



The Trustee

Advocacy Committee Adopts Guiding Principles

Committee Establishes Approach for Developing a Proactive Legislative Agenda



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The WACCT took a major step last month toward unifying the political voices of Wyoming's community college trustees with the second meeting of its newly formed Advocacy Committee.

During its first meeting at Western Wyoming Community College, the committee created the structure that will guide the WACCT's legislative efforts.

The purpose of the committee is to develop a proactive legislative agenda that represents the interests of community college trustees.

Additionally, the committee provides a core group of trustees who can quickly gather to discuss legislative issues and strategies, especially when the Legislature is in session.

To achieve those twin pur-

Advocacy Committee

Chairman—Jim Vogt, NWC

Committee Members:

- John Freeman, WWCC
- Sherri Lovercheck, EWC
- John Kaiser, LCCC
- Walter Wragge, NWCCD
- Caroline Mills, CWC
- Kathy Dolan, CC

poses, the committee adopted a set of principles that will guide its approach to advocacy, decision making, and disagreement among the colleges.

Committee members acknowledged that the colleges

will not agree on every issue. Open communication about those disagreements, however, will generate stronger advocacy positions and greater cohesiveness.

Because the stakes are high when recommending positions on political issues, the committee decided that five of the seven members must vote affirmatively on any position it recommends.

Those recommendations will then be taken back to each college's Board of Trustees for further consideration. With all the colleges' input, final recommendations will then be made to the WACCT Board for adoption as its official position.

Please contact WACCT Executive Director Steve Bahmer with questions about the Advocacy Committee.

Did you know?

- One-third of the students attending community colleges receive Pell Grants. The combined federal investment in community college students now exceeds \$6 billion annually.

WACCT Advocacy Group Supports Joint Committee

At its June meeting in Thermopolis, the WACCT Advocacy Committee supported the creation of a joint advocacy committee to help solidify a unified legislative agenda.

The joint committee would include all seven members of the WACCT committee, as

well as the presidents of all seven Wyoming community colleges.

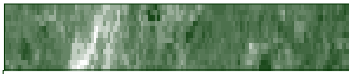
The committee recommended also including the Wyoming Community College Commission to ensure broad understanding and support for its final legislative priorities.

A key goal of the WACCT Advocacy Committee is to work in partnership with college presidents and other stakeholders to develop a cohesive set of priorities and strategies.

The WACCT is working to schedule the first joint committee meeting in July.

WACCT Appoints Education Committee Members

Survey Results Provide Foundation for Initial Educational Programs



Education Committee

The WACCT Trustee Education Committee will meet in July to begin planning its two annual education programs.

The programs, one in the summer and another that coincides with the WACCT conference in the winter, are intended to provide education to trustees statewide.

Organizers plan to bring well-known trainers to Wyoming to focus on priorities identified by WACCT members.

Please contact Steve Bahmer with suggestions for additional educational programs.

The WACCT Board appointed three trustees to the organization's Trustee Education Committee during its June meeting in Thermopolis.

Mike Varney, EWC, Gloria Hedderman, NWC, and Dave Ebertz, NWCCD Gillette Advisory Board, sought the positions and were unanimously approved.

Mr. Varney will chair the committee.

The WACCT Organizational Plan, approved by the Board in February, calls for the creation of a Trustee Education Committee to ensure that the WACCT provides valuable educational programs to community college trustees.

The plan calls for two educational programs during the year—a summer program, and a winter program that will be held in conjunction with the WACCT conference in Cheyenne.

In April, trustees and college presidents responded to a survey asking them to prioritize a number of potential educational options, as

well as to suggest options that were not on the list.

The suggested options, based on research of other trustee organizations around the country, included:

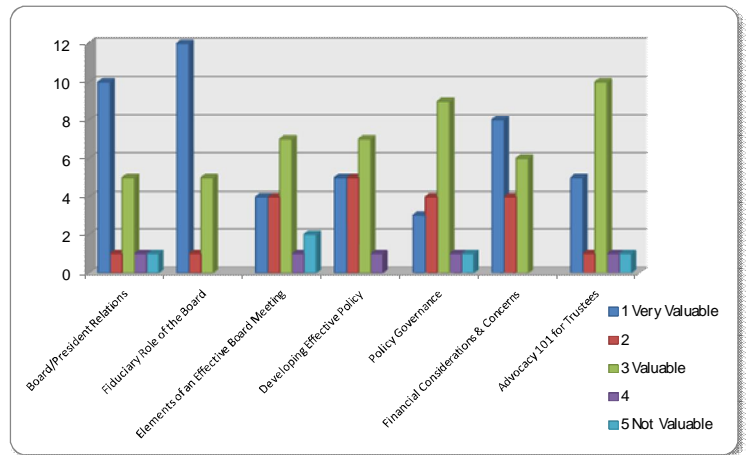
- Board/president relations
- Fiduciary role of the board
- Elements of an effective board meeting
- Developing effective policy
- Policy governance
- Financial considerations and concerns
- Advocacy 101 for trustees

Responses were tabulated based on the options respondents felt were most valuable.

From the 19 responses received, programs on the fiduciary responsibility of the board and board/president relations were rated most valuable.

Other high-ranking options included programs on advocacy, developing effective policy, and elements of an effective meeting.

Additional suggestions included parliamentary procedure, keeping 'community' in community colleges, and ensuring that the colleges learn from each others' mistakes and successes.



Political Candidate Surveys to be Issued in July

In order to better understand candidates' positions on issues of importance to Wyoming's community colleges, the WACCT has developed a candidate questionnaire.

The concise, nine-question survey will be sent to candidates for the Legislature, Governor, Superintendent of Public

Instruction and other statewide offices in July. Results will be tabulated and distributed to trustees before the primary elections on August 17.

The survey focuses on key issues such as funding, program creation and termination, methods for measuring the success and effectiveness of community

colleges, and remediation.

It also seeks the candidates' top three priorities for Wyoming's community colleges.

Surveys will be sent to all candidates in both electronic and hard copy formats to help ensure the greatest possible response rate.

NWC to Present at ACCT Meeting in Toronto

Northwest College has been selected to present a program on international students at the 2010 ACCT Leadership Congress in Toronto in October.

Entitled "Internationalizing a Community: How One Small, Rural College is Broadening its Global Outreach," the program focuses on preparing students for an interdependent world.

Rural community colleges lag behind in bringing a global focus to their curriculum, according to the program description.

Campus advocates must therefore partner with constituent groups so that international recruiting, study-abroad opportunities, multi-cultural events, and globally-based classes become shared objectives.

The session will help participants learn how to establish overseas partnerships, how to identify the best recruiting strategies for their schools, and how to involve local businesses, families, and educational institutions in promoting a global orientation.

The session will also dis-

cuss fostering a campus-wide sense of ownership for international initiatives and programs.

During the last school year, NWC hosted more than 100 international students from six continents, including 40 teachers from Incheon, South Korea.

Those teachers came to NWC for a special program co-sponsored by NWC and Elutian Technology, which included sessions on Wyoming history and opportunities to travel in the United States.



Consensus Group Meets on Postsecondary Options

Some 35 stakeholders from K12 education, community colleges, private industry and other organizations has met twice in Cheyenne to complete the work assigned by Senate Enrolled Act 52.

Dubbed the Postsecondary Education Options Program, the bill passed the 2010 Budget Session of the Wyoming Legislature.

The bill was sponsored by the Joint Education Committee in an effort to ensure access to postsecondary options for all Wyoming students.

That effort includes limiting the variability in the ways that high schools and community colleges deliver dual and concurrent enrollment programs.

The law requires the Wyoming Community College Commission to develop consensus among key stakeholders on how best to deliver seamless

postsecondary programs across the state.

Meeting at Laramie County Community College twice in June, the consensus group discussed a number of topics outlined in the law, including

- Eligibility
- Quality of courses and common student performance standards
- Articulation agreements
- Communication, support services and transferability
- Weighted grades
- Distance education
- Data systems
- Reporting and accountability of funding sources

The first session resulted in a list of consensus statements that were further discussed and refined in the later June meeting.

Significant early discussion focused on developing consensus around statewide uniform eligibility requirements, as well as ensuring the quality of courses offered.

Regarding eligibility, stakeholders debated key questions regarding whether eligibility should extend to all high school students, or only to Juniors and Seniors. They also discussed whether technical and transfer courses should be treated differently with regard to eligibility.

The group also spent a great deal of time discussing quality, particularly as it related to a uniform faculty qualification process.

The consultants who are managing the discussions expect to take a set of consensus statements to a broader audience across the state for further input before writing their final report.

Consensus Discussions

Next Steps

After conducting two consensus discussions in Cheyenne with 35 stakeholders from government, education, and industry, consultants Rae Lynn Job and Sue Riske will conduct smaller focus groups, individual interviews, and other means to gather information and perspectives on dual and concurrent enrollment programs.

The consultants plan to return to the 35-member stakeholder group in the fall to develop final recommendations before sending their report on to the Wyoming Community College Commission and the Joint Education Committee.

They plan to have their report ready for the Legislature by next year.



**WYOMING ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES**

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Mission

The mission of the Wyoming Association of Community College Trustees, a collaborative organization of Wyoming community college trustees with college presidents, is to promote the continued quality, strength, vitality and effectiveness of its members.

Vision

The Wyoming Association of Community College Trustees will be the leading information source and advocate for Wyoming's community colleges, shaping public policy that strengthens community college education, and providing trustee development to ensure effective governing boards.

Notes From the Director's Desk

-By Steve Bahmer



Your Thoughts

The Trustee is one of many tools we'll be using to communicate more effectively with you about community college issues and the work of the WACCT.

To be effective, though, it has to meet your needs and provide information you find useful and valuable.

So let me hear from you. If you have story ideas, subjects that need attention, or if you would like to contribute, please email me at: steve_bahmer@yahoo.com.

It doesn't matter what you say, my dad used to tell me. The only thing that really matters is what you do.

His homespun wisdom seems an appropriate way to review the first half of 2010.

In February, the WACCT developed an organizational plan—on overarching document intended to provide clarity of vision and direction.

Important as that document is to our organization, without action, it is a just an accumulation of words.

After six months with the WACCT, I am proud to report that we have turned those words into results.

Consider this: in fewer than

six months we have formed an Advocacy Committee that has met twice, established a meaningful approach to setting a legislative agenda, and proactively developed an initial list of priorities.

We've reached out to candidates and have begun to establish ourselves as a formidable advocacy organization.

We have appointed a Trustee Education Committee and surveyed our members regarding programs that would be most valuable to them. This committee's work will produce real fruit a bit later this summer with the first of two annual educational sessions.

We've begun work with the colleges and the Wyoming

Community College Commission to improve statewide communications, and we've participated on the commission's postsecondary options consensus group.

We've developed an annual budget that will fund the development of a web site, which will improve our own internal communications.

This is only a partial list of results. And I think it's clear that we are taking action on the vision we created for ourselves in February.

Of course, there remains a great deal to do. So, looking toward the coming six months, I think the thing that really matters is not what we've done, but what we will do next.