



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

Tuesday, January 13, 2026
EWC Dolores Kaufman Board Room

Attendance

Present:

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

Absent:

Members:

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman VanMark called the meeting to order at 5:46 pm

2. Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Van Mark called for approval of the agenda as presented:

Moved by: Katherine Patrick

Seconded by: Rick Vonburg

Motion carried

The Motion carried with Trustee Mercer pointing out that he does not hold a Doctorate. Change made in meeting minutes.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting - Dec 09 2025 - Minutes.pdf

Chairman VanMark called for approval of the minutes from December 9, 2025 as presented:

Moved by: Randy Adams

4. Introductions

5. Public Comment

6. ACUE Faculty Development Program:

Vice President of Student and Academic Services John Hansen

Vice President of Student and Academic Services, John Hansen, presented the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) certification program as a strategic initiative to enhance teaching quality at Eastern Wyoming College (EWC). Following an 18-month evaluation of various systems, ACUE was selected for its research-based approach, which prioritizes effective teaching practices over basic course design.

The program requires an investment of \$90,000.00 for a two-year duration. The financial breakdown for the contract is as follows:

- A \$25,000 discount applies to the first year of the contract.
- The EWC Foundation has committed \$32,000.
- The first-year costs are largely covered by these sources; the remainder will be funded through Distance Learning and other departmental allocations.
- Following the two-year contract period, the cost for new faculty certification will be approximately \$2,200 per person.

VP Hansen emphasized that faculty "buy-in" is pivotal to the program's success. The initiative is already gaining momentum:

- Eight staff members have already enrolled for the inaugural training session.
- Dr. LeAnn Smith will lead the staff training efforts.
- Dr. Smith noted the program's goal is to transition faculty from being solely content experts to becoming experts in learning and teaching techniques.
- Dean of Academics Debbie Ochsner noted that ACUE training will be a requirement for new instructors moving forward. EWC will coordinate with Human Resources to determine the specific application of this requirement.
- Dr. Hawes highlighted that the program equips faculty to better assess student readiness and provide targeted instructional support.

7. Administrative Reports

President's Report:

Dr. Jeffry Hawes

Dr. Hawes presented updates in several areas to the board.

2026 Legislative Updates

- Joint Appropriations Committee: The committee is meeting from January 5–16; the WCCC and WACCT are actively advocating for community college interests.
- The Wyoming Legislature Budget Session is scheduled for February 9 through March 6.
- Dr. Hawes noted a strong legislative focus on Career and Technical Education (CTE) support, which is expected to benefit all academic programming.
- Dr. Hawes will be representing the Community Colleges at the Legislative sessions in Cheyenne from March 4–6 and will provide regular updates to the Board throughout the session.

Douglas Campus Expansion Project

- Dr. Hawes and Foundation Director Lisa Johnson met with Converse County Commissioners Short and Blackburn in December to coordinate on project goals.
- The Foundation will meet with top-tier donors on January 30 to begin the fundraising campaign. The objective is to secure \$224,000 in pledges by March 31, 2026, to qualify for state matching funds.
- Target start for non-credit programming (OSHA and MSHA training).
- August 2027 is the targeted start for credit-based curriculum, currently being developed in collaboration with Rob Hill at the University of Wyoming.
- Construction Progress: Advisor Jim Willox confirmed that foundations are poured. Rebar and cement work are scheduled for next week, and the project remains on track for a December 2026 completion.

Rodeo & Livestock Facility

- The EWC Foundation is conducting donor meetings throughout January.
- An ATEC Appreciation event is planned for February to update

donors on agriculture programs and introduce new fundraising campaigns.

- A gathering for alumni will be hosted during the College Rodeo in March.

Facility Master Plan & Infrastructure

- The Facility Master Plan must be updated by May 2026 for submission to the Wyoming Community College Commission. This is a prerequisite for future grants and improvement funding.
- Facilities Director Tom Popilek has identified \$5–6 million in necessary renovations across campus. Recent urgent issues include water and sewer line breaks and wind-related roof damage to the gymnasium.
- The Rodeo Facilities will need to be included in the update of the Facilities Master Plan.

Upcoming Projects:

- Fine Arts Center: Electrical gear installation is scheduled for post-graduation in May, requiring a partial campus shutdown.
- LED lighting upgrades are ongoing campus-wide.
- The college is preparing a major maintenance request that may exceed the standard annual allocation. VP Patrick Korell will provide further details at future meetings.

Board Governance

- Dr. Hawes spoke to transitioning Board of Trustee Work Sessions from a monthly to a quarterly schedule, citing the college's progress and its successful removal from HCM2 status.

Financial Report:

Chief Financial Officer Kwin Wilkes

Chief Financial Officer Kwin Wilkes presented the financial status of the college as of November 30, 2025.

- Fund 10 (Operational) revenue is at \$9,643,058 (54% of budget), similar to last year's figure. Fund 10 expenditures are at \$6,728,195 (38% of budget).
- Fund 12 (Auxiliary) revenue is at \$1,917,283 (97% of budget), higher than expected due to increases in room and board fees. Fund 12 expenditures are at \$751,164 (38% of budget).
- Trustee Mercer inquired about the line items in the check register for UMB credit cards. CFO Wilkes explained that these are now coming through as single charges in the new procurement

system, instead of once a month bulk sums at statement time. CFO Wilkes confirmed the College remains on schedule for the College's outstanding Bond obligations payoff timeline.

- Dr. Hawes noted that a potential legislative decrease in property tax revenue might offer an extension to the payoff due date.
- Trustee Patrick inquired if paying the bonds off early had any advantage to the College.
- Chairman VanMark noted that retiring the debt early would strengthen the College's position for future bonding requests, though she expressed concern that reduced property tax revenue could impact future projects.
- Advisor Willox noted that paying off bonds early may not be financially advantageous due to the favorable interest rates.

8. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Chairman VanMark called for approval of the Consent Agenda:

Moved by: Rick Vonburg

Seconded by: Bob Baumgartner

Motion Carried

8.1 Ratification of Expenditure Report:
Board of Trustee Meeting Section 7
BR #82.pdf

8.2 Ratification of Financial Aid Managed Services with Ferrilli:
BR #83.pdf

9. Board Approval of Action Items

9.1 Approval of Budget Encumbrance for Ferrilli's Flexpert and Core System contracts through June 2026:
BR #84.pdf
BR #85.pdf

Chairman VanMark called for approval of Budget Encumbrance for Ferrilli's Flexpert and Core System contracts through June 2026:

Moved by: Bob Baumgartner

Seconded by: Doug Mercer

Motion Carried

- 9.2 Approval of ACUE Program Purchase:
Board of Trustees Meeting Section 6.1
BR #86.pdf

Chairman VanMark called for approval of ACUE Program Purchase:

Moved by: Rick Vonburg

Seconded by: Katherine Patrick

Motion Carried

Trustees had concerns prior to the vote:

- **Contract Duration:** In response to Trustee Baumgartner's inquiry regarding the potential for a perpetual agreement, VP Hansen confirmed that the contract is not perpetual.
- **Funding Sources:** Advisor Willox requested clarification on the origin of the funds; VP Hansen provided a detailed breakdown of the funding sources.
- **Post-Expiration Strategy:** Trustee Sittner questioned the procedure following the expiration of the initial two-year contract. VP Hansen explained that the college intends to transition to "at-will" training for post contract positions.
- **Concurrent Positions:** Trustee Patrick inquired whether the training would apply to concurrent roles. VP Hansen clarified how the program will benefit individuals in those positions.

- 9.3 Approval of the purchase a Noelle S575.100 medium skin toned labor and delivery simulator, and newborn Tory S2210 medium skin tone wireless full-term neonate simulator package, to be paid with funds from Perkins 5 Grant, Perkins Cutting Edge, EWC Foundation, and Nursing Program, not to exceed \$63,000.00:

BR #87.pdf

Chairman VanMark called for approval of the purchase a Noelle S575.100 medium skin toned labor and delivery simulator, and newborn Tory S2210 medium skin tone wireless full-term neonate simulator package, to be paid with funds from Perkins 5 Grant, Perkins Cutting Edge, EWC Foundation, and Nursing Program, not to exceed \$63,000.00:

Moved by: Randy Adams

Seconded by: Katherine Patrick

Motion Carried

10. Annual Appointments of Officers for WACCT Board 2026

Appointment of two Trustees to the WACCT (Wyoming Association of Community College Trustees):

Current appointees are

Trustee Doug Mercer

Trustee Katherine Patrick.

Motion called for by Chairman VanMark to have Trustees Doug Mercer and Katherine Patrick continue as the WACCT representatives:

Moved by: Bob Baumgartner

Seconded by: Rick Vonburg

Motion Carried

11. Department Reports

11.1 Student Services Report

12. Trustee Topics

Trustee Patrick inquired who would be the Program Manager of the Construction Trades expansion at the Douglas campus. Advisor Jim Willox asserted that he has taken on this role. He spoke to the progress and the current weather assisting in meeting the finish deadline of December 2026, with move in January 2027.

The National Fortnite trophy recently won by the E-sports team was shared to the board.

13. Adjournment

Chairman VanMark called to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 pm.

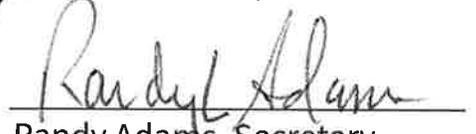
Moved by: Rick Vonburg

Seconded by: Randy Adams

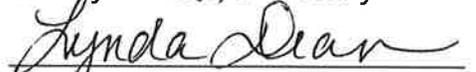
Motion Carried, meeting adjourned.



Jackie Van Mark, Chairman



Randy Adams, Secretary



Lynda Dean, Executive
Assistant