

**NORTHWEST COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

February 10, 2025

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

President MS. DENISE LAURSEN; Vice President/Secretary MR. R.J. KOST;  
Treasurer MR. BOB NEWSOME; and Trustees MR. JOHN HOUSEL, MS. TARA  
KUIPERS, MR. SHANE OGDEN, and DR. MARK WURZEL.

Trustee Kuipers congratulated the Forensics Team on their recent success. Although the team includes students from many states and countries, she is incredibly

this is not a budget session, several bills related to property tax cuts are being considered that would affect the College's funding. Analysis indicates the draft bills could result in a \$1.4 million budget cut for Northwest College. This number does not take into account the state appropriations and how it could be affected by the funding formula.

Mandatory student fees are the baseline fees for the college's operations. While are the third highest. Higher education is becoming very competitive, and schools are creatively finding ways to cut student costs. The College must remain competitive while addressing rising operating costs and potential budget cuts.

In response to a question from Trustee Kost, President Watson stated that the proposal, as areas that fees could potentially be increased by \$1-3 to help cover the increased costs in those areas.

President Watson stated that the proposal had been presented to the Student Senate. They were supportive and surprised the fees more since they are aware of rising costs.

Trustee Kuipers stated that she is constantly impressed by the fiscal responsibility of the College's leaders. While she desires to keep costs as reasonable as possible, she feels that the facilities and technology fees may need to be increased to address the shortfall in those budgets.

FY2026 Proposed Residence Hall and Apartment Rates

President Watson stated that the proposed housing rates were prepared also used regarding Trapper Main and Trapper West.

**A motion was made by Trustee Kuipers and seconded by Trustee Wurzel to approve the proposed FY2026 Residence Hall and Apartment rates as presented. Motion carried.**

Academic Program Approval

Dave Erickson expressed his excitement about bringing these two programs indicated that both programs are needed in this region. He expressed his appreciation to Marneé Crawford, Christi Greaham, and Keith McCallister for their time and effort in developing each program.

CDL Certificate

Marneé Crawford, Chairperson for Health Professionals Division, stated the CDL certificate program is designed to meet the growing demand for CDL drivers in Wyoming. The demand is increasing, as indicated by local surveys and workforce reports. The non-credit program has been very successful, and the new program will allow students to earn academic credits while obtaining their license. Students enrolled in the for-credit program can apply for scholarships and veterans assistance, which is unavailable for noncredit programs.

The program aims to attract students already enrolled in other degree programs, such as Agriculture or Welding, who may want to add CDL certification to their qualifications. It would provide students with practical skills that can lead to employment opportunities while they complete their degrees.

The CDL certificate program consists of two six-credit classes offered every eight weeks, year-round. The flexible schedule allows students to start and complete the program at their convenience. The first class focuses on



**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

President Watson introduced Burt Reynolds, Vice President of Administrative Services and Finance, to the Trustees. Burt has a background in higher education, both in Texas and Wyoming. Burt began his role on January 31, 2025.

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Photo Contest & Exhibit, Feb 11, 2025, 7:00 p.m., ORB  
WBB/MBB vs. CWC, Feb 13, 2025, 5:30/7:30 p.m., Cabre

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R.J. KOST, Vice President/Secretary

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Date