

# Graham County Community College District

## Regular Governing Board Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.  
Student Services Building - District Governing Board Room – 244

Roll Call: Present: Jeff Larson, Chair  
Brad Montierth, Secretary  
Lois Ann Moody, Member  
Tina McMaster, Member  
Vince Kieffer, Member

Absent: None

Also Present: Todd Haynie, President; Heston Welker, Vice President of Administration; Susan Wood, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs; Kris McBride, Director of Marketing and Public Relations; Keith Alexander, Chief Government Affairs Officer; Craig O'Donnal, Director of Support Services and Learning Technology, Information Resources; Gary Sorensen, Dean of Students; Aaron Burk, Dean of STEM and Allied Health; Pete Chidester, Dean of Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences; Joel Robinson, Director of Small Business Development Center; Vard Jensen, ASEAC President; Regan Palmer, ASEAC Executive Assistant; Leah Wren, ASEAC Secretary; Ethan Lauer, ASEAC Vice President; David Udall, Executive Director of the Foundation; Kevin Peck, Dean of Business, Computers, & ITE; Nathan Smith, Director of Budgets and Purchasing; Travis Catt, Professor of Social Sciences; EAC SOC 201: Social Problems class students—Joseph Boswell, Melissa Crookston, Samantha Ferreira, Marshall Gilbert, Stacie Gore, London Lee, Meya Lopez, Britni Martin, Skyanne Penrod, Kennedi Raines, and Aurelia Smith; Jodi Keim, Executive Assistant to the President and District Governing Board/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 attendees, including Eastern Arizona College students and Associated Students of Eastern Arizona College (ASEAC) officers (listed under “Also Present”).

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

Minutes: Mrs. Moody moved, and Dr. Montierth seconded, to approve the recorded minutes of the Regular meeting held on January 15, 2026. The motion passed unanimously with Kieffer, McMaster, Moody, Montierth, and Larson voting in favor. (Minutes attached and incorporated into the official record.)

Financial Vouchers: Vice President Welker presented the Expense and Payroll Vouchers for the period of December 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025.

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

<u>PAYROLL</u>		<u>EXPENSE</u>	
December	\$3,591,696.60	December	\$3,245,797.86

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



## **Reports**

Greenlee County Advisory  
Committee:

The report is attached and incorporated into the official minutes.

Foundation/Alumni:

The report is attached and incorporated into the official minutes.

Special Report: National  
Legislative Summit -  
Student Presentation:

President Haynie reported that the National Legislative Summit, sponsored by the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), was held in Washington, D.C. from February 8–11, 2026. Attendees included President Haynie; Chairman Jeff Larson; Board Members Tina McMaster, Vince Kieffer, and Brad Montierth; Dean Gary Sorensen; Chief Government Affairs Officer Keith Alexander; and four EAC student representatives: Vard Jensen, Ethan Lauer, Regan Palmer, and Leah Morris.

During the summit, the group met with members of Congress, including Juan Ciscomani, Eli Crane, and Andy Biggs, as well as a staff member from the office of Paul Gosar. President Haynie stated that the meetings were productive and that legislators and their staff expressed appreciation for hearing directly from students.

Dr. Gary Sorensen introduced the student representatives, who presented a PowerPoint highlighting their experiences at the summit. The students expressed gratitude to President Haynie and the District Governing Board for the opportunity to attend. Board members commented on how well-prepared the student leaders were and how effectively they represented EAC. President Haynie commended Dr. Sorensen and Mr. Alexander for their preparation and coordination, which contributed to the success of the trip. He added that the College was well represented by both its students and administration.

## **Old Business**

There were no Old Business items presented for consideration.

## **New Business**

Preliminary 2026-2027  
Budget, Tuition and Fee  
Information:

Vice President Welker provided a preliminary update on the 2026–2027 budget, reviewing the guidelines and timeline. He noted that the Board will be asked in May to approve publication of the proposed budget in advance of the public budget hearing in June. No formal action on the 2026–2027 budget was required at this time.

Vice President Welker also presented the preliminary 2026–2027 Tuition and Fee Schedule, including tuition comparisons for all Arizona community colleges. The Facility Rental and Fee Schedule was reviewed as well. The Board is scheduled to consider adoption of the 2026–2027 Tuition and Fee Schedule in March, with an effective date of July 1, 2026. No formal action was required at this time. (Report attached and incorporated into the official minutes.)

2026-2027 FTSE  
Projections:

Vice President Welker presented the Full Time Student Equivalent (FTSE) counts used to calculate the District's 2026-2027 expenditure limit capacity. (Report attached and made part of the official minutes.)

Dr. Montierth moved, and Mrs. Moody seconded, to approve the District's 2026-2027 Full Time Student Equivalent Calculations. The motion passed unanimously, with Kieffer, McMaster, Moody, Montierth, and Larson voting in favor.

## **Standing Business**

Courses/Curricula:



Vice President Wood presented six new course proposals for the Board's consideration. (Report attached and incorporated into the official minutes.)

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

Contracts: There were no contracts presented for consideration.

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

Personnel: President Haynie provided an update to the Board on personnel. (Report attached and incorporated into the official minutes.)

**General Information**

Chair Larson announced that the next District Governing Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

As permitted by A.R.S. §38-431.02(K), President Haynie provided a brief summary of current events and updates:

- President Haynie reported that the Association of Community College Trustees National Legislative Summit he recently attended was a successful trip. He noted the value of taking students and governing board members to connect with legislators and shared that, as Mr. Kieffer mentioned, the College maintains a strong reputation both statewide and nationally. He stated that participation in this summit helps strengthen that reputation.
- He shared that there are currently 196 declared majors in the Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences and 33 declared majors in the Bachelor of Music Education. He expressed enthusiasm about the College's newly approved bachelor's degrees coming online and noted that the College will pause pursuing additional bachelor's degrees until the success of the current programs is ensured. He added that enrollment numbers for the existing bachelor's degrees are very positive.
- He reported that EAC Athletics is performing well. Women's basketball is currently ranked number one in the nation. Men's basketball is second in the ACCAC conference. Baseball has a winning record, is on a six-game winning streak, and is third in the conference. He expressed pride in the accomplishments of the College's athletic teams.
- Lastly, President Haynie shared that he recently received Representative Juan Ciscomani's newsletter, which highlighted EAC women's basketball and their national ranking as number one.

**Adjournment**

Dr. Montierth moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mrs. Moody seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Kieffer, McMaster, Moody, Montierth, and Larson voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 1:53 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

