

## APPROVED MINUTES

### COCHISE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, March 11, 2025  
Sierra Vista Campus  
HR Building 300 Room 301  
6:00 p.m.

Members of the public who wished to attend the meeting via video conference joined at <https://cochise.zoom.us/j/99820209067>.

#### 1 GENERAL FUNCTIONS

##### 1.01 Call to Order

Mr. Hudgins called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

##### **Board Members Present:**

Mr. David DiPeso  
Mr. Don Hudgins  
Ms. Stephanie Money  
Mr. Tim Quinn  
Mrs. Jane Strain

##### 1.02 Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Money led the Pledge of Allegiance.

##### 1.03 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted with no modifications.

Mr. Quinn moved, and Mr. DiPeso seconded a motion to adopt the meeting agenda. With no further discussion, the Governing Board approved with Mr. Quinn, Ms. Money, Mrs. Strain, Mr. Hudgins, and Mr. DiPeso all voting aye. **MOTION PASSED.**

##### 1.04 Citizen's In-person Interim

There were no requests to address the Governing Board.

##### 1.05 Standing Reports

##### **1.05.1 Representative to the Arizona Association of Community College Trustees (AACCT)**

Mrs. Strain, AACCT Representative, did not have any new updates to report.

##### **1.05.2 Senate Report**

The written Senate report was provided in the board packet for review and was accepted as published.

### **1.05.3 Student Government Association (SGA)**

A written Student Government Association report was provided in the board packet for review and was accepted as published.

### **1.05.4 College President**

Dr. Perey began his report noting that last week marked the end of the first 8 weeks of the spring semester. A special thank you to all employees for their work this semester in support of students. The work done by Cochise College employees is truly amazing. He then provided updates to the Governing Board; highlights include:

#### **Legislative Update:**

- **Bill Tracking**
  - HB2880: unauthorized encampments; higher education institutions (Hernandez)- Prohibits an individual from occupying an encampment on a university or community college campus without prior approval of the university or community college.
  - HB2927: public meetings; records; requirements; penalties (Carbone) - This is at least in part a repeat bill from past years but has expanded in parts. First, it now requires the call to the public rather than making it optional. Second, the move the call to the public to happen in the first 30 minutes of your public meetings. Third, if the public body meets using "technological devices," the public shall have the ability to participate.
  - HB2454: appropriations; community colleges; police training (Marshall) - did not get assigned a committee but they are trying to find another way to appropriate \$10 million to rural law enforcement academies.
- As mentioned before, higher education received a Dear Colleague Letter (February 14, 2025) from the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights outlining federal expectations regarding compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Equal Protection Clause. This guidance stated that institutions receiving federal financial assistance must ensure that all policies and practices remain race-neutral and in full compliance with federal law.
- **Prohibition of Race-Based Preferences**
  - The Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard (2023) Supreme Court ruling prohibits the use of race as a factor in institutional decision-making, impacting areas such as admissions, hiring, faculty promotions, financial aid, scholarships, student support services, administrative support, housing, and discipline. The Department of Education will enforce compliance by initiating assessments within 14 days, with potential consequences for non-compliance, including the loss of federal funding.
- The College took immediate action upon reviewing the Dear Colleague letter, and have reviewed various areas and assessed the policies and practices that could be impacted by the letter.
- Based on assessment, the institution is compliant; however, there are a few areas that will continue to be monitored and investigated such as:
  - Use of specific language in college documents

- Scholarships
- Curriculum
- Essentially, it reiterates that schools are prohibited from using race as a stereotype, plus factor, or proxy for socioeconomic disadvantage in competitive processes such as admissions, scholarships, or other educational benefits. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs must not discriminate based on race but can include culturally focused initiatives as long as they are open to all students and do not exclude or stereotype any group.
- Cochise College remains committed to student success, and will ensure that efforts align with both state and federal law while continuing to support the diverse needs of students. The administration will keep the board and the College community aware as things develop.

Facilities Update:

- Douglas Campus
  - Central Plant Modernization and Optimization
    - Condenser and chilled water pumps set in place.
    - Cooling restoration (manual control only) expected March 14
    - Substantial project completion expected early April
    - Cooling tower replacement in progress
  - Adult Ed (400) abatement and remodel project
    - Conversion to two classrooms
    - Relocate occupants the week of March 17
    - Furniture and equipment removal by March 28
    - Contractor confirmed abatement start date of March 31
    - Project completion by mid-July
  - Huachuca Hall (1200/1207/1208 Partial abatement/remodel
    - Abatement of 1205/1207/1208 for residential unit build back
    - Abatement of four unused Lounge/Study/Laundry spaces for remodeling, which can be safely completed with residents' present.
    - Project completion TBD - Awaiting contractor confirmation of start date
- Sierra Vista Campus
  - Barista Café (Library)
    - Alcove build out ready for counter delivery and installation
    - Counters in production queue with estimated completion end of March
    - Installation dates to follow once the delivery date is confirmed
- Campus Services Building
  - Interior build out in progress
    - Fire alarm system design and permitting approved
    - Project completion expected first week in May
    - Move in to follow once network infrastructure is completed
- Downtown Center
  - Nursing Flight/Police Cruiser Simulators
    - One police cruiser simulator installed and operational
    - Two remaining cruisers simulators to be shipped, date TBD
    - Helicopter flight simulator delivery date TBD

Initiatives:

- Workforce
  - Dean Scarborough, Dean Porter, and Dean Molina are working on developing and implementing a pre-apprenticeship program for Arizona G&T in Benson, partnering with Mohave College and Pima College and a Registered Apprenticeship Program with Gunnison Copper to meet the needs of the Benson/Willcox community related to the Johnson Camp Mine project in Dragoon. The mining representative, Laurie Gehlsen, and their HR team have done the preliminary work and will be registering the apprenticeship program with the state of Arizona under Gunnison Copper Mining, officially designating Cochise College as the Education Provider. This registration is a key milestone, as it allows apprentices to access multiple funding sources, including:
    - ETPL/WIOA funds
    - GI Bill benefits
    - Adult Education Title II Funding
    - 529 College Savings Plans
  - This step strengthens our commitment to workforce development by expanding opportunities for apprentices in the mining industry.
- Dental Hygienist
  - Dean Hill and her team are working with a local dental hygienist and educator, along with a local dentist, to explore the possibility of a Dental Hygiene program.
- Paramedic-to-RN Bridge Program
  - Dean Hill and Director Ashline are exploring a Paramedic-to-RN bridge program in response to growing interest from local EMS community. This initiative aims to create a streamlined pathway for paramedics seeking to transition into nursing, addressing workforce needs in our region.
- Firearms Training Center-Since the last board meeting
  - 2/12 - Police Academy utilized the facility for training
  - 2/19 - SVPD used the FTC for annual qualifications, with remediation and follow-ups on 2/21 (approx. 60 officers).
  - 3/6 - CBP Office of Personal Responsibility (OPR) used the range for pistol and rifle training (approx. 10 agents)
  - 2/27 & 3/8 – Taught the NRA Basics of Pistol Shooting classes

Highlights and Kudos:

- Congratulations to the LPN cohort. They are currently at a 100% - first attempt pass rate on the LPN NCLEX for the cohort who completed in December with only three left to test.

General Comments:

- Community Engagements
  - February 18-19 – AC4 Meeting
  - February 19 – All-AZ Awards Luncheon
  - February 21 – Retirement Celebrations for JD
  - February 27 – Black History Celebration Dinner
  - March 1 – Youth Arts Festival
  - March 4 – AI for Educators – Author Dr. Anthony
  - March 5 – College Budget Manager’s Retreat

- March 6 – Meeting w/ Hensel Phelps
- March 7 – Computer Challenge
- March 11 – Good Morning Sierra Vista
- Upcoming Activities
  - March 13 - Southern AZ Leadership Presentation (Wendy Koop & Cullen Scarborough)
  - March 20 – Meeting with Legacy Foundation and tour of new facilities
  - March 22-23 – College Rodeo on Fort Huachuca
  - March 24 – Benson Area Stakeholders Luncheon
  - March 25 – Installment of the 23rd UofA President
  - March 26 – Meeting with Callie Groth (University Foundation)
  - March 28 – President’s Student Leadership Academy (Douglas Campus)
  - April 1 – Spring 2024 Legacy Giving Event (SV Campus)
  - April 4-8 – HLC Conference in Chicago
  - April 11 – 14 – AACC Conference in Nashville
  - April 15 – Regular Board Meeting

Questions/Comments:

Addressing a question from Mr. Hudgins, Dr. Davis noted that punch list items for the Firearms Training Complex and Bugen Hall are still in the works.

Mr. Quinn questioned what a pre-apprenticeship program is. Dr. Perey replied stating, its intention is to lead into a full apprenticeship program. Arizona G&T will not allow the institution to deliver their full apprentice program, therefore the pre-apprenticeship gives the college the ability to create some curriculum and apply hours to their apprenticeship.

**1.05.5 Monthly Financial Report – February 2025**

The Financial Report for February 2025 was provided in the board packet and approved as submitted.

**1.05.6 Monthly Academic Progress Report – March 2025**

The monthly Academic Progress report for March 2025, included an update on the bachelor’s program.

**2 NEW BUSINESS\***

**ACTION**

**2.01 Consent Agenda\***

The following items were approved:

- 2.01.1 \* Non-Exempt Staff; Appointment (Galen Gudenkauf, Data Analyst, Downtown Center)
- 2.01.2 \* Non-Exempt Staff; Appointment (Brian Smith, Grounds Technician I, Sierra Vista Campus)
- 2.01.3 \* Faculty; Appointment (Dr. Chad Davies, Instructor of Physics, Sierra Vista Campus)
- 2.01.4 \* Non-Exempt Staff; Resignation (Megan Frates, Registration Technician, Sierra Vista Campus)

- 2.01.5 \* Non-Exempt Staff; Resignation (Christopher Jackson, Facility Services Technician, Sierra Vista Campus)
- 2.01.6 \* Exempt Staff; Resignation (Stella Rees, Building and Grounds Manager, Douglas Campus)
- 2.01.7 \* Faculty; Separation from Probation (Daria Rike, Instructor of Paramedicine, Downtown Center)
- 2.01.8 \* Non-Exempt Staff; Retirement (Phillip Quinonez, Building Maintenance Technician II, Douglas Campus)
- 2.01.9 \* Curriculum
- 2.01.10 \* Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Fry Fire District
- 2.01.11 \* Acceptance of Minutes for February 11, 2025 – Regular Meeting
- 2.01.12 \* Acceptance of Minutes for February 20, 2025 – Work Session

Mrs. Strain moved, and Mr. DiPeso seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. With no further discussion, the Governing Board approved with Mr. Quinn, Mrs. Strain, Mr. Hudgins, Ms. Money, and Mr. DiPeso all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**\*\*\* Introduction of New Employees \*\*\***

Wick Lewis, Executive Director of Human Services, introduced Camden Miller, User Support Technician; Cara Elkins, Director of Adult Education; Frank Orona, Director of Student Recruitment; and David Lujan, Director of User Support Services.

**2.02 2025 – 2026 Student Tuition**

The administration requested the Governing Board adopt a motion to approve the tuition fee schedule for FY2026, as presented.

Dr. Perey outlined three proposed tuition rate options for the upcoming fiscal year:

- Option A – A \$1.00 per credit increase, raising tuition from \$95 to \$96 per credit hour.
- Option B – A \$2.00 per credit increase, raising tuition from \$95 to \$97 per credit hour.
- Option C – No change to the current \$95 per credit hour tuition rate.

He noted that currently, the state community college average tuition rate is \$95.25 per credit, with an anticipated FY26 state average of \$96.95 per credit based on projected changes. Nationally, the average tuition cost for public community colleges is \$4,796 per year or \$159.87 per credit hour (Community College Review).

Mr. Quinn moved, and Mrs. Strain seconded a motion to approve Option A – a \$1.00 per credit hour increase, raising tuition from \$95 to \$96 per credit hour. With no further discussion, the Governing Board approved with Mr. Quinn, Mrs. Strain, Mr. Hudgins, Ms. Money, and Mr. DiPeso all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**2.03 2025-2026 Miscellaneous Fee Schedule and Douglas Campus Housing and Meal Plan Rates**

The administration requested the Board adopt a motion to approve the Miscellaneous fee schedule for FY26, as presented.

Mr. DiPeso moved, and Ms. Money seconded a motion to approve the miscellaneous fee schedule. Addressing a question from Mrs. Strain, Dr. Davis noted that miscellaneous fees

have not been changed in several years, however there was a 3% meal plan increase for the Douglas Campus. Mr. Quinn asked about the non-refundable application fee, Dr. Horne responded stating it is a show of intent, because in the past, students have been assigned a room and then fail to show. She also noted the deposit is different than the application fee and is refundable but covers incidentals. Mr. Hudgins asked if the housing for both the Douglas and the Sierra Vista campus will be aligned in the future. Dr. Davis replied stating once the Douglas Campus housing is renovated or refurbished, the fees will align more. With no further discussion, the Governing Board approved with Mr. Quinn, Mrs. Strain, Mr. Hudgins, Ms. Money, and Mr. DiPeso all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **2.04 FY2025-2026 Course Fee- Welding Program**

The administration requested the Board adopt a motion to approve the FY2025-2026 course fee for welding program, as presented.

Dr. Perey addressed the board noting that with the recent tariffs impacting the cost of consumable supplies, the welding program is anticipating a cost increase of up to 25%. To help mitigate these rising expenses, the administration is recommending a 10% increase in welding fees for FY26. While this adjustment will not fully offset the increased costs, it will allow us to share the financial impact between the college and our students in a way that maintains the integrity of the program.

Mr. DiPeso moved, and Ms. Money seconded a motion to approve the course fee for the welding program. With no further discussion, the Governing Board approved with Mr. Quinn, Mrs. Strain, Mr. Hudgins, Ms. Money, and Mr. DiPeso all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **3 INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### **3.01 Communications**

- Dr. Perey received an email from Lynn Tincher-Ladner, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society President, informing him that Cochise College student, Kayla “Mary” McLeod has been selected as a member of the 2025 All-USA Academic Team. Only 20 students nationwide were selected for this prestigious honor. All-USA Academic Team members were selected for their outstanding intellectual achievement, leadership, and community and campus engagement. Support for the All-USA Academic Team is provided by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and Phi Theta Kappa. As an All-USA Academic Team member, Mary will receive a \$5,000 scholarship, a special medallion, and will be featured in various media outlets.
- Dr. Perey received an email from Lynn Tincher-Ladner, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society President, informing him that Cochise College student, Kayla McLeod has been named a 2025 New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar. The selection was based on the score earned in the All-USA Academic Team competition, for which nearly 2,100 applicants were received this year. Nominations were evaluated on academic achievement, leadership, service, and significant endeavors. Ms. McLeod received the highest score in Arizona. Mary will receive a \$2,250 scholarship.
- Dr. Perey received an email from Lynn Tincher-Ladner, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society President, informing him that Cochise College student, Ana Le, has been selected as a 2025 Coca-Cola Academic Team Silver Scholar and will receive a \$1,250 scholarship. Selection as a Coca-Cola Silver Scholar was based on scores the student earned in the All-USA Academic Team competition, for which nearly 2,100 applications were received this year.

- Dr. Perey received an email from Lynn Tincher-Ladner, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society President, informing him that Cochise College student, Sheila Wheeler, has been selected as a 2025 Oberndorf Lifeline to Completion Scholar and will receive a \$1,500 scholarship. The scholarship is designed to assist Phi Theta Kappa member in overcoming unanticipated financial barriers preventing the completion of the college credential, an associate degree, or certificate while enrolled in college

### **3.02 Math and Science Division Report**

Dr. Thomas Guetzloff, Dean of Math and Sciences, led a presentation on the Math and Sciences Division; highlights include:

Mathematics 132, 142, and 151

- Fall 2024 – Pilot Program
  - Two MAT 151L courses were piloted on the Douglas Campus where “L” (support lab) section students fulfilled their support lab hours at the tutoring center with the instructor. Right now, they are at about a 60% pass rate.
- Spring 2025 – Expansion of the Pilot program on the Douglas Campus
  - All L sections on the Douglas Campus are meeting in the tutoring center for structured academic support – students are succeeding
- Fall 2025 – Skills Assessment Launch
  - Continuing the Direct Self Placement (DSP) for 2025-2026
  - Students will complete a skills assessment examination to give the student information to determine if the selected course is appropriate.
  - Those needing additional support will be advised and encouraged to attend the laboratory section (L section), log support hours at the Math Tutor Center, and utilize Tutor.com
- Fall 2025 – Full implementation of utilizing the Tutoring Center
  - All L sections on both the Douglas and Sierra Vista campuses will either meet at the tutoring center or have tutoring personnel available in classrooms for direct student support.

Kari Durham, Chair of Science Department, Biology Instructor presented:

- The Undergraduate Research Program continued researching this Fall and Spring
  - Principal Investigators (PI): Kari Durham, Frank Emanuele, & Steve Merkley
- For the past 7 years, The Undergraduate Research (UGR) group and BIO 192 class went to Kino Bay, Mexico
- News about our researchers:
  - Kayla McLeod not only won the All Arizona Academic Scholarship but also the All USA Academic Team Scholarship
  - Connor Fenn was chosen as a researcher in the Biosphere 2 REU. He lived in the Biosphere 2 and worked on coral reefs.
  - Four Cochise college researchers won the CC Friends of the Huachuca Mountains Scholarship
- New research projects: native plant microbiome and research on creosote
- Presenting Research:
  - Southern California Conference (Nov '24)
  - Envision Conference at UA (March '25)
  - NAU Conference (April '25)
- Papers published: Beaver Behavior – Western North American Naturalist



#### Science Department Updates:

- New science faculty – Evan Cedor (Geology - Spring 25)
- Chemistry Summer Bridge Program – Chemistry course in the summer helping students get to the 5<sup>th</sup> semester for the AAS degree
- Earth Day – April 22, 2025

#### Questions/Comments

Mr. Quinn asked about Directed Self Placement (DSP) and if it is possible to use AI in the future to shape the self-placement test to better assess the student. Dr. Brown noted it can be very beneficial to the student and the instructor demonstrating where the student needs additional help. She also mentioned that using AI to help shape the DSP has not been looked at yet for all the DSPs, but is a topic open for discussion.

Mr. Hudgins asked about the beaver population on the San Pedro, to which Ms. Durham replied, it is steadily sitting at about 15.

### **3.03 Academic Affairs Report**

Dr. Sheena Brown, Interim Vice President for Academics, provided a presentation on the Academic Affairs Division; highlights include:

#### 2024-2025 Focal Points

- Curriculum Development
  - AGECE Redesign – fully implemented by 2026
  - 100 courses need to be modified
- Instructional Design
  - New Faculty Academy – 2-year program
    - Build network for new faculty
  - AI Grant from SSVEC
    - Focuses on a deeper understanding of AI and will help develop tangible strategies for how to incorporate AI engagement.
- LMS Support
  - Accessibility Training – addressing the requirement that all online materials need to be ADA compliant by spring 2027
- Grants Management
  - Needs Assessment, Strategic Plan
- Program Assessment & Program Review
  - Central hub is now accessible through the learning management system.
  - Assessment data for continued support
- HLC Accreditation Preparation

#### Institutional Research

- Dashboard Update to help support data informed decision making
- Student Survey
  - 95% would recommend the college to a friend
- Community Survey
- Student Success Workbook
- Compliance Reporting
- Ongoing Projects
  - Improve data quality & usage
  - Review SOPs
  - Internal Research Needs

#### 2025-2026 Focus

- Higher Learning Commission
  - Accreditation Reaffirmation – February 2026
    - Evidence Collection
    - Assurance Argument writing
    - Identify Evidence Gaps
    - Peer-Review & Editing
    - Audit Assumed practices & Federal Compliance
    - Marketing – within & beyond Cochise College
    - Mock Peer Review - Fall 2025
  - January 26, 2026 - Assurance Argument lock date
  - February 23-24, 2026 – Site visit team on campus

Dr. Brown noted these initiatives represent a substantial investment in the college's future and show the strides the college has taken to enhance programs and better serve its students.

#### Questions/Comments:

Mr. Quinn inquired about where the data comes from on how student success is measured. Dr. Brown stated it is based on the national rate of retention and persistence.

### 3.04 Policies for First Reading

Board Policy 303 – President Succession, Policy 627 – Holidays and Summer Hours, Policy 636 – Tuition Exemption, and Policy 665 – Tuition Reimbursement were presented as first reads.

With no further requested changes, the policies will be brought before the board during the April board meeting for second read and approval.

## 4 COMMENTS FROM GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Hudgins turned the time to Governing Board members to provide comments/share information.

- Mrs. Strain
  - Attended the AI workshop and the Women's International Conference; were great events. She also attended the Good Morning Sierra Vista, with Dr. Perey as the key note speaker.

## 5 EXECUTIVE SESSION

## ACTION

### 5.01 Executive Session – Legal

The Governing Board may choose to enter into executive session pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431-.03(A)(3) - Discussion or consideration for legal advice with the attorney or attorneys of the public body.

Mr. DiPeso moved, and Mrs. Strain seconded a motion to move into Executive Session for discussion with the attorney. There was no further discussion. The Governing Board unanimously approved, with David DiPeso, Don Hudgins, Stephanie Money, Tim Quinn, and Jane Strain all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Hudgins recessed the regular meeting at 7:09 p.m., and the Governing Board moved into Executive Session at 7:14 p.m.

Mr. Quinn moved, and Mrs. Strain seconded a motion to close the Executive Session and resume the Regular Session. The Governing Board approved, with David DiPeso, Don Hudgins, Stephanie Money, Tim Quinn, and Jane Strain all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Hudgins adjourned the Executive Session at 7:54 p.m. and reconvened the regular meeting at 7:57 p.m.

**6 ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Hudgins adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Crystal Wheeler, Executive Assistant, Office of the President

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Mr. David DiPeso, Secretary of the Governing Board