



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monday, February 16, 2026 - 4:30 PM - Burns Hall Third Floor Boardroom

### AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Recognition, Awards, and Informational Items**
  - 3.1 Arkansas State Board of Nursing Certificate
- 4. Attendance**
- 5. Minutes**
  - 5.1 Annual Board Meeting – January 12, 2026  
ACTION - Approval of January 12, 2026 Annual Minutes
  - 5.2 Regular Board Meeting – January 12, 2026  
ACTION - Approval of January 12, 2026 Regular Minutes
- 6. ENDS Monitoring Report**
  - 6.1 E-102: Sabbatical Presentation (Dr. Sevin Gallo)  
ACTION - Approval of E-102

**7. Executive Limitations Monitoring Report**

- 7.1 EL-200: Executive Constraint  
ACTION - Approval of EL-200

**8. Committee Reports**

- 8.1 Finance Committee (Amber Latimer)  
ACTION - Approval of FY2027 Tuition and Fee Adjustment  
ACTION - Accept FY2024 Audit

**9. Presidential Report**

- 9.1 Enrollment Update
- 9.2 Facilities Update
- 9.3 ACCT Summit Recap

**10. Student Government President Update**

- 10.1 SGA Updates

**11. Chair Report**

- 11.1 ACCT Summit Recap
- 11.2 March Board Retreat
- 11.3 March Executive Session: President's Regular Annual  
Performance Evaluation, Part 1

**12. Other Board Action Items and Considerations**

**13. Adjourn**

Please see the Board of Trustees Calendar of Upcoming Events document in the binder's front pocket for Upcoming events.

**NORTHWEST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETING  
Monday, January 12, 2026**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Todd Schwartz (Chair), Amber Latimer (Vice Chair), Mary Schneider (Secretary), Ashley Pointer, Lori Frank, Rachel Harris, Ron Branscum, Mark Scott, and Joe Spivey

**Also in Attendance:** Dr. Dennis C. Rittle, Fernanda Sanchez

**1. Call to Order**

*The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.*

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Attendance**

**4. Sign Oaths of Ethics**

**5. Approval of Official Meeting Dates for 2026:**

February 16\*

March 9

April 13

May 11

June 8

August 3\*\*

September 14

October 5\*\*\*

November 9

**ACTION:** Approval of Official Meeting Dates for 2026

**Passed Unanimously**

*Mr. Spivey motioned and Ms. Frank seconded the motion to approve the official meeting dates for 2026.*

**6. Adjourn**

*The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 pm.*

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Mr. Todd Schwartz, Chair

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Mrs. Mary Schneider, Secretary

**NORTHWEST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETING  
Monday, January 12, 2026 - Immediately Following Annual Meeting - Burns  
Hall Third Floor Boardroom**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Todd Schwartz (Chair), Amber Latimer (Vice Chair), Mary Schneider (Secretary), Ashley Pointer, Lori Frank, Rachel Harris, Ron Branscum, Mark Scott, and Joe Spivey

**Also in Attendance:** Dr. Dennis C. Rittle, Fernanda Sanchez

**1. Call to Order**

*The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm.*

**2. Recognition, Awards, and Informational Items**

*None*

**3. Attendance**

**4. Minutes**

- 4.1 Regular Board Meeting – November 10, 2025  
ACTION - Approval of November 10, 2025 Minutes

**Passed Unanimously**

*Mr. Scott motioned and Ms. Frank seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on November 10, 2025.*

**5. ENDS Monitoring Report**

- 5.1 E-103: Expansion of Instructional Support (Dr. Diana Johnson)

*Diana Johnson shared with the Board that a new initiative has been put into motion to restructure positions in academics. The proposal is to hire Associate Deans to take on the bulk of the administrative load, which will allow faculty to spend more time teaching classes.*

*The budget is still being finalized to put this into place. The Board asked who was doing the administrative work before. Dr. Johnson answered that faculty was performing the administrative tasks using their faculty release time.*

ACTION - Approval of E-103

**Passed Unanimously**

*Mr. Branscum motioned and Mr. Scott seconded the motion to approve the ENDS-103 Monitoring Report.*

**6. Executive Limitations Monitoring Report**

- 6.1 EL-204: Treatment of Staff  
ACTION - Approval of EL-204

**Passed Unanimously**

*Mr. Branscum motioned and Mr. Scott seconded the motion to approve the Executive Limitations Monitoring Report.*

**7. Committee Reports**

- 7.1 Finance Committee (Amber Latimer)  
*Amber Latimer informed the Board that the Finance Committee met to review Tuition and Fee information for FY27. The committee reviewed budget planning and revenue projections and considered potential increase models to keep up with inflation. The committee was informed that the priorities for the FY27 budget include COLA for employees, faculty/adjunct pay adjustments, and deferred maintenance needs.*

## **8. Presidential Report**

### **8.1 Enrollment Update**

*Dr. Rittle shared with the Board that enrollment headcount and SSCH is in a better spot this year than last year. Enrollment slowed in December, but picked back up over the Holiday break. He passed to Dr. Justin White who shared that NWACC has achieved the enrollment needed to revenue. This semester saw record-breaking enrollment for concurrent students. Enrollment for later starting classes are still ongoing.*

### **8.2 Facilities Update**

*Dr. Rittle shared that contractors are on campus inspecting the damage from the Memorial Day 2024 tornado. Housing Committee is continuing to meet and explore options with hopes to share with the Board at the March Retreat.*

### **8.3 Personnel Update**

*Dr. Rittle shared that the SVP of Enterprise Relations search is still ongoing.*

## **9. Student Government President Report**

### **9.1 SGA Updates**

*SGA working with Student Life to welcome students back to class. They'll be giving out new school supplies and meeting students.*

## **10. Chair Report**

### **10.1 ADHE Trustees Conference Little Rock Takeaways**

*Mr. Schwartz asked the Trustees who attended the ADHE Trustees Conference to share their key takeaways. Ms. Frank shared that topics shared at the event included the many avenues to success for*

*students, additional revenue sources, AI in higher education, and athletics. She recommended that the Board be informed of and engaged in athletic events on campus.*

*Mr. Spivey shared that he learned about AI and its uses in higher education. He learned that opportunities to access and fund college for students is far more accessible now than ever before.*

10.2 Statement of Financial Interest

*Deadline to submit to Sammantha is Friday, January 23.*

10.3 Committee Chair Appointments

*Todd provided a list of Board Member committee appointments for 2026.*

**11. Other Board Action Items and Considerations**

*None*

**12. Adjourn**

*The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 pm.*

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Mr. Todd Schwartz, Chair

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Mrs. Mary Schneider, Secretary

**POLICY TITLE: GLOBAL EXECUTIVE CONSTRAINT**

**Policy 200:** The President shall not cause or allow any practice, activity, decisions, or organizational circumstance, which is either unlawful, imprudent or in violation of commonly accepted business and professional ethics or Board of Trustee policy.

**Definition:** Practice or activity refers to events of the college. These events cannot violate law or NWACC's Ends and Executive Limitations.

**Organizational circumstance** refers to any event occurring that involves the college.

**Unlawful** refers to violation of local, federal, and state statutes.

**Imprudent** refers to actions taken without regard to outcome or consequential results to the college.

**Commonly accepted business and professional ethics** refers to truthfulness and avoidance of conflicts of interests.

**Narrative:** NWACC elects to be audited by the Division of Legislative audit. The result of tests performed during the 2024 financial audit disclosed an audit finding. This finding affected the College's reported total net position to be understated on June 30, 2024, by \$307,550 This finding also affected the College's reported Statement of non-operating Revenues to be overstated by \$1,769,236. The financial statements were subsequently corrected by college personnel during audit fieldwork. The audit finding was presented to the Board of Trustees at the February 2025 board meeting.

The 2025 financial audit has not yet begun; therefore, no reporting has been presented for the 2025 financial audit period. As an approved Title IV granting institution, NWACC's federal financial aid program is monitored through internal local controls, the Arkansas Department of Legislative Audit, and the Department of Education. NWACC underwent an ERP system change from Banner to Workday, Phase I was completed during 2020, Phase II started Fall 2021 and completed December 2023, however configuration adjustments and issues regarding implementation and integration are still being identified and corrected.

I am reporting compliance with Executive Limitations, Policy 200.

Dennis C Rittle, Ph.D.  
President