

## MINUTES

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

Tuesday, March 8, 2016  
Douglas Campus  
6:00 p.m.

#### 1. GENERAL FUNCTIONS

##### 1.01 Call to Order

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

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

Mr. David DiPeso  
Mr. Dennis Nelson  
Mr. Danny Ortega  
Mr. Tim Quinn  
Mrs. Jane Strain

##### 1.02 Pledge of Allegiance

##### 1.03 Adoption of Agenda

Dr. Rottweiler stated the Student Government Association (SGA) will not be presenting a report as they are on spring break.

##### 1.04 Citizen's Interim

There were no requests to address the Board.

##### 1.05 Standing Reports

##### **1.05.1 Representative to the Arizona Association of District Governing Boards (AADGB)**

An AADGB report was not provided as a meeting was not held in February. The next meeting of the AADGB is scheduled to take place on March 10, 2016. Some agenda topics include: Mohave Resolution, a GED Resolution, GISS Scheduled in Arizona for September 9, 2016, and ACCT topics for higher standards for higher education.

##### **1.05.2 Representative to the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT)**

Mrs. Strain distributed a Call for Presentations flyer for the National ACCT Leadership Congress '16 being held October 5-8, 2016 in New Orleans.

### **1.05.3 Senate**

Wendy Davis, Vice President for Human Resources informed the Board that she was not able to attend the Senate meeting held in February, and reported there were no actions requiring Board attention.

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

A Student Government Association report was not provided; students are on spring break.

### **1.05.5 College President**

Regarding legislative updates, Dr. Rottweiler briefed the Board on Senate Bill 1322 – Community College Expenditure Limitation (EL). The EL bill has nothing to do with receiving increased revenue, but it is about asking to spend the revenue the college currently has. Cochise College is not currently faced with any EL issues, but many other community colleges do have an issue. Dr. Rottweiler has had the opportunity to represent the system by testifying on both the Senate Education Committee and the Government and Higher Education Committee in the House. The Senate passed the bill 27 to 3, and the Government of Higher Education Committee passed the bill 5 to 2. The bill will now go to the Committee of the Whole after it passes through rules.

Dr. Rottweiler stated that it would be great to have individuals with connections to business and industry or Chambers of Commerce support Senate Bill 1322.

Dr. Rottweiler referenced an email he sent to Board members that contained the most recent bills related to the legislature. He noted there are two bills he wanted to bring to the attention of the Board. One bill related to guns in public rights-of-way. Community colleges have always worked around a model allowing local control where elected governing officials can establish what they want for gun policies. This bill, as currently constituted, allows firearms in public rights-of-way, which is a non-issue as the college does not have any public rights-of-way.

The other bill, 2615, relates to free speech zones in colleges; not allowing colleges to regulate where free speech can occur. Colleges want to be able to establish rules and regulations around free speech for the safety of all students. If a student gets injured during a demonstration, it becomes the college's liability; therefore colleges want to have the ability to at least, within reason, be able to determine where free speech demonstrations can be held and establish certain guidelines.

There is some discussion going on related to the one percent cap, a lawsuit that Pima County brought against the state legislature and the governor's office related to what they had done in the FY16 budget pushing the one percent cap. Anyone that exceeds the one percent cap instead of the state picking up that difference from the school district, they said it would then go to all other tax industries. The concern in Cochise County has been based around small school districts like Bowie and San Simon, which are over the one percent cap on their own. The current rule would allow them to raise taxes however they wanted and their taxpayers wouldn't have to pay it, they would push it to the rest of the county.

The state budget meetings continue to happen. As you might guess, the governor wants them to happen fast the legislature wants them to happen slowly. The reasoning is many of the freshman legislators last year believe by approving the governor's budget quickly they lost all leverage related to getting their bills passed, and so they are now not interested in doing the budget until their bills are considered and the governor's office is not willing to consider any legislation until they consider the budget and so we have the typical standoff at the legislature.

There is a lot of activity surrounding the open seat in the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District and the open seat in the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Some interested candidates for CD1 include Pinal County Sheriff Paul Babeu, Speaker of the House David Gowan, and Senator Carlyle Begay. Some interested candidates for CD5 include Senate President Andy Biggs, and State Representative Justin Olson as well as a number of other individuals.

Master Facilities Update: Dr. Rottweiler provided pictures of the current construction on the Downtown Center and reported that construction is about two days ahead of schedule in all places except for the nursing and the culinary arts areas, where they appear to be four weeks ahead. This is exactly what needed to happen as they are the highest priority because their programs begin in August or December. Over 95% of all the sheetrock is up, texturing continues, and painting has begun. Dr. Rottweiler announced that he had the opportunity to tour the Downtown Center with the Mayor of Sierra Vista and the Editor of the Sierra Vista Herald.

Dr. Rottweiler updated the Board on the sale of the bonds, in which the college received \$25.4M on February 25, 2016. Of that, the new debt at \$8M came in at an interest rate of 2.83%. The refinance debt of \$17.4M came in at 2.46% for a blended rate of 2.6%. With the remarkable rates, the anticipated additional debt service on the new debt of about \$720,000 will now be down to about \$534K. The refinanced debt will realize a savings of \$1.1M. The resources have been received and are currently being utilized to pay for the current construction.

Dr. Rottweiler spoke about excellence being one of the college's strategic anchors. Stating that if someone says they will do something, they should make sure they do it to the very best of their ability and do it with excellence. He distributed the Arizona Small Business Development Center Network 2015 Core Grant Goals vs. Actuals Report and highlighted Mark Schmitt and the Small Business Development Center's results, all of which met or exceeded 100%. Long-term clients - 108%; Business starts - 182%; Capital Infusion - 113%; Increased Sales - 101%; and Jobs Created and Retained - 100%. Dr. Rottweiler acknowledged the programs accomplishments and said the college is very proud.

Excellence in athletics: men's basketball team concluded the season 26 - 7 and was crowned the regional champs. The team traveled to Salt Lake City for a district championship game, but was not successful. The women's basketball team completed the season 23 - 8 and placed third in the region. The men's and women's rodeo teams were crowned champions with dominating scores with women's team way ahead and the men's team in second place during a rodeo competition held at the Ft. Huachuca Wren Arena in early March. The teams are now preparing for national rodeo to be held in late June. Dr. Rottweiler congratulated all teams and their coaches.

In his general comments, Dr. Rottweiler updated the Board on the following:

Academic Update: The All Arizona Academic Team - Cochise College was represented by four individuals. Jasmin Diaz from the Douglas Campus was awarded First Team All Arizona. She was also recognized as a Coca Cola Gold Scholar. Jasmin is also eligible for some significant scholarship dollars. Brandon Butterfield from the Sierra Vista Campus was also awarded First Team All Arizona, Jason Cota from the Douglas Campus was second-team, and Jesus Atondo from Santa Cruz County was third-team.

The Arizona State Board of Nursing and Accreditation has recommended a full eight years for reaccreditation to the Cochise College Nursing Program, and has met all the standards. Dr. Rottweiler congratulated Dean Lakosil and her team.

As a leadership responsibility, Dr. Rottweiler has taken the opportunity to sit on the State Board of Education. In a meeting with the Department of Education regarding Adult Education, it was recommended by the Federal Government to lower the GED test scores to 145 from 150. They also requested a retro back to the start of that test, which the Board approved. This resulted in over a thousand additional students awarded their GED.

Dr. Rottweiler is also working with the Department of Education on an alternative community college credit option, which would allow for a prescribed number of community college credits that if a student completed, would probably set it up as a certificate then turn that certificate into the State Department of Education so the student could receive a high school equivalency. This is an option that's happening in many states around the country.

On March 17, 2016, a team of administrators and staff from the college will travel to Phoenix for another round of mediation regarding the Douglas Master Facilities lawsuit, which has been going on for over five years.

On March 16, 2016, a Creative Writing Celebration and Meet the Authors event is being hosted. Board members were invited to attend.

On March 24, 2016, Cochise College will host the Arizona Town Hall Outreach breakfast in which Board members are invited and encouraged to participate.

As a follow up to Board Member Tim Quinn's request during a previous meeting, Dr. Rottweiler distributed a MOS showing out-of-state enrollments. He asked the Board to understand that the state does not recognize any of the full-time equivalent student enrollment (FTSE) enrollment in their formulas, as by statutory regulation, they do not allow for out-of-state offerings.

Board Member Jane Strain inquired if calls should be made in support of Senate Bill 1322; Dr. Rottweiler asked that Board members wait until he researched for the appropriate time to make supporting calls.

Board Chair Dennis Nelson asked if the Downtown Center had a public right-of-way in regards to the proposed firearm bill. The right-of-way is on Wilcox Road, so the college could not stop someone from carrying a weapon on Wilcox Road, but they can in the parking lot of the building and the parking lot across the street.

### **1.05.6 Monthly Financial Report – February 2016**

The Financial Report for February 2016 was presented and accepted as submitted.

## **2. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **2.01 Communications**

- The college received a letter of thanks from Rose Mary Townsend, Agua Viva Ministries, Inc., thanking staff for gifts presented to children during their 2015 Christmas Posada.
- Dr. Rottweiler received a letter from George Castle, President, VICaP, thanking him for being the guest speaker at their VICaP Annual Meeting.
- Dr. Rottweiler received a card of thanks from Congresswoman Martha McSally, for inviting her to speak at the SVA kickoff at Cochise College, and for his continued support to veterans.

### **2.02 TRIO Update**

Gabriela Amavizca, Director of TRiO SSS, provided a brief background on TRiO, and provided highlights of projects taking place thus far this year. Background quick facts included that the grant funded program was established by the 1968 Higher Education Act to increase retention, graduation, and transfer rates of low income, first generation, or students with disabilities. There are nine programs, a total of 2,900 across more than 1,000 college/university campuses around the United States. Cochise College has participated in the TRiO since 2001, and is currently in year one of its fourth five-year cycle.

Program Objectives, Goals, and Results for FY2014-2015 included:

- Funded to Serve Goal of 160 students; served 98%
- Persistence Rate Goal of 65%; exceeded with 74%
- Good Standing Goal of 80%; exceeded with 91%
- Graduate Rate Goal of 30%; exceeded with 43%
- Transfer Rate Goal of 30%; exceeded with 60%

These goals were accomplished with:

- Academic and Intrusive Advising
- In depth Degree Research and Career Counseling
- Free Campus Visits
- Professional tutoring to meet student needs
- Scholarships/Financial Literacy Workshops
- Mentoring
- Community Service
- Identify challenges, used to improve/modify and program/services

Goal focus for 2015-2016 includes:

- Students with Disabilities
- At-risk students
- Graduates - transition plan

Future:

- Students with Associates of General Studies

The presentation also included pictures of various community events held throughout the year such as: Blood drive; Adopt a Highway; providing supplies to soup kitchens, needy families, and hurricane victims; and giving many donations throughout the community.

Mr. Nelson inquired about the mentor program and noted that long term students might be good mentors for new students coming into the program.

Mr. Quinn asked about the number of students funded and how long they are funded for. Ms. Amavizca confirmed that the program is funded for 160 students and students can continue in the program for up to four years. She also replied that good academic standing is considered 2.0 GPA and above, and explained the persistence rate is when a student continues from one year to the next in the program.

Dr. Rottweiler thanked Ms. Amavizca and the TRiO program for their success and highlighted the report results comparing Cochise College results to the TRiO Objective results for 2014-15:

- Persistence Rate Result for Cochise is 56% and TRiO is 75%
- Graduate Rate Result for Cochise College is 23% and TRiO is 43%
- Transfer Rate Result for Cochise College is 22% and TRiO is 60%

### **2.03 Business and Technology Report**

Bruce Richardson, Dean of Business & Technology, introduced Randy Fox, Department Chair for CTE who provided a presentation updating the Board on the Welding Technology Program. Program enrollment has increased from about 70 students per year back when the program started to about 400 to 500 students per year now. Increased enrollment is contributed to the generosity of the Board and college administration for allowing the purchase of new updated equipment, which has made the program more presentable and has increased recruitment.

The purchase of new lab equipment on the Douglas Campus has allowed for increased classroom capacity limits and increased number of classes offered. This semester, for the first time, the college will be able to offer the last class that is needed in a certificate program that has not been offered at the college before. These noted changes have led to the increased enrollment.

Some of the new equipment includes:

- Two Dual Feeders
- Plate Beveller
- Tri-tool pipe beveller
- Sixteen TIG/Stick Machines
- Band Saw
- Eight Miller MIG Machines
- Bend Tester

Welding Events:

- Skills USA High School Welding Competition

- 8 schools attended; 40 participants; Hosted by SKillsUSA Welding Club; first and second place winners were home-schooled students attending Cochise College
- K-12 outreach Metal Art Summer Camp
  - Held June 2015, 20 7th-12th grade students; individual and group projects for unique metal sculptures
- Cochise College Pit Fire Event
  - Weld Art Donations
- Community Outreach
  - Boy Scout Merit Badge; 12 students attended
- Recruitment Events
  - Cars in the Park
  - AZTEC Open House

Following a curriculum re-write and approval from the three state universities, the Welding for Metal Sculpture Art class is now on the approved general education selection for art credit.

Cochise College is now one of only three Arizona Accredited Testing Facilities (ATF) for the American Welding Society (AWS). There are only 138 ATFs in the U.S., and locations are listed on the AWS website and advertised in the Welding Journal Magazine.

Becoming certified allows the college welding program to test their own welds based on the AWS codes without sending them out for third-party testing.

To become an ATF, the college went through an accreditation process that consisted of 70-80 hours of quality assurance manual preparation; 60-70 hours of laboratory equipment set up; application submittal in September 2015; and an 8-hour on-site audit on December 16, 2015. It was also noted that JTED funded the application fees, the auditor fees, and some of the testing equipment.

The ATF certification was approved with non-conformance issues, and the report states “This is a very well equipped facility. Extremely clean and well organized. Cochise College welding laboratory is staffed by excellent staff who display a thorough understanding of the requirements and expectations of an AWS Accredited Test Facility. Cochise College welding lab will be an excellent addition to the growing list of ATFs and one of which AWS can be very proud”.

The Cochise College Welding Technology Lab received its official certification March 1, 2016, which will expire on March 1, 2017. The program needs to resubmit an application and fee every year and an on-site audit is performed every three years for continued accreditation.

There were 26 students that tested for welding certifications in fall 2015, and all 26 passed the tests.

Mr. Nelson asked who uses the college testing facility. Mr. Fox replied that it is primarily used by students for their certification, but it could also be used by individuals in the industry.

Mr. Quinn asked what the program needed. Mr. Fox stated that he would be attending an AWS meeting in the coming weeks that would introduce a new CNC pipe beveling machine that may be something the program would consider wanting in the future.

Dr. Rottweiler stated that STEM funding was utilized to purchase some of the equipment and a third faculty member helped set up the welding program to become a center of excellence.

#### **2.04 Sabbatical Report**

Cecelia Lewis, Instructor of English, provided a report on her sabbatical - pursuing a doctorate in Mexican American Studies from the University of Arizona. Ms. Lewis is scheduled to graduate with her PhD in May 2016, at which time she will be the first female to graduate with a doctoral degree in Mexican American Studies from the U of A.

During Ms. Lewis' sabbatical, she presented a traveling museum exhibit titled: "Leaving a Legacy: Women of Mexican Heritage in Douglas, Arizona from the 1920s-40s". The traveling exhibit began on September 20, 2014 at the Douglas-Williams Home Museum traveling to the Sierra Vista Campus, and the Fort Huachuca, Benson, Willcox, and Santa Cruz Centers. The exhibit ended on April 21, 2015 at the University of Arizona Confluentcenter for Creative Inquiry Showcase.

The women showcased in the exhibit included: Rosario "Chalita" Castro; Petra "Pete" Campas; Cleo Jordan Stanford; Salud "Sally" Dorame; Mary Hichkox Robinson; Refugio Bernal Vasquez; Josefa Vasquez Burgner; Carlota "Totita" Ortega; Carmen Loftis; Ceia Salazar; Josephine De La Torre; Beatriz Durazo; Lupe Garcia Jordan; Mary Sosa; and Maria Luisa Rubio.

Ms. Lewis also shared a video that featured the music created by Jeff Sturges and his wife Liz Lopez, and portrayed the women in the traveling exhibit, some of whom are still living.

Ms. Lewis stated that she would like the college to establish an associate's degree program that would feed into the U of A's Mexican American Studies program. She thanked Dean Chuck Hoyack for his unwavering support; the Board and administration for allowing her the opportunity to take the sabbatical; Vice President Verlyn Fick for his support and by attending the opening ceremonies; and President Rottweiler for ensuring the success of the traveling exhibit as it was displayed through the district.

Both Mr. Nelson and Mr. Ortega visited the traveling exhibit and congratulated Ms. Lewis for a very impressive and successful event.

#### **2.05 Preliminary Budget Discussion**

Dr. Rottweiler provided documentation to the Board on the preliminary budget outlook. He began his discussion by reviewing the community college funding in Arizona. The three big funding sources (also referred to as the 3 legged stool) include: 1) State Aid, which is made up of three parts: Operation and Maintenance or FTSE state aid formula; the Equalization formula, which is a formula that makes up for a difference in assessed valuation (the ability to access property taxes). The only colleges receiving this funding is Cochise, Graham, and Navajo (Northland Pioneer); and Capital Outlay/STEM funding; 2) Property Taxes, which the Board statutorily has the ability to levy upon Cochise County residents, limited to 2% annual growth plus new construction; and 3) Tuition and Fees which is set by the Board.

Dr. Rottweiler reviewed a chart containing Revenue Projections over the last ten years. The chart showed the percentages for tuition and fees, state aid/equalization, and primary levy for 2006-2016 and projections for 2017. He stated that historically, the funding would be based on 1/3 with equal amounts for all three funding sources. In attempts to keep tuition low, it



became 40% state aid, 40% property tax, and 20% tuition and fees. In 2006 that is where the college was, but since 2011, the state aid portion has decreased to 24.41%, which is the lowest it has ever been in the history of the college.

Dr. Rottweiler also distributed documentation containing the state aid, equalization aid, and the operating state aid formulas for the Board to reference, noting that this information is provided by the state and the college has no control over the formulas used by the state.

Documentation regarding special line appropriations for each community college was also shared with Board members, with Dr. Rottweiler noting a loss of \$140K in Capital Outlay/STEM funding, an increase of \$542K in Equalization funding, and a loss of \$536.7K in Operating (FTSE) funding for Cochise College in 2017. If the state is to fund at formula level, the College would be down \$135K, which is likely to occur as of now.

Board members were also given a copy of the Community College District Levy Limits Memorandum provided by the Arizona House of Representatives. Dr. Rottweiler highlighted the college's current primary rate of \$2.17 bringing in a total amount of just over \$20M and the Board chose to max out that levy limit using 100%. Senior administration will recommend that the Board tax at the max again this year during its vote in May.

Dr. Rottweiler provided the Board with three 2016 Levy Limit Worksheets. Worksheet one - Retaining Previous Year's Current Tax Rate - should the Board chose to stay at the current tax rate, the college would have a decrease of \$235K based on the decreased in assess evaluation of .97075. This, with the state aid decrease of \$135K, would put the college in a difficult area. Worksheet two - No Tax Levy Increase - doing a Truth in Taxation would require raising the tax rate from \$2.17 to \$2.24, the college would be able to use new construction of \$16M and would increase resources by \$361,643. Worksheet three - Maximizing Tax Levy - would be an additional 2% increase to primary rate from \$2.28 per \$100K and would increase resources to the college by \$769,222.

Senior administration is considering the following for the FY2017 budget:

- 1% raise approximately \$235K; 1.5% approximately \$350K; and 2% is approximately \$470K
- \$110K increase expected for health insurance
- Debt service increase of \$650K
- Keep deferred maintenance fund of \$300K plus the airport match funds
- Prop 301 money to fund Career and Technical Education, which is set to sunset in 2021, should nothing change. Administration proposes to begin a phase-out of the \$1M the college receives by cutting \$200K each year then be able to absorb the loss of those funds by 2021.

Administration's intent is to propose to the Board a full Truth in Taxation and to approve accessing the full 2% tax levy.

In preparation for the Board's review and consideration of the proposed tuition and fees increase, Dr. Rottweiler distributed a comparative in-state tuition and fees schedule for all Arizona community colleges noting the average increase among the community colleges is \$3.07. Cochise College is proposing a \$2 increase from \$77 to \$79 per credit hour, which is consistent with past years. With the proposed increase, the college would be sixth highest in the state for in-state tuition. In summary, a \$2 increase would mean an additional \$60 per

student; approving the 2% tax increase would be an increase from \$2.17 to \$2.28 would be an additional \$11 to the average taxpayer per \$100K assessed valuation.

Mr. Quinn asked about the \$110K increase for health insurance. Dr. Rottweiler responded by saying for the last three years the college has offset the increased costs with a surplus that was built within the Trust. That surplus is now spent down so the college will need to pay the full amount of the increase. He also confirmed that the college is self-insured in partnership with Cochise County. Mr. Quinn inquired about how many community colleges cover health insurance 100%. Dr. Rottweiler stated that many colleges do, with some of them even covering small portions for dependent coverage.

Mrs. Strain inquired about the continued decrease in state funding even though the recession has passed. Dr. Rottweiler's response stated that since the budgets froze in 2008 at the same time that enrollments increased. The statutes changed stating that if enrollments were not growing, the state would pull the money away. The state did not fund when enrollments were increased, then pulled money when enrollments decreased. The state has no interest in increasing funding.

Mrs. Strain also asked about the status of the performance-based funding that was discussed by community colleges a few years ago. Dr. Rottweiler stated that the desire to go to performance-based funding was only to justify decreased funding, and is no longer being discussed since Governor Brewer left office.

Mr. Quinn asked what the projected revenue is against the expected costs for 2017. Dr. Rottweiler responded that historically administration has tried to establish the revenues first then get expenditures in line with revenues. The college has done some things historically around contingencies to balance out the budget, such as utilizing fund balances from previous years for construction and for deferred maintenance. This year, administration has held back on expenditures and will have discussions pertaining to carry forward amounts from 2016 into 2017 to help balance the budget. Administration has chosen to have a better understanding working through the process where the Board establishes the tax rate, then administration brings forward a balanced budget based on the approved tax rate.

Dr. Rottweiler responded to a question pertaining to cutting services, stating the college is not looking to cut services that may cut student enrollments, especially since a decrease in state aid and STEM funding is from a decrease in FTSE.

### **3. NEW BUSINESS \***

### **ACTION**

#### **3.01 Consent Agenda \***

The following items were approved:

- 3.01.1 \* Classified; Appointment (*Bryan Armstrong, Facilities/Customer Services Assistant, Willcox Center*)
- 3.01.2 \* Classified; Appointment (*Kevin Austin, Technician/Financial Analyst, Sierra Vista Campus*)
- 3.01.3 \* Classified; Appointment (*Iris Routhieaux, Office Assistant I K-12 Outreach, Sierra Vista Campus*)
- 3.01.4 \* Administrative Support; Appointment (*Stephen Haberstroh, Aviation Programs Recruiter/Advisor, Douglas Campus*)

- 3.01.5 \* Classified; Resignation (*Amanda Kelly, Executive Administrative Assistant for Human Resources, Sierra Vista Campus*)
- 3.01.6 \* Administrative Support; Resignation (*William Platt, Veterans Services Coordinator, Sierra Vista Campus*)
- 3.01.7 \* Faculty; Resignation (*Richard Bell, Instructor of Professional Flight, Douglas Campus*)
- 3.01.8 \* Faculty; Resignation (*Helen Garcia, Instructor of Nursing, Sierra Vista Campus*)
- 3.01.9 \* Administrative Support; Retirement (*Sharon Townsend, Director Testing Services, district-wide*)
- 3.01.10 \* Acceptance of Minutes for February 2, 2016 – Regular Meeting

Mr. DiPeso moved and Mr. Quinn seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. There was no further discussion by the Board. The Board unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

### **3.02 Placeholder – Classified Appointment – Facilities Services Tech III**

The administration brought forward a recommendation to hire William Auchincloss and Michelle Richardson as Facilities Services Technician III, Sierra Vista Campus. Mrs. Strain moved and Mr. Di Peso seconded a motion to approve the appointments. There was no further discussion by the Board. The Board unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Wendy Davis, Vice President for Human Resources, introduced Iris Routhieaux and Stephen Haberstroh.

### **3.03 Student Tuition and Fee Schedule**

Dr. Rottweiler provided the Board with a full 2016-2017 Tuition and Fee schedule, which was color-coded highlighting the tuition and fees that were increased, decreased, newly added, or deleted.

The proposed \$2 increase is consistent with years past. The increase will be from \$77 to \$79 per credit hour. Dr. Rottweiler noted that after long conversations regarding differential tuition for programs that carry a higher cost to the college (such as nursing), administration has chosen to not impose a differential tuition rate as other sister colleges have. In an effort to accommodate some of the higher costs to certain programs, the college has increased the student fee for those higher cost programs. The nursing simulation lab fee will double to offset some of the program costs along with paying for additional instructors since the Arizona State Board of Nursing Statutes now requires one instructor for every five students, which used to be one instructor to every ten students.

Mrs. Strain asked if the college was still within the industry standard with the student debt ratio, and if administration anticipated any undue hardship to the students with a \$2 increase. Dr. Rottweiler responded that the State of Arizona has the lowest tuition rates for community colleges in the country and Cochise College is in the middle at about sixth in the state. He also stated that we believe the tuition increase is affordable and that students should be invested and have some skin in the game.

Mr. Quinn asked if the motion to approve included the increased tuition along with the proposed change in the fees for each program. Dr. Rottweiler confirmed and also noted an increase to the meal plan of about 3%.

Mr. Quinn questioned the fee going from zero to \$1,000 for the UAS programs. Dr. Rottweiler responded that the UAS classes are new and that students are actually flying the UAV simulator, which is a graduation requirement. Mr. Quinn also asked how the college determines the cost for a person to use the simulator. LaMont Schiers, Vice President for Administrative Affairs responded by saying they considered flight instruction, management, and other costs from other industries when the cost to start the new program was determined. Dr. Rottweiler confirmed that the \$1,000 cost per student will be used to begin repaying the cost of the UAV, then will be used to prepare a resource build-up for future upkeep and upgrading.

Mr. Nelson inquired about a previous discussion regarding possibly raising aviation fees stating that Cochise's aviation instruction is 10-20% less than fees for other commercial aviation schools. Mr. Schiers replied that the college has not considered raising the fees as of yet, but administration will continue discussions. Dr. Rottweiler noted that the program is losing money and is not yet self-sustaining, but based on the comparison, the cost gives the college a competitive advantage. He would like to run the program for a year and see if the college can bring in additional students.

Mr. Nelson noted that he would like the college to close the gap between what the college charges and what other commercial flight schools charge.

Dr. Rottweiler remarked that the college has talked to U.S. airlines, but they are not interested in helping fund by way of third-party pay, they are more interested in offering things such as sign-on bonuses. Currently, International airlines are doing third-party pay, but not U.S. airlines.

Mrs. Strain asked if there would be an expectation that the college could see an increase in international students. Dr. Rottweiler replied that the college is trying to bring more international students in to the college. He noted that the college is in a crisis as it relates to hiring aviation faculty; the shortage is so significant that we need to see a fundamental shift in the industry (paying instructors more). Administration is discussing a Strategic Initiative to increase their pay, maybe a stipend, or consider housing opportunities as ways to help keep instructors. The college lost three instructors this past year due to other higher paying entities.

Mrs. Strain moved and Mr. Ortega seconded a motion to approve the FY2017 Student Tuition and Fee Schedule. There was no further discussion by the Board. The Board unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

### **3.04 Proposal to Authorize the President to Approve Utility Easement**

The administration brought forward a recommendation to approve a utility easement for additional power that is needed for a new structure on the Douglas Campus erected by Northrup Grumman, who has been in partnership with the college for 20 years. Northrup will fund the entire expansion and will be on their own utility meter. Being the property owner, the college is required to provide a utility easement.

Mr. DiPeso moved and Mr. Quinn seconded a motion authorizing the College President to approve and sign utility easement for Douglas Campus Airport. There was no further discussion by the Board. The Board unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

#### **4. COMMENTS FROM GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS**

Mr. Nelson turned the floor over to Governing Board members for comments.

- Mrs. Strain:
  - She provided copies of a Resolution from Mohave Community College that opposes House Bills 2072 and 2338. The Resolution will be discussed during the Arizona Association of District Governing Boards (AADGB) meeting scheduled for March 10.
  
- Mr. Ortega:
  - He asked if the college currently has any Diesel Mechanic classes. Dr. Rottweiler replied that the college does not currently offer the classes, and does not currently have the facilities necessary for a diesel program. Mr. Ortega spoke of an individual who has a piece of land and may be interested in having a relationship with the college to provide such classes. Mr. Ortega, Dr. Fick, and Dr. Rottweiler will arrange a future meeting to discuss the topic further.
  
- Mr. Nelson:
  - He noted his appreciation for the sabbatical program; noting that the program benefits the individual on sabbatical, the community, and the college.
  - He also stated he was very impressed with the welding program presentation.

#### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Nelson adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Crystal Wheeler, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Vice President for Administrative Affairs

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Mr. David DiPeso, Secretary of the Governing Board