



**EASTERN WYOMING COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, November 11, 2025
EWC Dolores Kaufman Board Room

Attendance

Present:

Members: Randy Adams, Bob Baumgartner, Doug Mercer, Katherine Patrick, Kurt Sittner, Jackie VanMark, and Rick Vonburg

Absent:

Members:

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman VanMark called the meeting to order at 5:52 pm

2. Approval of the Agenda

Chairman VanMark motioned to approve the Agenda as presented

Moved by: Bob Baumgartner

Seconded by: Rick Vonburg

Motion Carried

3. Approval of the Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting - Oct 14 2025 - Minutes.pdf

Chairman VanMark called to approve the Minutes from the October 14, 2025 meeting as presented

Moved by: Katherine Patrick

Seconded by: Doug Mercer

4. Introductions

5. Public Comment

6. Administrative Reports

VP Hansen presented data on student transfers from EWC to UW.

- Transfer rates to UW peaked in 2018 at 31 students and have since declined to around 20 students per year. The decline coincided with UW removing dedicated recruiters stationed at EWC.
- Agriculture is the most common major for EWC transfer students at UW.
- Students who transfer with 30-60 credit hours perform exceptionally well at UW with GPAs of 3.55-3.68. Students with lower credit hours do not carry GPAs as high.
- While persistence rates for EWC transfers are high (91-100%), graduation rates within 2 years at UW are only in the 30% range.

VP Hansen stated he felt the college needs to improve transfer education and advising to increase both transfer rates and graduation rates at UW and EWC should pursue dual admissions with UW similar to other community colleges.

VP Hansen reviewed enrollment data for Wyoming community colleges.

- Statewide community college enrollment has not returned to pre-COVID levels.
- Part-time enrollment is higher than in 2020, largely driven by dual enrollment students.
- EWC is up 3% in total FTEs this year, and 5% over the past two years combined.

VP Hansen stated the college needs to focus on growing full-time enrollment. A new strategic enrollment management committee has been formed to address this challenge.

VP Hansen presented a new AI-powered advising tool , Smart Plan being implemented at EWC.

- SmartPlan takes the knowledge of a well-trained advisor and automates the process.
- The tool shows completed courses, current courses, and plans future schedules for two years. Students can change their goals or majors and the system will automatically reroute their academic plan. The system can work around students' work schedules by automatically finding course sections that fit.
- Dr Hawes stated this will put EWC on the cutting edge as other colleges in the state are waiting and watching EWC make this implementation. The tool will change advising appointments from 55 minutes of picking courses to 5 minutes of picking courses and 55 minutes of meaningful advising.

Implementation is targeted for April 1st for in house trials, with full implementation for Fall semester 2026.

VP Hansen briefly discussed the potential development of a Bachelor's of Applied Science degree.

- The college has an opportunity to develop a thoughtful bachelor's degree program in Business, Agriculture or possibly Corrections.
- The program would need to be aligned with industry goals and business initiatives.
- A modular system with major-minor options is being considered.

The program could help retain more students in Torrington rather than having them transfer elsewhere. Input from the EWC Foundation, Go Goshen, and other stakeholders will be sought.

Financial Report: CFO Kwin Wilkes

CFO Wilkes presented the financial report for the college.

- The college has received \$7.5 million in revenue through September, which is 42% of the budgeted amount.
- The college has received \$5.5 million in state funds, about half of the annual allocation. Credit tuition revenue is at \$1.3 million out of \$3 million budgeted, similar to last year.
- The college has spent \$3.9 million, which is 21-22% of the budgeted amount.

- For the auxiliary fund (room and board), revenue is at \$1.1 million (58% of budget) and expenses at \$615,000 (31% of budget).
- The College has revenue and expenses tracking as expected.

President's Report: Dr. Jeffry Hawes

Dr. Hawes presented plans for developing rodeo and livestock facilities.

- The EWC Foundation has secured 10 acres of donated land for developing rodeo facilities.
- The project will require significant donor support as the college is not seeking bonding.
- The development will include boarding facilities for animals, which are critical for the rodeo program. The project will be implemented in phases, with boarding facilities as the first and top priority.

Dr Hawes explained that a steering committee had formed to explore options for the potential use of Goshen County Fairgrounds space for the college's needs. At this time the required options for EWC use are not financially feasible for Goshen County. He stated that the College will continue to partner with the Fairgrounds in many other ways. The partnership between EWC and the fairgrounds is vital to the fairgrounds financially and he will continue working with the steering committee.

7. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Chairman VanMark presented a motion to approve the Consent Agenda

Moved by: Randy Adams

Seconded by: Rick Vonburg

Motion Carried

- 7.1 Ratification of September 2025 Expenditure Report
BR #66.pdf

8. Board Approval of Action Items

- 8.1 Approval of CDL Program purchase of Semi Truck, not to exceed \$50,000.00, with funds provided from Workforce

Development

BR #67.pdf

Chairman VanMark presented a motion to approve purchase of a Semi Truck

Moved by: Bob Baumgartner

Seconded by: Katherine Patrick

Motion Carried

- 8.2 Approval of the resolution between EWC and EWC Foundation for the Rodeo and Livestock Facilities

Rodeo Facility Support Resolution.pdf

BR #68.pdf

Chairman VanMark presented a motion to approve the Resolution between EWC and EWC Foundation

Moved by: Rick Vonburg

Seconded by: Bob Baumgartner

Motion Carried

- 8.3 Approval of a Lease Agreement between EWC and EWC Foundation

BR #69.pdf

Chairman VanMark presented a motion to approve the Lease Agreement between EWC and EWC Foundation

Moved by: Katherine Patrick

Seconded by: Rick Vonburg

Motion Carried

- 8.4 Approval for direct negotiation for an Animal Science Trailer, not to exceed \$220,000.00, with funds provided by the WIP AG Grant and the John P. Ellbogen Foundation

BR #70.pdf

Chairman VanMark presented a motion to approve the negotiation of an Animal Science Trailer

Moved by: Rick Vonburg
Seconded by: Bob Baumgartner

Motion Carried

- 8.5 Approval to award RFP for Digital Anatomy Tables, not to exceed \$180,000.00, with funds provided by the WIP Nursing Grant
BR #71.pdf

Chairman VanMark presented a motion to approve the award to purchase Digital Anatomy Tables

Moved by: Katherine Patrick
Seconded by: Doug Mercer

Motion Carried

- 8.6 Approval for Student Services Fee increase
BR #72.pdf

Chairman VanMark presented a motion to approve the Student Services Fee increase

Moved by: Rick Vonburg
Seconded by: Katherine Patrick

Motion Carried

9. Department Reports

Student Services November Report.pdf

10. Trustee Topics

11. Executive Session

Recommended to move into Executive Session:

1. To consider or receive any information classified as confidential by law. See: (Wyo Stat §16-4-405 (a)(vii))

Chairman VanMark presented a motion to move into Executive Session at 7:43 pm

Moved by: Rick Vonburg

Seconded by: Bob Baumgartner

Motion Carried

Chairman VanMark put forth a motion for the addition of Advisor Jim Willox and Legal Representative Jordyn Surber to be included in the Executive Session.

Moved by: Katherine Patrick

Seconded by: Bob Baumgartner

Motion Carried

11.1

Chairman Vanmark presented a motion to move out of Executive Session at 8:13 pm


Moved by: Randy Adams

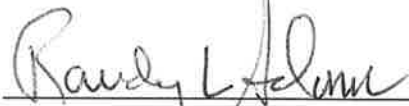
Seconded by: Katherine Patrick

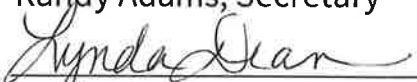
Motion Carried

12. Adjournment

Chairman VanMark called for adjournment at 8:14 pm


Jackie Van Mark, Chairman


Randy Adams, Secretary


Lynda Dean, Executive Assistant