

**San Carlos Apache College**  
**Board of Regents**  
 Regular Meeting Minutes  
 March 16, 2025 - 3:00 PM  
 Hyatt Place Waikiki Beach, Hawaii / Zoom

**1. OPENING ITEMS**

**1.A. The meeting was called to order at 3:16 pm.**

**1.B. Roll Call:**

Present	Absence		Attendance Time	Board of Regents
	Excused	Unexcused		
x			3:16 pm	Durena Thompson, Chair
x			3:16 pm	Loreal Jones, Secretary
x			3:16 pm	Isaiah Belknap, Regent
x			3:16 pm	Shirley Boni, Regent
x			3:16 pm	Philip Stevens, Vice Chair
x			3:20 pm	Jessica Natsyn, Regent
x			3:24 pm	Kerri Sangster, Regent
				<b>SCAC Staff</b>
x			3:16 pm	Dr. Linda Warner, President
x			3:16 pm	Dr. Lisa Eutsey, Provost
	x			Mr. Alfred Moore, Interim Chief Financial Officer
x			3:16 pm	Ms. Xina Uhl, Liaison to the Board of Regents
				<b>Other Participants</b>
				N/A
<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>Total Attending</b>

**1.C. Invocation by Chair Shirley Boni**

**1.D. Announcements**

Dr. Stevens said that the Cultivating Relationships grant appears to be a go; they have heard no news from the current presidential administration about reducing or canceling it.

Ms. Xina Uhl called the regents' attention to the bus's pick up tomorrow from 7:15 am - 7:25 am. The bus will depart promptly at 7:30 am.

**1.E. Public Comments Session**

There were no public comments.

**1.F. Approval of the Agenda**

Chair Thompson added Item 4.C. regarding why the College was in Executive Session before the Tribal Council to the agenda.

**Item:** Approval of Agenda  
**Motion** made by Regent Jessica Natsyn  
**Seconded** by Regent Isaiah Belknap  
**Vote:** 7 yes/0 no

**MOTION APPROVED**

**1.G. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**Item:** Approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes from 2/19/2025  
**Motion** made by Vice Chair Philip Stevens  
**Seconded** by Regent Jessica Natsyn  
**Vote:** 7 yes/0 no

**MOTION APPROVED**

**2. REPORTS**

**2.A. President's Report**

Dr. Warner reported that she and Dr. Eutsey are trying to merge their reports to reduce paper. Her report items appear in blue and Dr. Eutsey's are in black. She submitted a fairly large research proposal to the Spencer Foundation for adjunct faculty. She attended a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation retreat to learn about an upcoming solicitation for Native Ways of Knowing/Traditional Medicines. This call will be out in April. Dr. Warner is having staff create a list of major foundations that contribute in Indian Country. Someone is looking up the web pages for each of these foundations to determine what they fund, when, and whether SCAC has something that would work.

The Tribal Council "gave" San Carlos Technical Institute (SCTI) to the College. The College originally didn't want to use it for technical classes but Dr. Warner is reconsidering using this space for classrooms. In order for the College to move into the BIA building next door, it will have to pay a lot of money to make it usable. For instance, a new floor must be installed for between \$50,000 - \$100,000. The spaces are only really enough for offices, not classroom space. As the College grows there should be a community. SCTI might be used for this. It could house the Apache Institute and relieve a lot of the clutter currently on campus. One concern is that people like being "downtown" in San Carlos. The College's location downtown also allows it to interact a lot with the other departments of the Tribe. SCTI needs to be cleaned up so that it can be used since there are currently a lot of power tools and other equipment at the site.

Dr. Stevens said this item might fit better in another category in the ARROW report model.

Chair Thompson discussed the ASU plans for the new College at the airport, which depends on connections for a new road. Dr. Warner said that the College must be accredited before it can start a capital campaign.

Regent Belknap asked about the College's capital budget. A new campus would cost a minimum of \$20-25 million. How will that money be obtained, considering the current state of the government. He recommended sitting down and revisiting the College's Strategic Plan.

Regent Boni recommended establishing short range and long range plans. The long range plans will outlive the current members and current staff. She endorsed creating ad hoc committees like Regent Belknap mentioned previously, such as human resources, finances, and finance reports. The Board should support the president, not just talk but take action.

Chair Thompson agreed with Regent Boni.

Dr. Warner talked about how the upcoming all day all staff retreat will involve setting one year and three year goals. She is still debating on where the location will be and how much will be spend on it. Regent Sangster recommended IAIA in Santa Fe, NM.

Dr. Warner indicated the list of current positions. The budget needs to be finished by the end of June. She is also interviewing for the Director of Apache Institute. The College is hoping to have six or seven full-time faculty members by Fall. Dr. Eutsey is interviewing for the social work faculty and the biology position.

Regent Belknap asked Dr. Warner about the state of the government and funding cuts whether she sees an opportunity for the College to pick up people who have been let go from other institutions. The group also discussed the problems with employees finding housing in Globe and commuting from the Valley.

Dr. Warner explained that since the College hasn't been eligible for many of the grants that the other Tribal Colleges have it hasn't been negatively affected like the other colleges. She had hoped that the College could recruit from Haskell and SIPI, especially for a vice president position at a tribal college. So far this hasn't been the case.

Regent Jones said that the Board isn't aware about current college activities; she wants a weekly list emailed to her. Events are posted on the College website.

Regent Belknap asked for better communication from the president. He suggested adding Dr. Warner to the group text. He also encouraged the Board to support the president at Tribal Council meetings.

Dr. Warner reported that she hired a new webmaster who will start next week.

## **2.B. Provost's Report**

Dr. Eutsey talked about flying to the AIHEC conference with eight students and several staff members. Student Jason Slick came in third place in the website design competition. Mr. Slick has applied for the College's vacant student intern position. Dr. Eutsey coached a critical inquiry competition for four students on Indian Boarding Schools. The College's team did a great job on a 30 minute presentation. This involves lots of late nights and studying. The students came up with a written packet and gave a presentation in front of judges who asked questions. Other students participated in the poetry slam, speech competition, business bowl, traditional herbs and plants, and scientific poster and scientific oral presentation.

Registration opens tonight at midnight for Fall and Summer semesters.

She is communicating with Tribe about grant reimbursements. The College is anticipating its first reimbursement going back to October soon. The Tribe is supposed to reimburse the College within 30 days after the end of the quarter.

Regent Belknap asked whether the separation agreement between the Tribe and the College came to the Board and whether there was a resolution to solidify that action. Dr. Ahumada presented a resolution from the Board supporting the separation in 2022.

During April, staff will travel to Chicago for the HLC annual conference. There is a lot going on with the Department of Education. This will affect the College's Native American Language Resource Grant with the University of Arizona. Governor Hobbs' office reached out to the College about ARPA funds totaling about \$500k for the College. This is still in progress.

The College is waiting to hear about how its language center grant and the student grant through the Department of Energy will be affected by government cuts.

Dr. Eutsey discussed a meeting with Dr. Willem De Reuse for the development of one or more higher level Apache language courses. Dr. Stevens wants to know who owns these classes? Neither TOCC nor the College have a policy about this. Dr. Stevens wants to safeguard Tribal Intellectual Property. The College should develop an IRB Board prior to working with Dr. De Reuse. The full tribe should approve this.

Curriculum development is different from research. There is an issue of where that veers off and becomes primary research for an individual's financial benefit. The College's regular curriculum policy hasn't separated out different kinds of courses. Dr. Stevens suggests that culturally sensitive courses should be looked at and this layer should be added to the current curriculum development process. Dr. Warner supports looking into developing an Apache Cultural Committee.

Dr. Stevens described a situation he dealt with at University of Idaho in which a student recorded songs in class and then sold them. All non-Tribal members who are teaching Apache content should understand that this content cannot be sold and it is a Tribal Sovereignty issue.

The group decided to look at the curriculum development process at a future meeting.

The Department of Labor is aware that the College has taken WIOA over from the Tribe since the Tribe has struggled to meet reporting deadlines. Dr. Eutsey is having a meeting with the Tribe and the Department of Labor. The Tribe has not drawn down this grant money in over a year because the Tribe's numbers don't match with Department of Labor numbers.

Dr. Eutsey reported that the syllabus template is being reorganized around the ARROW model. Mr. Gerry Himmelreich is also revising the Student Handbook around the ARROW model.

Dr. Warner is having a meeting with Dr. Victoria Stevens about a Native American Teacher Retention Grant in Hawaii.

## **2.C. Interim Chief Financial Officer's Report**

Since Mr. Moore is not in attendance at the meeting, his financial reports will be tabled until the next meeting.

**Item:** Approval of Reports / Table Mr. Moore's Financial Reports (2.c)

**Motion** made by Regent Isaiah Belknap

**Seconded** by Vice President Philip Stevens

**Vote:** 7 yes/0 no

**MOTION APPROVED**

## **3. NEW BUSINESS**

### **3.A. Review of Bylaws Articles XIV, XV, XVI and HLC Criterion 4**

The group discussed indemnification in Article XIV. When the Regents act as a Board, they are protected. However, if Regents act as an individual, it's different. Changes to the Bylaws need approval by the Tribal Council because the Tribe chartered the College to begin with.

The College needs to issue a report to the council 120 days before the end of year.

Regarding HLC Criterion 4.B./4.C. The College needs to make a convincing argument to HLC that it meets the criterion as a whole. The College doesn't need to have all of the pieces, it just needs to be able to talk convincingly that it knows what it's doing. The main thing is that the College must be doing what it says it's doing. It is basically a quality assurance check.

Regent Belknap asked whether the candidates for the CFO position will be brought to the Board? The policies govern who the president can choose. Regent Belknap wants transparency for all of the candidates. Regarding the Director of the Apache Institute candidates, Dr. Warner let the group know that both candidates are San Carlos Apache College Tribal members.

### **3.B. Review of Finance and Operations Policies and Procedures, pp. 7-10**

The procedures piece of the operations manual is being worked on currently.

Regent Belknap explained that the Finance Committee at the hospital approves policies and then takes them to the whole Board for approval. This is usually done by a resolution for \$100,000 and up. Does College want to do this? The CFO should know this. Has Interim Finance Director Mr. Moore read through these?

Regent Belknap asked if the College is still contracting with RedW. Has RedW reviewed these Policies and Procedures? A CPA-qualified individual should serve as the CPA. The group decided to discuss these questions with the Interim CFO during the next meeting.

### **3.C. Update on Joint Meeting with TOCC**

During the last joint meeting, Dr. Robertson and Dr. Ahumada butted heads, and the Boards didn't get to interact with one another. This time, Chair Thompson would like to focus more on building relationships between the Boards.

Dr. Stevens can't attend on June 5th due to prior commitments; Regent Belknap is also unavailable during this date. The Draft Agenda Item 4. Cultural Exchange could be half an hour, not an hour. Items 5 and 6 can be combined. Interaction and collaboration should be stressed.

The Board should review the TOCC/SCAC Operating Agreement prior to the joint board meeting. The joint meeting could lay the foundation for renegotiating percentages of the funding SCAC provides to them, especially since the College has taken over many additional services. However, the joint meeting should only focus on fulfilling the Operating Agreement and creating an atmosphere of collegiality.

Ms. Xina Uhl will revise the agenda to include a night stay at the casino hotel prior to the joint meeting, and a tour of the college as well.

**Item:** The Board Removed "Better Mynd Contract Approval Request" from the Agenda and recategorized 3.D. as the 2025/2026 Academic Calendar approval request.

**Motion** made by Regent Isaiah Belknap

**Seconded** by Regent Loreal Jones

**Vote:** 7 yes/0 no

**MOTION APPROVED**

Dr. Eutsey will prepare the Better Mynd Contract Approval Request as an Action by Consent and it will be sent out to each Regent after the meeting.

**Item:** Add Item 3.D. “Approval for 2025/2026 Academic Calendar” to Agenda  
**Motion** made by Vice Chair Philip Stevens  
**Seconded** by Regent Jessica Natsyn  
**Vote:** 7 yes/0 no

**MOTION APPROVED**

**3.D. Calendar Approval Request**

The Board elected to approve the 2025/2026 Academic Calendar.

**Item:** Approve 2025/2026 Academic Calendar  
**Motion** made by Vice Chair Philip Stevens  
**Seconded** by Regent Kerri Sangster  
**Vote:** 7 yes/0 no

**MOTION APPROVED**

**Item:** Enter Executive Session at 6:07 pm  
**Motion** made by Vice Chair Philip Stevens  
**Seconded** by Regent Jessica Natsyn  
**Vote:** 7 yes/0 no

**MOTION APPROVED**

**4. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The minutes for the Executive Session are kept in a different, confidential file.

**Item:** Recess from Executive Session at 6:58 pm  
**Motion** made by Vice Chair Philip Stevens  
**Seconded** by Regent Jessica Natsyn  
**Vote:** 7 yes/0 no

**MOTION APPROVED**

**Item:** Reconvene Executive Session at 7:15 pm  
**Motion** made by Regent Isaiah Belknap  
**Seconded** by Regent Loreal Jones  
**Vote:** 6 yes/0 no

**MOTION APPROVED**

**Item:** Exit Executive Session at 7:49 pm  
**Motion** made by Vice Chair Philip Stevens  
**Seconded** by Regent Isaiah Belknap  
**Vote:** 7 yes/0 no

**MOTION APPROVED**

**5. NEXT MEETINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**5.A. Next Regular Tribal Council Meeting – April 1, 2025.**

**5.B. Next SCAC Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents – Tuesday, April 15, 2025**

**Item:** Adjournment of Regular Meeting at 7:51 pm  
**Motion** made by Regent Jessica Natsyn  
**Seconded** by Regent Isaiah Belknap  
**Vote:** 7 yes/0 no

**MOTION APPROVED**

Attachment

[Board Packet 3.16.2025](#)