

**COCONINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD**

REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 19, 2025



**COCONINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD
NOVEMBER 19, 2025**

A Regular Meeting of the Coconino Community College District Governing Board was held in person in the Board Room at Coconino Community College, 2800 S. Lone Tree Rd., Flagstaff, AZ. Board Chair Joey Smith called the meeting to order at 5:49 pm.

PRESENT: Mr. Joey Smith, Board Chair
Mr. Eric Eikenberry (Zoom)
Dr. Nat White
Ms. Patricia Garcia (Zoom)

ABSENT: Mr. Patrick Hurley, Board Vice Chair/Secretary

Also Present: President Eric Heiser, Ms. Kirsten Mead, Dr. Adriana Flores-Church, Dr. Jami Van Ess, Dr. Sandra Hinski, Ms. Dianna Sanchez, Mr. Shane Pablo, Ms. Alimah Damgaard, Ms. Amelinda Webb, Mr. Brian Blue, Ms. Cathleen Banier-Goff, Ms. Kay Leum, Mr. Keith Becker, Mr. Kurt Stull, Dr. Mark Maciha, and Mr. Ryan Bouwhuis.

The November 19, 2025 documents file contains reports, summaries, background materials, and other documents referenced in these minutes.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Trustee White moved to approve the agenda as presented, and Trustee Garcia seconded the motion. The agenda was approved as presented (Trustee Eikenberry, Trustee Garcia, Chair Smith, and Trustee White voting in favor).

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Trustee White moved to approve the consent agenda, and Trustee Garcia seconded the motion. The consent agenda was approved as presented (Trustee Eikenberry, Trustee Garcia, Chair Smith, and Trustee White voting in favor).

CCC EXCELLENCE

A. GFOA Certificate of Excellence – President Heiser

CCC again received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, marking 30 consecutive years of recognition. President Heiser commended Dr. Van Ess, Ms. Sonni Marbury, and the Business Office team for their exemplary work.

B. Aspen 200 – Aspen Institute College Excellence – President Heiser

CCC was named to the Aspen 200 list by the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program, placing the College among the top 20% of community colleges nationwide based on transfer, workforce,

and student success outcomes derived from publicly available data. President Heiser explained the selection process and the next step—submitting an application for the Aspen Prize, a national award that provides a \$1 million institutional prize to the winner. CCC is one of only two Arizona community colleges to make the Aspen 200, along with Yavapai College. President Heiser emphasized that this recognition reflects CCC's recent gains in retention, persistence, and national visibility. Trustees expressed enthusiasm and congratulated administration, faculty, staff, and students.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Ms. Janel States introduced Mr. Brian Blue, President of the CCC Foundation.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There was no response.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Policy Updates – Chair Smith

Not needed at this meeting, as edits to policies reviewed in the Work Session were negligible.

B. DGB Code of Conduct Policy and Procedure – Chair Smith

Following discussions at the June 2025 Board Retreat with ACCT facilitator Dr. Mary Spilde, it was determined that the Board should adopt a formal Code of Conduct. Edits recommended during the Work Session included:

- Removal of language requiring formal DGB approval of individual signature pages
- Revision of the effective period to extend through January of the following year (e.g., signed January 2026, renewed January 2027)
- Updating references from Board Secretary to Board Chair

Trustee White moved to approve the DGB Code of Conduct Policy and Procedure as amended, and Trustee Eikenberry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous (Trustee Eikenberry, Trustee Garcia, Chair Smith, and Trustee White voting in favor).

C. Detention Academy IGA – Dr. Sandra Hinski

CCC has long partnered with the Detention Academy to offer a certificate program; however, an IGA and cost-sharing addendum had not previously been formalized. The proposed IGA establishes roles and responsibilities between CCC and the Coconino County Sheriff's Office and includes a cost-sharing structure and instructor qualification requirements.

Trustee White moved to approve the Detention Academy IGA as presented, and Trustee Eikenberry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous (Trustee Eikenberry, Trustee Garcia, Chair Smith, and Trustee White voting in favor).

D. City of Flagstaff Sharing of Resources (Flagstaff Fire Department) IGA – Dr. Sandra Hinski

This five-year renewal updates CCC's existing IGA with the Flagstaff Fire Department for shared resources. Key updates include:

- Alignment with current practices for equipment use and storage
- Updated responsibilities for equipment damage

- No budget impact, as costs are already included
- Alignment with Board goals for safety, partnerships, and community collaboration

Additional Context – President Heiser:

The County’s approval is pending a December meeting due to a conflict waiver process, as the same law firm represents both CCC and the County. No material changes are expected.

Trustee White moved to approve the IGA as presented, and Trustee Garcia seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous (Trustee Eikenberry, Trustee Garcia, Chair Smith, and Trustee White voting in favor).

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. Board Reports

- i. **Arizona Association of Community College Trustees (AACCT) – Trustee Eikenberry**
Nothing to report.
- ii. **Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) – Trustee Garcia**
Trustee Garcia reported on upcoming ACCT professional development opportunities. President Heiser added that CCC will again take students to the ACCT National Legislative Summit in February, noting the significant impact of student engagement with federal delegates last year.
- iii. **Foundation Board – Trustee White**
Trustee White reported that the Foundation is preparing for a \$10 million fundraising campaign and has interviewed an experienced advancement professional to support the effort. The Foundation discussed the common practice of investing approximately 10% of a campaign goal to achieve fundraising success. President Heiser provided a bond update and responded to questions. The Foundation received a \$500,000 grant from the Halle Foundation to support automotive program equipment, with potential for additional funding. Investment advisors were commended for strong performance, with earnings of approximately \$129,000 over the past three months.
- iv. **Alliance Report – Dr. Van Ess**
Dr. Van Ess summarized the recent Alliance meeting, which included updates on the AZ Mutual Aid Compact; a presentation from FUSD on the CommunityShare volunteer program; City updates including recognition of the new City Manager, an upcoming public safety ballot initiative (with Mr. Kurt Stull representing CCC), opening of the Lantern Hotel for individuals experiencing homelessness, and progress on a proposed workforce housing land swap; and County updates related to federal shutdown reimbursement efforts and county anniversary celebrations. FUSD reported progress on its new facility. Members toured the Marshall facilities, and NAU shared information about its Elevate campaign.
- v. **Other Reports**
 - None

B. Business Administration – Tuition and Fees – Dr. Jami Van Ess

Dr. Van Ess presented regional and state tuition and fee comparisons as part of early planning for the 2025–2026 budget. She reviewed updated WICHE data, Arizona’s position relative to regional and national averages, and comparative tuition levels across Arizona community colleges, including CCC’s rate for 30 annual credits. She also reviewed equalization funding

impacts, five-year tuition trends, and noted that current budget assumptions include a \$5 per credit hour increase aligned with the Higher Education Price Index. The Board will discuss tuition and fees in greater depth at the January budget retreat.

C. Academic Affairs – HLC Update – Dr. Sandra Hinski

Dr. Hinski provided an overview of CCC's accreditation work under the HLC Open Pathway. CCC is in Year 4 and preparing its virtual, evidence-based Assurance Review. She reviewed the revised HLC criteria, key expectations related to mission alignment, integrity, teaching and learning, institutional effectiveness, and highlighted the focus on assessment and consistency across all instructional modalities. Dr. Hinski outlined risk mitigation practices, roles and responsibilities, and the timeline for submission, noting that the Assurance Review is due May 26, with final lock-in on June 26. Trustees asked questions regarding timing of the 10-year review and competency-based education and expressed appreciation for the clarity of the presentation.

D. President's Report – President Heiser

- **Federal Update:** President Heiser reported on the Administration's plan to distribute functions of the Department of Education to other federal agencies. Concerns were noted regarding potential inefficiencies and expected legal challenges. CCC will monitor impacts on regulation, reporting, and financial aid.
- **State Update:** President Heiser shared that the state faces a \$440 million shortfall due to federal reductions in programs such as Medicaid. Despite a statewide \$15.2 billion economic impact generated by community colleges, the sector's planned \$64 million funding request has limited likelihood of full approval. He emphasized CCC's strong return on investment and its commitment to meaningful value rather than dependency on increased state funding.
- **Capital Construction Bond:** This meeting marked the first regular Board meeting following passage of CCC's \$100 million bond, which received approximately 60% voter approval. President Heiser highlighted improved support in multiple communities, including a won precinct in Page and strong support on the Navajo Nation. He expressed deep gratitude to Trustees, faculty, staff, community supporters, PAC Chair Steve Peru, and all participants. He noted that the bond represents a transformational opportunity for CCC.
- **Campus Highlights:** President Heiser shared the October Comet Chronicles video and congratulated Dr. Nolan Begaye on successfully completing his dissertation.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:06 pm.

FOLLOW UP

None.

MINUTES PREPARED BY:

Ms. Kirsten Mead
Board Recorder

ATTEST and APPROVED:

Mr. Patrick Hurley
Vice Chair/Secretary of the Board

Mr. Joey Smith
Board Chair