

# Graham County Community College District

## Regular Governing Board Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2024 – 1:00 p.m.  
Student Services Building - District Governing Board Room – 244

Roll Call: Present: Jeff Larson, Chair  
Brad Montierth, Secretary  
Richard W. Mattice, Member  
Lois Ann Moody, Member  
Tina McMaster, Member

Absent: None

Also Present: Todd Haynie, President; Heston Welker, Vice President of Administration; Susan Wood, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs; Phil McBride, Senior Dean of Gila County Campuses; Laurie Pennington, Director of Enterprise Risk Management; Kenny Smith, Dean of Student Services; Nathan Smith, Director of Budgets and Purchasing; David Udall, Executive Director of the Foundation; Gary Sorensen, Dean of Students; Pete Chidester, Dean of Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences; Kevin Peck, Dean of Business, Computers, & ITE; Keith Alexander, Chief Government Affairs Officer; Pam Woods, Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs; Aaron Westerfield, Director of Accreditation and Effectiveness; Kris McBride, Director of Marketing and Public Relations; Lori Abd El Mottelb, Associate Director of Marketing and Public Relations; Sophia Saldana, Marketing Assistant; Aaron Burk, Dean of STEM; Craig O'Donnal, Director of Support Services and Learning Technology, Information Resources; Jodi Keim, Recording Secretary.

Call to Order: Chair Larson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Those present at the meeting stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests: Chair Larson welcomed all in attendance. Guests included Vince Kieffer, Dan Curtis, Becky Johnson, and Mark Herrington. Also present were Valerie Mattice, Margo Mattice, Jennifer Mattice Stratton, Brandt Mattice, and their families.

Call to The Public: There were no comments from the public.

Minutes: Mrs. Moody moved, and Dr. Montierth seconded, to accept the recorded minutes of the Special and Regular meetings from October 10, 2024. The motion passed unanimously with McMaster, Moody, Mattice, Montierth, and Larson voting in favor. (Minutes attached and made part of the official minutes.)

Vouchers/  
Financial Reports: Vice President Welker presented Financial Reports for the period of July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024. An individual synopsis of all funds was presented. (Financial Reports attached and made part of the official minutes.)

Mrs. McMaster moved, and Mrs. Moody seconded, to accept the following vouchers:

	<u>PAYROLL</u>		<u>EXPENSE</u>
#P1	\$3,713,717.27	#1	\$2,472,481.64

The motion passed unanimously with McMaster, Moody, Mattice, Montierth, and Larson voting in favor.

### Reports

Greenlee County Advisory  
Committee:

Report attached and made part of the official minutes. Mr. Alexander also noted that the next Greenlee County Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 7, 2025.



Gila County: Report attached and made part of the official minutes. Senior Dean McBride expressed his appreciation and congratulations to Board Member Ric Mattice for his dedicated service and support over the past 50 years.

Foundation/Alumni: Report attached and made part of the official minutes.

### **Old Business**

2025-2028 Academic Calendars: Vice President Wood presented the 2025-2028 Academic Calendars for adoption. (Report attached and made part of the official minutes.)

Dr. Montierth moved, and Mrs. McMaster seconded, to adopt the 2025-2028 Academic Calendars. The motion passed unanimously with McMaster, Moody, Mattice, Montierth, and Larson voting in favor.

### **New Business**

There were no New Business items presented for consideration.

### **Standing Business**

Courses/Curricula: Vice President Wood presented four new course proposals, two course modifications, and one curriculum modification for consideration. (Report attached and made part of the official minutes.)

Mr. Mattice moved, and Mrs. Moody seconded, to approve the courses and curricula as presented. The motion passed unanimously with McMaster, Moody, Mattice, Montierth, and Larson voting in favor.

Contracts: There were no contracts presented for consideration.

Policy & Regulations: There were no policies or regulations presented for consideration.

Personnel: President Haynie provided an update on personnel openings. (Report attached and made part of the official minutes.)

Consider Out-of-Country Travel: President Haynie presented out-of-country travel for consideration by the Board. (Report attached and made part of the official minutes.)

Mrs. Moody moved, and Mr. Mattice seconded, to approve the out-of-country travel as presented. The motion passed unanimously with McMaster, Moody, Mattice, Montierth, and Larson voting in favor.

### **General Information**

Chair Larson announced that the next District Governing Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

As permitted by A.R.S. §38-431.02(K), President Haynie provided a brief update on current events. He stated that Eastern Arizona College is a fantastic place to be—a great place to be a student, staff and faculty member, and board member. Enrollment is looking strong for the upcoming spring semester, with a current 10% increase year over year from spring to spring.

Our Women's volleyball team is currently in Tennessee for nationals and will be playing tomorrow, November 20th, against Miami-Dade College. We are proud and excited for them.

The College will be closed next week, Wednesday, November 27-29, 2024, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

President Haynie honored current and former board members by unveiling a new wall display featuring the names of everyone who has served on the EAC District Governing Board, including Mr. Ric Mattice.

In recognition of Mr. Richard Mattice's final board meeting after 50 years of dedicated service, and in honor of his remarkable contributions, President Haynie shared the following:



“I would like to take the time as President to comment on a remarkable individual whose service has shaped the very heart of our community. His vision and leadership on this board have ensured the growth and prosperity of Eastern Arizona College for decades. Serving fifty years on a governing board is an extraordinary achievement, one that is rare even in the most dedicated public service careers. In fact, when Ric first joined the Graham County Community College District Governing Board in 1974, I was just three years old. For perspective, Richard Nixon had just resigned from office, and Gerald Ford had just taken the oath of office. This speaks to the incredible length and depth of Ric’s commitment to this institution and this community. When you do the math, Ric has been part of EAC’s story for more than 1/3 of the College’s 136-year history. His contributions have helped guide the College through periods of profound change and growth, playing a key role in shaping the College that we know today.

When Ric joined the Board, EAC was facing severe financial challenges. The College had less than ten days of working capital, a campus in dire need of renovation, and a community that was justifiably concerned about its future. During this difficult time, Ric and the other board members decided that EAC needed a lifeline. They set out to secure the funding and leadership necessary for the College’s survival and long-term success. Securing state funding remains one of his most lasting legacies.

Ric’s contributions go far beyond financial strategies. His leadership helped guide EAC through transformative moments, including a critical decision to appoint a new president, Gherald L. Hoopes, Jr., in 1984. That decision, while controversial at the time, proved pivotal in EAC’s financial recovery and long-term success. Ric’s leadership transformed EAC into the first debt-free community college in Arizona, which is a rare and significant achievement. Under his stewardship, the College grew from a struggling institution into the thriving, modern community college we are blessed with today.

His vision has shaped not only the financial health of the College but also the campus itself—from investments in student services, academic programs, and residence halls to enhancing the beauty of our grounds. Ric has always understood that the College’s strength lies in a vibrant campus culture: one that supports student success, fosters community engagement, and prepares students for a bright future.

Now, fifty years later, with our expenditure limitation reset with a margin of 80% passing, Eastern Arizona College continues its legacy of tremendous community support and is once again positioned for success for at least another generation. Ric can say he has witnessed the rebirth of this institution more than once—that’s a tremendous legacy.

Ric’s service has been defined by integrity, foresight, and an unwavering commitment to this community. His leadership has not only transformed Eastern Arizona College but has empowered our entire region economically, educationally, and socially. Ric, your legacy is one of dedication, perseverance, and love for this College. You have left an indelible mark on this institution, and for that, we are all deeply grateful. As we look to the future of this College, we know that your work, your vision, and your commitment will continue to inspire us all. As EAC’s twenty-first President, I will always be grateful for your friendship and support. It is the support of board members like Ric Mattice that makes this College the best college in the country.”

Following this, President Haynie, the Board, and all those in attendance watched a commemorative video produced by EAC’s talented Marketing Department, after which Ric was presented with a plaque in recognition of his extraordinary years of service.

**Adjournment**

Dr. Montierth moved, and Mrs. Moody seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with McMaster, Moody, Mattice, Montierth, and Larson voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 1:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jodi Keim

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Jodi Keim  
Recording Secretary

Attest:



/s/ Jeff Larson

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Jeff Larson, Chair

/s/ Brad Montierth

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Brad Montierth, Secretary

