

# Graham County Community College District

## Regular Governing Board Meeting Minutes

April 9, 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

Absent: Tina McMaster, Member  
Vince Kieffer, Member

Also Present: Todd Haynie, President; Heston Welker, Vice President of Administration; Susan Wood, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs; Aaron Westerfield, Director of Accreditation and Effectiveness; Kenny Smith, Dean of Student Services; Keith Alexander, Chief Government Affairs Officer; Craig O'Donnal, Director of Support Services and Learning Technology, Information Resources; Gary Sorensen, Dean of Students; Pete Chidester, Dean of Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences; Kevin Peck, Dean of Business, Computers, & ITE; Nathan Smith, Director of Budgets and Purchasing; Angelica de Paulo, Head Women's Basketball Coach; Christopher Corona, Assistant Women's Basketball Coach; Paul DeMuth, Athletic Director; Sophia Saldana, Marketing and Public Relations Assistant; Travis Catt, Professor of Social Sciences and President of Faculty Association; Cliff Thompson, Associate Professor of Math; Kris McBride, Director of Marketing and Public Relations; Aaron Burk, Dean of STEM and Allied Health; 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. Guests included Eric Bejarano, Safford City Manager; Susan Bernstein, Eastern Arizona College student and community member; and members of the Eastern Arizona College Women's Basketball Team.

Call to The Public: Ms. Susan Bernstein addressed the Board and expressed concerns regarding the new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system that Eastern Arizona College has adopted. She noted that the system has been difficult to navigate, resulting in registration issues; however, she stated that working with Dean Kenny Smith has been a positive experience. Ms. Bernstein encouraged further refinement of the system to make it more user-friendly for students.

Minutes: Mrs. Moody moved, and Dr. Montierth seconded, to approve the recorded minutes of the Regular and Executive Session meetings held on March 12, 2026. The motion passed unanimously, with Moody, Montierth, and Larson voting in favor. (Minutes are attached and incorporated into the official record.)

Financial Vouchers: Vice President Welker presented the Expense and Payroll Vouchers for the period of February 1, 2026, through February 28, 2026.

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

<u>PAYROLL</u>		<u>EXPENSE</u>	
February	\$2,675,384.75	February	\$3,308,593.04

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

### Reports



EAC Women's Basketball  
Special Report:

Angelica de Paulo, Head Women's Basketball Coach, and Christopher Corona, Assistant Women's Basketball Coach, along with members of the Eastern Arizona College Women's Basketball Team, were in attendance. President Haynie recognized the team for earning the program's first NJCAA Division I National Championship on March 31, 2026. It was also noted that the NJCAA announced today that Angelica de Paulo was named the 2026 NJCAA Division I Women's Basketball Coach of the Year. President Haynie and Chair Larson praised the talent of the team, and Coach de Paulo expressed appreciation for the support they received.

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.

Faculty Association  
Special Report:

Travis Catt, President of the Faculty Association, provided an update on the Association's 2025-2026 goals and activities, emphasizing faculty support, student success, and community engagement. The Faculty Association raised \$200 for student scholarships through a student-versus-faculty softball game and concluded a leadership development series.

Mr. Catt announced the incoming 2026-2027 Faculty Association officers: President Adam Bingham; Vice President/President-Elect Jennifer Williams; Treasurer Bern Mulvey; Secretary Mary Ann Larson; and Technology Representative Dr. Jacob Lauritzen. He also reported that the Faculty Association did not submit a separate remuneration proposal this year and endorsed the Administration's proposal developed in collaboration with Vice President Welker.

### **Old Business**

Preliminary 2026-2027  
Budget Information:

Vice President Welker presented an overview of the preliminary 2026-2027 District Budget in preparation for next month's budget approval. No formal action on the 2026-2027 Budget was requested at this time. (Report attached and made part of the official minutes.)

### **New Business**

2026-2027 ASEAC Budget:

Vice President Welker presented the 2026-2027 Associated Students of Eastern Arizona College (ASEAC) Budget for approval. The budget supports our student governing body, clubs, and organizations. (Report attached and made part of the official minutes.)

Mrs. Moody moved, and Dr. Montierth seconded, to approve the 2026-2027 ASEAC Budget as presented. The motion passed unanimously with Moody, Montierth, and Larson voting in favor.

### **Standing Business**

Courses/Curricula:

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

Dr. Montierth moved, and Mrs. Moody seconded, to approve the new courses as presented. The motion passed unanimously with 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, May 7, 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:

- Eastern Arizona College Commencement will be held on Friday, May 8, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. The Nursing Pinning Ceremony will also take place that day at 2:00 p.m. Prior to commencement, a graduation dinner will be held at 5:30 p.m. Additional information will be distributed in the coming weeks.
- The College received notification this week that its fourth bachelor's degree—Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership—was approved by the Higher Learning Commission. The College is awaiting further information regarding two additional proposed bachelor's degrees in Elementary and Secondary Education.

**Executive Session**

Mrs. Moody moved, and Dr. Montierth seconded, to convene into Executive Session at 1:23 p.m. for discussion or consultation with designated representatives regarding negotiations with employee organizations regarding salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of employees of the public body, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(5). The motion passed unanimously with Moody, Montierth, and Larson voting in favor.

Reconvened to the Public:

The meeting was reopened to the public at 2:05 p.m.

**Board Direction to the Administration Regarding Employee Remuneration:**

In the Executive Session, the Board discussed employee remuneration as it relates to the 2026-2027 Budget.

Mrs. Moody moved, and Dr. Montierth seconded, that the Administration proceed with budget preparations concerning employee remuneration, as discussed in the Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously with Moody, Montierth, and Larson voting in favor.

**Adjournment**

Dr. Montierth moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mrs. Moody seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Moody, Montierth, and Larson voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jodi Keim

-----  
Jodi Keim  
Recording Secretary

Attest:

/s/ Jeff Larson

-----  
Jeff Larson, Chair

/s/ Brad Montierth

-----  
Brad Montierth, Secretary

