the AB450 Committee, more information would follow in a separate agenda item. Dr. Hilgersom shared that TMCC was actively pursuing funding to move forward with the EastView capital project. A joint letter from TMCC and the University of Nevada, Reno would be going to legislators in support of EastView and the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory at the UNR.

Chair North asked for some key talking points to help IAC Members have a better understanding of the project and to better support/advocate for it within the community and their respective business sectors. She asked how much TMCC was looking to raise for the EastView project. TMCC was looking to raise more than \$5M from donors to contribute to the \$50M project. Dr. Hilgersom said at the last meeting, she asked if the IAC would be willing to send a letter to the Governor's office in support of the project. There was consensus to do so, thus a letter was submitted on behalf of the IAC. There may be more opportunities for support as the college proceeds with the project. ****STOP****

c) Nevada Promise Program

President Hilgersom background on program 427 scholars, 190 mentors, estimate to capture 400 high school seniors this year. 88 new mentors, could benefit from more mentors. Dr. Hilgersom I have three mentees. If you are willing to take on.

Vice Chair McCormick have had two mentees, one current. Completing a four year degree at TMCC. Great spending time with him to talk about goals and objectives and help connect him to people in the business sector. Good way to reach possible future employees. TMCC does a great job supporting the mentors. It's a mandated piece of the scholarship program.

Community College Journal, fabulous, fostering faculty innovation. Highlighted TMCC. Focused on innovation grants offered by TMCC Foundation. **Will send link to article**.

Chair North **Send out reminder about Nevada Promise program**

7. Updates

a) Vice Chancellor of Community Colleges Update

Vice Chancellor Crystal Abba highlighted four items co-req compliance, IAC proposal working on, issue of free community college being expanded.

IAC proposal – desire on the part of the IAC Chairs to revise the provisions that govern the IACs and how they are intended to operate. The current charge is incredibly broad. Several of the IACs have struggled with how they support their presidents. Made up of community do'ers. New proposal put the president in the driver seat of how they utilize that support. The President will be able to establish the IAC in the way they see best. Provide what the president needs most at that particular point and time. Is flexible, and can adjust to the college and president's needs. This is about flipping the dialogue, instead of President supporting IAC, President will decide how the IAC can support the college. Because there was a perception among legislature that IACs were doing the work of workforce advisory boards. Clarify the procedure and process for the legislators and community. Presented at June BOR, have requested that IAC Chairs draft a letter of support. Due April 22.

SB128 study, required treasurer's office to do a study of the Silver State, Guinn, and Nevada Promise. Report and recommendations completed April 1. Guinn Center has hired to do that study, have had a conversation with the education committee, getting an extension, see final report this summer. Looking at Student outcomes, ROI of the programs, how they are administered, the Millenium Scholarship, SSOG NSHE oversees formula, Nevada Promise high school seniors. All very different and address different need.

[Governor's address, Page 11](#) – HS education is not enough, pre-school through Community College or other Workforce Training programs. Do not know if the intent is expand the Promise program or have another mechanism. AB450 committee meeting, requesting a member of the Governor's Staff attend to expand on that comment. "free" makes me nervous. Do want to make sure there is appropriate funding that targets programs or students that need it the most.

Co-req implementation. Institutions have fully implemented co-req. All comm colleges are in full compliance. Data is looking good.

Chair North – who will be involved in the workforce discussion with the Governor, makes me nervous, conversation about changing structure, have grave concerns about that. Hope there will be a voice for the community colleges to stay autonomous and not an extension of K-12. VC Abba agree wholeheartedly, modeled after legislation that occurred in 2013, in that study, looked at Nevada structure and see where community colleges are in the structure in Nevada. What it was trying to answer, stated that our system is the envy of the country. Seamless transition, more opportunities, leave as is.

President Hilgersom – funding formula however is an issue, need ways to fund workforce, can't always subsidize with liberal arts.

Chair North would be able to look at **SEND OUT TO MEMBERS** this is information that is beneficial to help the Members carry the message of the college while in the community. [Nevada Legislature Bulletin No. 15-4](#).

b) Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate Chair Dr. Virginia Irintcheva was not in attendance. A report was provided in your agenda packet. Please forward any questions to Lisa and will have Chair Irintcheva respond. (Attachment A).

c) Classified Council

Classified Council President Tina May shared highlights from the report submitted on behalf of the Classified Council (Attachment B). Chair North congratulations \$1600 raised, celebrating 50 years. Reminders regarding benefits offered to classified staff in the form of book scholarships, emergency funds, etc. Classified employees of the month. Kat Warner, Krystyna Sokowski, Viola Pellissier. Chair North, congrats, these are sleeping giants and deserve to be recognized.

d) Student Government Association

Student Government Association (SGA) Senator Jamie Gudino Vargas.

Attended special BOR, club fair, CTE event attended by President Richards. RSS Executive Director Forums. Interviewed two candidates for Senators, gave presentations in Clancy classes, looking forward to Pasta with the President, attending Planning Council to introduce website with resources for students. Mental Health awareness initiatives. Darian will attend March BOR.

President Hilgersom – SGA President attended a national convention in Washington DC with a delegation from TMCC. Students were the spokespeople when meeting with several legislators. Did a fabulous job. Enriched the advocacy efforts.

Chair North – congrats, what a great opportunity.

8. Presentation & Discussion: Snapshot of TMCC Grants

Chair North introduced Gretchen Sawyer, Gretchen gave PPT outlining role of the TMCC Foundation, existing grants under management and what the plans are for the future submissions.

Chair North – thank you, encourage attendance at the Murder Mystery dinner on April 1st. Celebrate visual and performing arts as well as culinary arts program. Referrals to Foundation for private foundations, donors, etc much appreciated. Making those introductions help expand the community and develop relationships that benefit the college.

9. Presentation & Discussion: AB450 Committee & the Role of IAC in Workforce Development

Chair North handed off to KH, share with Asst VC von Collenberg.

Asst VC von Collenberg first to have registered apprenticeship in the state, have the most registered apprenticeships in the state and kudos on ABE offerings and opportunities.

Chair North move into item 10 for discussion.

10. Listening Session:

a) Discussion Related to Grants Presentation & IAC Support

Council Member Stewart Good Jobs Challenge grant, kudos to Dr. Dana Ryan and Dean Amy Williams, TMCC is listed as a backbone organization for the logistics training.

Council Member Kenney mentorship, great program, already started to send off some text messages, looking to get a team of mentors from GSR. Enhance the ELL partnership with TMCC.

Chair North – bring this to the Reno team (Plumas Bank). Our organization requires team members to give back to the community through the volunteer work or civic board membership.

Vice Chair McCormick doing a great job related to grants. Appreciate learning the need in order to spread the word and help step up and support grants, new opportunities, and spread the work of the college. Also partner with Good Jobs Challenge grant.

Chair North – email updates. Can share on digital platforms, great to congratulate the success of TMCC and share with our peers and businesses. Make connections and educate the community. **Monthly updates**

Council Member Nannini – congrats to SGA representatives on traveling to Washington DC and talking to legislators. Great job Gretchen, TRIO such a great program. Gretchen excited to have received, plan to go forward for many years with

Council Member Greco – congrats to students, congrats to Foundation, TY to Crystal for work with the legislators, working with Dana, looking for help from Senator Rosen's office.

Council Member Reid – Gretchen and team a group of all-stars, the amount of money they have captured is incredible. Looking forward to the shift in direction for the IAC, will be more effective in support of the president and college. Will commit to joining the mentor program, at the request of the President. Murder Mystery Dinner participation from my business.

President kudos to Gretchen and her team, outstanding ED and her team. Awesome to have this IAC, look forward to these meetings, opportunities to share, feel positive support. When trying to move an institution forward, that positive energy is what help moves us forward. Look forward to the great things we will do together.

Chair North – congratulate KH on her leadership. Many challenging times, leading through a pandemic for two and half years. A lot of new normal, always at the front with ideas on how to address. Ability to allow her team members to rise and grow. TY for allowing to be on the Council.

Thank you Regent Del Carlo. Regent Del Carlo, terrific meeting, kudos to Gretchen and her team. Will be at the disco party. Please with the work and TY for Crystal for her work.

b) IAC Council Member Take-Aways

11. New Business

Vice Chair McCormick – next meeting additive to the members to hear from an employer who has been managing a robust internship program? Might help others from business to hear about how the program works and how it has benefited the business, share their experience. Student Intern to speak about their experience.

Chair North – IAC Presentation.

Chair North – events in Ukraine, please share our concerns, let us know if we can be of assistance.

12. Public Comment

Chair North called for public comment, there was none. Public comment was closed.

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.