

San Carlos Apache College
Board of Regents
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2025 - 5:00 PM
San Carlos Apache College, Conference Room

1. OPENING ITEMS

1.A. The meeting was called to order at 5:19 pm.

1.B. Roll Call:

Present	Absence		Attendance Time	Board of Regents
	Excused	Unexcused		
x			5:19 pm	Durena Thompson, Chair
x			7:19 pm	Loreal Jones, Secretary
	x			Isaiah Belknap, Regent
x			5:19 pm	Shirley Boni, Regent
x			5:19 pm	Philip Stevens, Vice Chair
x			5:19 pm	Jessica Natsyn, Regent
x			5:19 pm	Kerri Sangster, Regent
				SCAC Staff
x			5:19 pm	Dr. Linda Warner, President
x			5:19 pm	Dr. Lisa Eutsey, Provost
x			5:19 pm	Mr. Alfred Moore, Interim Chief Financial Officer
x			5:19 pm	Ms. Xina Uhl, Liaison to the Board of Regents
				Other Participants
				N/A
10	1			Total Attending

1.C. Invocation by Chair Durena Thompson

1.D. Announcements

Ms. Xina Uhl called the regents' attention to the last item on the agenda about having a board meeting in Hawaii.

Regent Kerri Sangster announced that San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation (SCAHC) is offering an undergraduate and postgraduate scholarship program on April 25, 2025 at 5 pm. On March 4, 2025 from 9-2 pm SCAHC will host a college fair for eleven schools. There will be freebies for the first 100 attendees. Mr. Kevin Wood will post the flyer.

1.E. Public Comments Session

There were no public comments.

1.F. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda will be adjusted to add Add item 3.D. HLC Eligibility Board Filing.

Item: Approval of Agenda
Motion made by Regent Durena Thompson
Seconded by Vice Chair Philip Stevens
Vote: 5 yes/0 no

MOTION APPROVED

1.G. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Item: Approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes from 1/21/2025
Motion made by Regent Jessica Natsyn
Seconded by Vice Chair Philip Stevens
Vote: 5 yes/0 no

MOTION APPROVED

2. REPORTS

2.A. President's Report

Dr. Warner reported that the College is moving forward and still gaining ground, even with the national atmosphere regarding the new President. AIHEC is on top of Trump administration changes on a day-to-day basis, and is readying pre-emptive law suits. Two AIHEC members, Haskell and SIPI, have been significantly affected with cuts. The NIPA grants have been significantly reduced for the next generation, but this doesn't affect TOCC or SCAC.

Regarding College grant funding, Dr. Eutsey and Mr. Moore will answer this more directly. Dr. Eutsey included in her report a letter of support from Republican legislator Susan Murkowski. The College is forward-funded for its programs. The solar garden project that students were awarded has been encouraged to apply for a second phase of that.

Dr. Stevens addressed the NSF Cultivating Relationships Idaho grant. Things are currently in flux. There has been a 10 percent cut at NSF. Currently, Dr. Stevens is not sure who the project manager for Cultivating Relationships is. Tribes are pre-emptively trying to prepare because cutting funds is unconstitutional. NSF is under a court order to continue the funding of their grants.

Dr. Warner spoke about how the drone technology proposal is one the College will talk to the NSF about. It would have implications in tribal forestry and the Cattlemen's Association. The Rise Foundation in St. Louis offered to bring drones out and teach students how to use them. They would also donate two high-end drones to the tribe. The Perkins Grant is a workforce development grant. So is the drone project. Community members involved in the drone project would likely need

to be certified. It's not difficult to get a certification as a drone pilot. The College is considering implementing micro-credentials such as those people can get from learning Word and Excel, for example.

At the last All-Staff Meeting, Dr. Warner brought up an employee retreat in April. A guest visiting from IAIA offered their facility in Santa Fe for the retreat. The guest is going to find out more details and let us know. Hotel deals for the College would sweeten the deal. During this one-day retreat, Dr. Warner would like the staff to set enrollment targets, goals, and move the ARROW model across the College.

2.B. Provost's Report

Dr. Eutsey discussed how attending Tribal College Week was very inspiring. California Indian Nations Colleges received candidacy for an independent accreditation from Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). They have a faster process than HLC. Gila Community College in Globe also received accreditation through the ACCJC.

Dr. Eutsey talked about submitting a lengthy report to Freeport McMoRan regarding their funding of the College. She has also been working on implementing the IMLS library grant. The College has new ARPA funding for student support like "Better Mind."

Students will get stipends for attending the Indigenous Student Enhancement Program. Dr. Eutsey is very busy with the AIHEC student conference. Eight students to participate, four from last year and four new ones. Students and staff are traveling together. Dr. Eutsey is coaching the Critical Inquiry topic on boarding schools. She requested sources and resources related to boarding schools. One idea is to make a comparison between students in boarding schools historically and now. At AIHEC, students gain writing, speaking, organization, and teamwork skills. Mr. Mike Kim is helping students who are doing speeches. SCAC students will also compete in the Poetry Slam, business bowl, and web design. Regent Kerri Sangster said that the Heard Museum has many resources on their website.

Dr. Eutsey spoke about a water collection project that the Tribe's General Manager's Office may be pursuing. This could be a good project with the College.

Summer and Fall will schedules go live later in March.

The Freeport McMoRan report has been run through "True Impact", a Freeport effort. It involves reporting on 2023/2024 activities for the \$1 million. The College submits a yearly Community Impact Report to them.

Regent Sangster has helped the College find adjuncts such as the Tribal Member with a master's degree in Cybersecurity.

2.C. Interim Chief Financial Officer's Report

Mr. Moore went over the financial reports. RedW is working with the College to create new line items for the budget. The College has enough funds to run for 18 months, even if there is no new funding. It's hard to say how much longer the College will need to work with RedW; maybe about an extra year.

Dr. Eutsey will be working with a student from San Juan College's Higher Ed Finance degree who will assist the College.

The Tribe has assisted the College with the work of a repair/maintenance worker.

Item: Approval of Reports
Motion made by Regent Jessica Natsyn
Seconded by Regent Shirley Boni
Vote: 5 yes/0 no

MOTION APPROVED

3. NEW BUSINESS

3.A. Review of Bylaws Articles XI, XII, XIII and HLC Criterion 3

The group discussed suing in Article XII and Article XIII. Dr. Stevens explained the difference between Tribal law and federal law. The US deals with tribes using Tribal law. The Tribe can't be sued by the state of Arizona or a non-Tribal member. But if anyone does something against the Tribe's laws or Tribal members, they are in trouble. This information is from the book *American Indian Law in a Nutshell*. Dr. Stevens is teaching from this book currently. He discussed a case that the Tribe won in the Supreme Court because the Healthcare corporation was finding that hospital services rendered to non-tribal members weren't able to access monies from their health insurance companies.

The Board and its members cannot be sued. They are covered under the Tribe. The College's Charter/Articles of Incorporation was the first "legal" document for the College and allowed for the creation of the Bylaws. The Tribe has the authority to make certain changes to the College's Charter and Bylaws. An example is that the Indian Child Welfare Act was challenged two years ago under the Supreme Court; this had led many tribes to clarify their wording in their own constitutions and bylaws.

The Board can propose changes to the Bylaws and the Charter, and such changes will go before the Tribal Council for approval.

3.B. Review of Finance and Operations Policies and Procedures, pp. 1-6

The group discussed how the College handles Sole Source Justification, such as RedW or ACCT for presidential search.

3.C. Update on ACCT Government Leadership Institute Conference in Hawaii

The group decided to change the meeting time for the Board meeting to 3 pm on Sunday, March 16, 2025.

3.D. HLC Eligibility Board Filing

Chair Thompson asked the Board to complete two items each for the eligibility evidence for HLC. Dr. Stevens requested not to use Google Docs because he can't access it. Regents Shirley Boni and Kerri Sangster also had trouble with it.

Secretary Loreal Jones joined the meeting at 7:16 pm.

Dr. Eutsey discussed the item that the regents will be completing for HLC. The Board will be interviewed by HLC so that's why it's good for the regents to take some ownership in this process. Ms. Uhl will be sending out the HLC Board document via email to all regents; the deadline is the end of February.

Chair Thompson encouraged everyone to use their apachecollege.org email addresses.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

N/A

5. NEXT MEETINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

5.A. Next Regular Tribal Council Meeting – March 4, 2025.

5.B. Next SCAC Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents – Sunday, March 16, 2025, 3 pm, Hyatt Place Waikiki Beach.

Item: Adjournment of Regular Meeting at 7:29 pm

Motion made by Regent Jessica Natsyn

Seconded by Vice Chair Philip Stevens

Vote: 6 yes/0 no

MOTION APPROVED

Attachment

[Board Packet 2.19.2025](#)