



San Carlos Apache College
Board of Regent

Regular Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2026 | 5:00pm
 San Carlos Apache College, San Carlos, AZ

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.A. The meeting was called to order at 5:12pm

1.B. Roll Call:

Board of Regents	Present	Absence		Attendance Time
		Excused	Unexcused	
Durena Thompson, Chair	x			5:12pm
Philip Stevens, Vice Chair	x			5:12pm
Loreal Jones, Secretary		x		
Isaiah Belknap, Regent	x			5:38pm
Shirley Boni, Regent	x			5:12pm
Jessica Natsyn, Regent	x			5:12pm
Kerri Sangster, Regent		x		
SCAC Staff				
Dr. Linda Warner, President		x		
Dr. Lisa Eutsey, Provost	x			5:12pm
Tia Early, Interim VP of Finance / Director of the Apache Institute	x			5:12pm
Shelley McPherson, Interim VP of Operations	x			5:12pm
Mike Kim (Interim VP of Student Services)	x			5:12pm
Sierra Lemke (Executive Assistant)	x			5:12pm

A quorum was established.

1.C. Invocation by Vice Chair Stevens.

1.D. Announcements

Provost Eutsey announced that Dr. Warner was not feeling well and might be unable to attend; Provost Eutsey agreed to fill in as needed and notified Dr. Warner that a quorum was established. Dr. Warner was also noted to be traveling.

Regent Natsyn reported that the Student Success subcommittee did not meet and suggested rescheduling for the following week.

Chairperson Thompson shared a thank-you card from San Carlos Apache College staff expressing appreciation for the Regents' support and the approved Christmas gift, noting the staff's gratitude and acknowledgment of the Regents' generosity and leadership.

1.E. Public Comments Section

There were no public comments.

1.F. Approval of Agenda

Regent Natsyn moved to approve the agenda.

Item: Approve the agenda.
Motion: Made by Regent Natsyn
Seconded by: Vice Chair Stevens
Vote: 4 yes/0 no

MOTION APPROVED

1.G. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- October 30, 2025
- November 25, 2025
- December 4, 2025 (Special Meeting)

Vice Chair Stevens moved to approve the minutes for October 30, November 25, and December 4, 2025.

Item: Approve the minutes for October 30, November 25, and December 4, 2025.
Motion: Made by Vice Chair Stevens
Seconded by: Regent Natsyn
Vote: 4 yes/0 no

MOTION APPROVED

2. REPORTS

2.A. President's and Managers' Report

Provost Eutsey provided a high-level overview of key activities and updates.

- Grant reporting and financial compliance work continue in coordination with the Tribe and the finance team, including updated forms and staff training.
- Employee performance evaluations are underway, along with updates to position descriptions as the College works to reestablish regular evaluation cycles.
- Dr. Marcus Mactima has agreed to support the academic component of the Apache Institute; planning discussions are ongoing.
- A meeting with the ACCJC accreditation liaison is scheduled to support the next phase of accreditation writing.
- The John Gardner Institute conducted a pre-visit and selected San Carlos Apache College as the site of its annual board meeting in September; the visit will be at no cost to the College.
- Work continues on the first issue of *Apache Ember*, with the goal of having it print-ready for the AHEC Student Conference.
- Spring enrollment was reported as lower than fall, largely due to new high school transcript requirements from TOCC. The potential impact on funding was discussed, and the administration agreed to provide a future report on budget implications.
- Facilities planning is ongoing for renovation of the BIE building, including development of a phased scope of work.
- The College received approval of 501(c)(3) status, retroactive to October 1, 2024.
- Board members discussed governance implications and the possible inclusion of legal counsel at future Board meetings.

Regent Belknap moved to have the Board's in-house attorney present at all future Board Meetings

Item: Approve to have the Board's in-house attorney present at all future Board Meetings

Motion: Made by Regent Belknap

Seconded by: Vice Chair Stevens

Vote: 5 yes/0 no

MOTION APPROVED

Chairperson Thompson agreed to contact attorney Chase Velasquez and have him present at all board meetings in the future.

- Tia Early recommended exploring a fixed cost per meeting with Attorney Velasquez rather than hourly billing, and suggested discussing budget implications with Dr. Warner for improved fiscal planning.

- The Apache Institute continues work under co-directorship with Dr. Marcus Macktima. He will attend his first Cultural Advisory Council meeting this month. Planning is underway to align events with community and academic/research priorities, following guidance from Dr. Warner and in consultation with elders.
- Work is progressing on the Apache Institute webpage, which will be a section within the College's existing website. A new web developer, Janae Macktima, has been engaged, and development of initial content is prioritized to meet institutional and accreditation-related needs.
- Finance staff conducted travel and financial process training for project managers, including updated payment workflows and internal controls. A Finance Subcommittee meeting has been scheduled.
- Upcoming travel includes participation in the AIHEC Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C., the trip will include Regents, staff, and students. Additional travel includes the AIHEC Student Conference in March in Bismarck, North Dakota, with anticipated student participation and preparations underway. Commencement planning for May 15 was noted as ongoing.
- The academic calendar for the next academic year will be presented for Board approval at the next meeting.
- A no-cost extension for the ANA grant was approved, extending the spending period through the end of September. Carryover funds are also being requested, with approximately \$250,000 remaining to be expended. Grant funds support salaries, IT interns, and CIS-related programming.
- The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program is approaching its reapplication cycle. The program continues to support individuals facing barriers to employment through training, short-term employment, as well as youth and adult services.
- Board members requested clarification on employee evaluation reporting, Staff provided explanations and affirmed future reporting where appropriate.

2.B. Approval of Reports

Vice Chair Stevens moved to approve the reports.

Item: Approve the reports.
Motion: Made by Vice Chair Stevens
Seconded by: Regent Natsyn
Vote: 5 yes/0 no

MOTION APPROVED

3. NEW AND ONGOING BUSINESS

3.A. Brief from Subcommittees

3.A.1. Institutional Mission and Effectiveness - Regent Sangster

Regent Sangster was not present at the meeting due to illness.

This item was not discussed.

3.A.2. Student Services - Regent Natsyn

This item was not discussed.

3.A.3. Infrastructure and Resources - Regent Boni

This item was not discussed.

3.A.4. Governance and Decision-Making - Vice Chair Stevens

Vice Chair Stevens reported that the GDM Subcommittee met on January 16, 2026. The individuals present were Vice Chair Stevens and Provost Eutsey. The subcommittee reviewed ACCJC governance standards to guide its work and added agenda items regarding a Board Handbook and a potential Board Operating Manual.

Discussion focused on Standard 4.1 (academic freedom), including how academic freedom is applied within the community while respecting tribal sovereignty and intellectual property. An action item was identified requesting legal counsel (Chase Velasquez) to review issues related to tribal sovereignty and tribal intellectual property.

Additional discussion addressed Standards 4.4 and 4.6, particularly effective board governance and self-governance. The Board Handbook was discussed as a potential tool, with concerns raised about it becoming overly prescriptive. It was agreed to defer further action on the handbook until a fuller subcommittee meeting could be held.

3.B. Discussion and Action on Evaluation Dates

3.B.1. President's Evaluation

The Board scheduled evaluations to take place on January 29, 2026 from 9am to 11am via Zoom.

3.B.2. Board Self Reports

The Board scheduled evaluations to take place on January 29, 2026 from 9am to 11am via Zoom.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session held.

5. NEXT MEETINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next tribal council meeting will be held February 3, 2026.

The next board meeting will be held February 17, 2026, at 5:00pm.

Graduation will be held on May 15, 2026 at 1:00pm at San Carlos High School.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Stevens moved to adjourn the meeting.

Item: Approve the adjournment of the meeting.

Motion: Made by Vice Chair Stevens

Seconded by: Regent Natsyn

Vote: 5 yes/0 no

MOTION APPROVED

The meeting was adjourned.