

**GREAT BASIN COLLEGE (GBC)**  
**Institutional Advisory Council**  
**1500 College Parkway**  
**Elko, Nevada 89801**  
**Thursday, September 23, 2021 7:00 am (PST)**

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Approved on 1/20/22**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair John Tierney called the meeting to order at 7:05 a.m. and requested a roll call. There was a quorum.

**PRESENT:**

Billie Crapo  
Caroline McIntosh  
Don Miller  
Wil Moschetti  
Dave Roden  
John Tierney

**ABSENT:**

Barbara Gallagher Kidwell  
Chris Melville  
Jolene Supp

**GBC STAFF PRESENT:**

Bill Brown  
Amber Donnell  
Mardell Dorsa  
Mary Doucette  
Joyce Helens

Bret Murphy  
Jake Rivera  
Sonja Sibert  
Karl Stevens

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Craig Von Collenberg, Asst. Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development & Community Colleges  
Kiah Beverly, Deputy General Counsel  
Terri Clark, Director of Growth and Outreach, NNRH  
Keith Walz, Director of Secondary Education/ECSD  
Cathy McAdoo, Regent  
Crystal Abba, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

**2. Public Comment**

Chair Tierney read the public comment statement requesting public comments. There was no public comment.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

The GBC Institutional Advisory Council reviewed the minutes of the GBC IAC meeting on May 20, 2021. Dave Roden made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2021 meeting; Wil Moschetti seconded the **MOTION**; **MOTION** was **APPROVED**.

#### 4. GBC IAC Chair Report

Chair Tierney led a discussion on the Election of Officers per *NSHE Procedures and Guidelines Manual, Chapter 15, Section 1, Part d*. Chair Tierney said he would be willing to serve another term as chair and asked co-chair Dave Roden to confirm if he was willing to serve another term. Mr. Roden indicated he is willing to serve another term. Will Moschetti made a **MOTION** to reelect Mr. Tierney as chair and Mr. Roden as co-chair and thanked them for their service; Caroline McIntosh seconded the **MOTION**; the **MOTION** was **APPROVED**.

The GBC IAC voted to approve the GBC IAC Meeting Schedule for 2021-2022 as follows:

September 23, 2021 at 7:00 am  
November 18, 2021 at 7:00 am  
January 20, 2022 at 7:00 am  
March 17, 2022 at 7:00 am  
May 19, 2022 at 7:00 am

The **MOTION** was made to approve the 2021-2022 meeting schedule by Dave Roden; Caroline McIntosh seconded the **MOTION**; the **MOTION** was **APPROVED**.

Chair Tierney led a discussion of GBC IAC Membership as per *NSHE Procedures and Guidelines Manual, Chapter 15, Section 1, Part c*). Wil Moschetti reiterated that he doesn't agree to limit the terms of the members of the IAC to 2 terms. Members are not elected and are volunteers. Board secretary Mardell Dorsa stated that as a board we have been trying to maintain that upper amount of fifteen members and we have never been able maintain that. We can have as low as seven members to have a full board. Currently, we have nine members. We should be good as far as membership, as we have a couple of new members waiting to be approved and a couple that will probably be reappointed.

Vice Chancellor Academic and Student Affairs, Crystal Abba introduced herself and reported that she has replaced Nate Mackinnon and she looks forward to working with GBC in particular as she has local ties. She reported the system office is working to revise Chapter 15. As she has come into this role, one of the things that she has been doing is looking at the charge for the Community College Committee, which is the Standing Committee of the Board of Regents. But in addition to that, looking at the IAC charges. In attending the meetings for the various institutions, it's clear that in some respects, some of the institutions are struggling in terms of meeting the charge in terms of its value to the President. In many cases, these advisory committees provide incredible community relations for the institutions. Ms. Abba stated they are looking at ways to strengthen those charges. It is at this time that we can look at revisions to the membership section. She stated that currently the policy is probably too detailed. The goal is to revise the provisions in a manner that can best suit the individual needs of the institutions. In addition, as the State is taking on its own study of workforce, particularly as workforce relates to the support of the community colleges, there may be ways to consider that in the revision of these charges, as well. Vice Chancellor Abba meets quarterly with the chairs of the IACs. At the last meeting there was a detailed discussion about working on revisions that can support all of the institutions, because Mr. Moschetti is not alone in terms of his concerns about some of the nitty gritty details in these. Ms. Abba recommended if we have specific recommendations, please put them in writing, funnel them through Mr. Tierney and then Mr. Tierney can send them to her so that she can potentially incorporate those revisions. She stated this will be a slow process because you can see the breadth of these provisions is quite large, but she has to canvass those across all the institutions and make sure that everyone is

comfortable with the revisions. It will take a series of meetings and it takes time. She is absolutely open to the types of revisions that Mr. Moschetti and others are recommending.

Chair Tierney reported the Nevada State Teachers of the Year organization and the Nevada State Board of Education has funding to continue the New Teacher Conference next year. Great Basin College played a huge role and did an outstanding job in last year's conference and he hopes that partnership will continue. There is money available for stipends for speakers, etc. , Nevada, state education. They have the funding, and as I understand it, continuing funding to put on a new teacher conference. The conference will be virtual. President Helens and Vice President Rivera stated we would be happy to help with the conference again.

## **5. IAC Member Reports**

Chair Tierney asked for individual reports from the members present.

Mr. Moschetti stated this is his last meeting of his term. He would love to be invited back to serve. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve on the IAC. He also congratulated Mr. Dave Roden on everything he has accomplished in Winnemucca.

Mr. Roden reported that the new building in Winnemucca is ahead of schedule. It should be completed by June 2022. It is his understanding the Board of Regents' meeting for June will be in Elko so that the regents can attend a ribbon cutting ceremony in June 2022.

Regent Cathy McAdoo confirmed that the Board of Regents' meeting will be held in Elko on June 9 and 10, 2022. The regents driving home after the meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup> can stop in Winnemucca for the ceremony. Regent McAdoo is pleased that the collaborations between GBC and UNR, and more and more she is seeing collaborations between the community colleges and universities are working. It has been a goal the Regents have had for a long time, and it is happening.

Mr. Moschetti talked about Rotary's dictionary project. Rotary is almost done passing out dictionaries to all third graders in the county with an invitation to attend GBC.

Chair Tierney reported reading a letter in the paper from a doctor about the low moral for the overwhelmed medical staff at the Northeastern Nevada Region Hospital (NNRH). He and his wife asked the hospital what kinds of things the staff needed to just up their moral and then put together some snacks for their break time. The medical staff were very appreciative of this gesture. Also, we do have GBC students working over there.

Regent McAdoo added that she serves on the hospital board as well and little things like that make a big difference. She suggested also very meaningful would be a nice letter that the communications director could put in the hospital newsletter, or maybe a personal note to nurses, doctors and other hospital workers including janitorial staff. Words of affirmation go a long way.

Ms. Terri Clark works at the hospital as director of growth and outreach. Ms. Clark added the Mr. Tierney and his wife's act of kindness was included in their newsletter. The bags of goodies were distributed to several departments. Everyone loves treats, but it was the affirmation from the community that they know what these hospital workers are going through and that the community appreciates and acknowledges their efforts.

## 6. President's Report

President Helens confirmed we are ahead of schedule on the Winnemucca building. There was a groundbreaking ceremony in May and a ribbon cutting will be held in June 2022.

President Helens stated the letter Mr. Tierney referred to earlier about the low moral at the hospital was written by Dr. Chad Edwards. Dr. Edwards wrote about how disheartening it was that so many people were embracing misinformation and going against best medical practice. We can help by helping our community understand that vaccinations and masks work. GBC is also helping in a great way by partnering with NNRH by turning the GBC Fitness Center into monoclonal antibody therapy clinic three days a week for the next four to six weeks. The clinic will serve those who have tested positive for COVID-19 who have either mild to moderate symptoms, and also meet other criteria. During this time the Fitness Center will be completely closed to the public and staff.

GBC started the semester with live classes but moved to remote as students were just not wearing their masks and the college saw 11 covid cases in one week. GBC is facing mandatory testing for staff who are not vaccinated. When we reach a certain percentage vaccinated, we can forgo that. GBC has been embedded in the communities that we serve for a long time. And that means the mission really is to support and create healthy communities. It means supporting mental health, physical health, and economic health. GBC has also done mask and vaccination campaigns and will continue to do that. GBC's enrollment in the pandemic year increased and we were the only institution in the state to do that. Enrollment this year is up and down and bouncing all over the place.

The area superintendents are invited to these meetings and when they can attend, they speak of the importance of dual credit. GBC also meets with the superintendents regularly and dual credit is often the main discussion point. The amount we charge for dual enrollment is based on what superintendents are telling us they can afford. There is a movement to make the cost of dual enrollment the same across the state which would be great as long as we don't make it unaffordable to some which it inevitable would. So that is an issue. GBC's dual enrollment currently down.

President Helens talked about the importance of the partnerships GBC has with the other institutions and in particular the collaborations with UNR. She stated when we look at the students it is not in terms of your students or my students but rather our students. UNR also has a rural component built into their mission. So, GBC is looking at building that relationship to provide a well-lighted pathway for our students. Currently, GBC and UNR have a collaboration for a Social Work degree, with the first 3 years at GBC and the final year at UNR. The student would have to apply to UNR for that final year and we want to eliminate that. Higher education in Nevada began in Elko. A well-lighted pathway is really about not putting barriers, but making access easier, particularly for rural and frontier Nevada. GBC is also looking at our campus in Pahrump. GBC has acreage there to build a full-service campus where we could potentially have participation and collaboration with UNLV, College of Southern Nevada, and Nevada State College. President Helens thinks it could be a very exciting partnership in the southern part of the state. So, there is that goodness, we have remembered what was on the front burner before this hit. And I think it's why it's so frustrating when we know if we did so well last year before vaccinations, we

should be able to do so much better this year. So, I'll go back to we're all in the same storm. And I do think we have to keep disseminating factual information so that people will embrace the misinformation that they'll understand we can make it better by following these protocols. Sort of long winded, but thanks for the opportunity. And Sonia, did you have anything you'd like to?

President Helens ask Vice President Sonja Sibert to give a report. Ms. Sibert reported on the governor's directive that all state employees must be either vaccinated or participate in weekly COVID-19 testing. The State Board of Health approved on the mandate on August 20, that all students must be vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus for the spring 2022 semester. Therefore, GBC is working through those processes and putting that information in place and disseminated to students. The Board of Regents at their September meeting directed the chancellor's office and staff to draft some policies and procedures that would implement required vaccinations for all NSHE employees effective by the end of this calendar year. That policy has received numerous revisions, drafts, stakeholder input from faculty staff, various vice presidents and presidents and advisory councils and things like that. And chair McAdoo has called a special meeting for that to be considered by the full Board of Regents on September 30. The State Board of Health also has now approved required vaccinations for some state employees who are working in specific industries or segments.

Ms. Sibert reported GBC is partnering with Immunize Nevada to host free immunization clinics at all of our centers and the Elko campus which began in early in September and will continue in October for people who need their second dose.

Ms. Sibert reported on the GBC vaccination rates. GBC employees are at 65% vaccinated which is double the overall vaccination rate in Elko County.

President Helens also added that GBC staff and students are still doing the contact tracing.

## **7. Vice President for Student & Academic Affairs Report**

Vice President Jake Rivera said it has been a challenging semester. FTE is down 11%. The challenges faced by the pandemic created enrollment obstacles, that even with our previous record as President Helens stated, was difficult to overcome. GBC is looking at the late starting classes in October and what we can do to get those students enrolled. Over this summer, the focus was getting some vacant positions hired.

Mr. Rivera reported on the Strategic Planning. GBC developed a strategic planning committee. The committee is in the process of developing a survey to go out to the GBC IAC, GBC Foundation, community members, GBC employees, GBC alumni and GBC students. The survey will help GBC to develop our goals for the future and where we can make improvements. There will also be the opportunity for survey takers to be a part of a forum. hat's also an opportunity you'll see at the end of the survey to be part of a forum.

Mr. Rivera talked about some of the partnerships GBC is involved with in his area. GBC is in the process of developing an MOU with the Ely prison to offer GBC courses. GBC is partnering with the Elko Boys and Girls Club in offering some early child development courses. GBC has restarted the conversations with an out of state high school in offering classes to them.

Mr. Rivera talked about the Sandy Grant for workforce development. It allowed \$500,000 in tuition coverage to be used for certificate programs. It also allowed us to hire a part time career navigator who is currently focused on building up our CNA enrollment at all of our GBC locations. He asked the Deans to report from these areas.

Dean Bret Murphy, Dean of Business and Technology, reported that the CTE programs started the semester live and then went to online. This has caused a little bit of consternation amongst the faculty and going back to online and moving our programs in that direction. Most programs have gone online except welding. Welding classes were postponed for three weeks and will be made up at the end of the semester. The CDL program has a CDL Consortium made up of the big players in our area. They signed a three-year commitment to contribute to the program. GBC is looking for more members to join the consortium to help fund the CDL program. The original three-year commitment ends next year. The CDL program is totally self-supporting.

Mr. Murphy reported the Battle Born Youth Academy located at the old UNR Fire Science Academy, has opened up. They are taking at risk high school students from across the state. GBC will be offering some Millwright training to them. The students get that hands on training from our instructors who will go out to academy to deliver that. So that's kind of an exciting program. We are hoping to add more technical training to them.

Mr. Murphy reported the Pennington Foundation has funded 23 CTE scholarships this fall which included some high school students.

Regent McAdoo asked if this is the first time GBC has received the funding from Pennington for the CTE scholarships. Mr. Murphy stated that GBC received the same amount last year from Pennington to fund the CTE scholarships. Pennington is also provided a \$300 stipend for each CDL student. The CDL program is a five-week program with a sixth week for testing. The program is all day, so the stipend helps these students who cannot work during the day. GBC appreciates the generosity of the Pennington Foundation. Regent McAdoo agreed saying northern Nevada is indebted to the Pennington Foundation.

Dean Mary Doucette, Dean of Arts and Letters, reported the Bachelors of Arts in early childhood education that was approved by the Board of Regents in June, and we have over 20 students who have already declared their major for early childhood education. The program is non licensure and totally online.

Ms. Doucette reported on a collaboration with the Desert Research Institute (DRI). DRI received a grant for a robotics program. The robots are made of Legos. DRI will provide training for the teachers to bring back to the schools.

Ms. Doucette reported GBC received a grant from AT&T for \$8,000 to use for dual enrollment students. The grant is mainly for rural Nevada. GBC will be giving \$100 scholarships for tuition for dual enrollment students. GBC hired a full-time dual enrollment coordinator as we have over 1,000 dual enrollment students. GBC is also working with a college prep high school academy in Minnesota to offer courses there.

Ms. Doucette said GBC was required to implement co requisites this year English 100 has been going on since spring of 2017. The English is a five-credit course and once completed the student can go right on the English 102. English hasn't been a big change for the college, but math has been. We cannot offer any developmental math to college students; we can offer development math the high school students. However, the interesting thing is that we did not have any students enroll into developmental math for high schools because it doesn't count as dual credit. So, Math 120 is a three-credit course with an extended two credit portion extended co requisite, so they get remediation right away. We also have that with precalculus. It's a three-credit class with that three-credit extension.

Ms. Doucette reported a new class has been developed called HUM 210 Communicating Diversity. It is a general education course. Students will develop a deeper understanding on how to communicate race, gender, sexual orientation, and the different varieties. We have that as a late starting course.

Dean Karl Stevens, Dean of Online Education, reported on transitioning back to online delivery for our courses. His team is helping faculty with the needed support, professional development opportunities and instructional design support.

Dean Amber Donnelly, Dean for Health Sciences and Human Services, reported receiving a lot of grants for funding for many different items. This funding has been helpful to the programs. This past year the funding for health sciences has been in the amount of \$640,000.

Ms. Donnelly reported that our students are currently still in clinical and they have been very brave. Our students are seeing and being put in situations that they aren't normally in. And so, while they're getting a lot of experience, one of the challenges is their mental health. Our focus is to ensure our students receive the coping mechanisms they need. Our students do have the ability to decline working with COVID patients. We have EMTs riding on ambulances. Currently, we have students who are doing ultrasounds and taking x-rays. And we have been impacted with some COVID positive students. And that's just the nature of what we're putting them in. Fortunately for us, all of our students have fared very well. And in order for us to have consistency and be able to have students continue on in the clinical setting they still have to attend skills lab. We have them in small cohorts so in the event we have an infection of COVID that it only takes out that small pod so those people can do skill simulation and clinical together. And that seems to have been working very effectively so far. Ms. Donnelly appreciated President Helens calling for a three-week break to help with this surge that we're seeing. GBC has had challenges in getting a full-time faculty, but we do have a part time faculty who lives in Los Angeles who is helping do all the clinical with our students. Ms. Donnelly said an important change that we submitted to the Board of Regents for approval was to change the degree in radiology from an associate of applied science to an associate of science. This allows students to transfer to TMCC or UNLV. GBC is also the only college in the north that offers the sonography degree. So, students from TMCC could transfer here. It is a win win situation. Our collaborations are making sure that everything works well within the NSHE system and all of our colleges.

Ms. Donnelly stated that respiratory therapy is a huge focus this year, because of all the ventilators and the oxygen needs of our COVID patients and our limited number of respiratory programs. Humboldt General Hospital has reached out to us, as has Northeastern Nevada Regional Hospital to start to develop a respiratory therapy program that will be an AAS degree. We will be looking at grant money to fund the respiratory therapy program. She would like to house that program out of the new building in Winnemucca. Ms. Donnelly stated the Pennington Foundation continued to support the nursing

program with \$140,000 this year. It is a challenge getting students to apply for the money. Another challenge is that the Pennington money is only for the north and not for Pahrump.

Ms. Donnelly stated GBC nursing is vamping up for flu pods and flu vaccine clinics. So obviously we are partnered with Northeastern Nevada Regional Hospital for their big flu shot clinic.

## **8. Vice Chancellor for Student & Academic Affairs Report**

Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, Crystal Abba, prepared a report that provides some of the high-level activities that are occurring within the system that impacts GBC. Ms. Abba wanted to talk a little bit about the AB 450 Committee, the SB 128 study that came out of the legislative session and the strategic planning process that is being undertaken by the Chancellor. Starting with the strategic planning process, as many of you are aware, the Board of Regents currently has five strategic goals: access, success, closing the achievement gap, workforce, and research. In developing those goals, the prior Chancellor established those in a way to provide clarity around the direction that the system is heading. However, what wasn't included in that effort was the roadmap to get there. That's what Chancellor Rose is now in the process of doing which is working with a consultant that will essentially support the system in developing a formal roadmap or strategic plan that can support those goals. That work will occur over the next six to nine months, and hopefully come to fruition in terms of a final report and strategic plan by summer of next year.

In doing so there are a number of task forces that have been created, and one of them is dual enrollment. You heard from President Helens on dual enrollment this morning. I would like to add to those comments that one of the goals of dual enrollment is to ultimately get the state to support dual enrollment in a matter that there is no cost to students. Of course, that is a significant cost, as you can imagine, in our economic environment, but we'll see where that goes. But that is ultimately the goal, which means it wouldn't be a matter of the price tag, it would be a matter of every student would have the state picking up that price. Therefore, it would open up access in a way that would be incredibly dramatic. So that's our ultimate goal there.

Other taskforces include those on workforce and talent, mental health, the teacher pipeline, distance ed, and research. At some point, this group may want to hear a status report on some of those as you find of interest in particular areas with respect to AB 450. This is a committee that will have direct impact on the institution. This is a study committee that was created by the legislature. They are required to have their recommendations submitted to the Legislative Council Bureau and the legislature by August 1 of 2022. So as of right now, there are about 10 months in which the committee has to do its work. Unfortunately, the members have not been formally appointed yet. We're hoping to see those appointments shortly so that they can begin their work. I would like to review with you very quickly the charge of that committee so that you can get an idea of the direction and the dialogue that is occurring at the state level. They are charged with looking at national best practices for governance and funding of community colleges. There will be a discussion on the impacts that the current funding formula has on community colleges, particularly institutions, like GBC. In addition, they will be looking at effective relationships with local school districts and workforce and development and business and industry. They'll also be looking at the mission of each institution. And then there is a broad provision in there that they can kind of throw in anything else that they believe fulfills the mission of the committee. This group will be chaired and co-chaired by the Chancellor and another workforce representative.

Finally, quickly, this is an area that Ms. Abba is intensely focused on, which is the study by the treasurer's office that was promulgated under Senate Bill 128. The provisions of that bill allow the state treasurer to conduct a study of our state funded financial aid programs. This includes the Millennium scholarship, the Nevada Promise Program, and the Silver State Opportunity Grant. Price tag for the three scholarship programs is now well over well over \$30 million each year. We've gone from a graduating class of about 12,000, when the program was first created to over 20,000 today. Since the inception of the program, there have been financial infusions into that trust fund. The governor is looking at ways to preserve the longevity of all of these programs, which means evaluating them. They will look at graduation rates of the programs. The Silver State Opportunity Grant has considerable data that shows that with that first cohort, particularly for those students at GBC that have received that award, their graduation rate is at 55% which is considerable compared to other rates across the system. Ms. Abba is hoping to have more information at the next IAC meeting.

**9. Superintendents' Report**

Chair Tierney reached out to the interim superintendent of Elko, Jeff Zander and he did send a representative to attend this meeting – Keith Walz, who has left the meeting. We will continue to reach out to the superintendents to attend these meetings.

**10. New Business**

There was no new business.

**11. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**12. Adjourn**

Chair Tierney adjourned the meeting at 8:30 a.m.