



San Carlos Apache College
Board of Regents

Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday November 25, 2025 - 9:00am -
 San Carlos Apache College, San Carlos, AZ

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.A. The meeting was called to order at 9:14am

1.B. Roll Call:

Board of Regents	Present	Absence		Attendance Time
		Excused	Unexcused	
Durena Thompson, Chair	x			9:14am
Philip Stevens, Vice Chair	x			9:14am
Loreal Jones, Secretary	x			9:14am
Isaiah Belknap, Regent		x		
Shirley Boni, Regent	x			9:14am
Jessica Natsyn, Regent		x		
Kerri Sangster, Regent	x			9:14am
SCAC Staff				
Dr. Linda Warner, President	x			9:14am
Dr. Lisa Eutsey, Provost	x			9:14am
Tia Early, Interim VP of Finance / Director of the Apache Institute	x			9:14am
Shelley McPherson, Interim VP of Operations	x			9:14am
Thomas Worcester, Special Projects Manager (Provost)	x			9:14am

A quorum was established.

1.C. Invocation by Vice Chairperson Stevens

1.D. Announcements

Provost Eutsey announced that SCAC's ACCJC Eligibility Application has been successfully reviewed. ACCJC indicated that the application was successful and that SCAC is moving into the pre-candidacy phase. A formal confirmation letter is expected later in the week or early next week, outlining next steps for the candidacy application. This marks the first time SCAC has been deemed eligible by an accrediting body, representing a significant milestone for the College.

1.E. Public Comments Section

There were no public comments.

1.F. Approval of Agenda

Added section 3F Approval of Course Catalog.

Vice Chair Stevens moved to approve the agenda with the addition of item 3F.

Item: Approve agenda with the addition of item 3F
Motion: Made by Vice Chair Stevens
Seconded by: Regent Boni
Vote: 4 yes/0 no

MOTION APPROVED

1.G. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The only meeting minutes the Board received were in regards to September, which was held on October 1, 2025.

Regent Sangster moved to approve the October 1, 2025 minutes.

Item: Approve minutes from October 1, 2025.
Motion: Made by Regent Sangster
Seconded by: Regent Boni
Vote: 4 yes/0 no

MOTION APPROVED

2. REPORTS

2.A. President's Report

The President noted that Financial Reports were merged with the President's Reports for this meeting, as they tie together.

President Warner reported that Jacob Charlie was contracted to assist with financial reconciliation and research as the College continues addressing complex finance issues in preparation for accreditation. A first-time supervisory training was conducted for staff. June Star was hired in Student Services, effective November 17.

The Vice President of Operations initiated work with Mojave Cooperative to support renovations of the former BIA building, now a College asset. Renovation efforts will begin with flooring replacement (approximately 6,000 square feet), funded primarily through eligible COVID-related funds. Additional work (plumbing, electrical, and painting) will be assessed later. Cost estimates are pending, and bids will be solicited through Mojave Cooperative.

Board discussion clarified that the building is no longer federally owned, as ownership was transferred to the College. Regents raised questions regarding potential federal responsibility for building upkeep; administration indicated asbestos abatement was completed by the tribe prior to transfer and agreed to further review the issue, potentially with legal counsel.

President Warner reported receiving an engagement letter from attorney Chase Velasquez. An all-staff meeting was held, and the College advanced another step in the ACCJC accreditation process. The Apache Institute expanded outreach through KYAY Radio and the *Apache Messenger*, supported by increased on-campus capacity.

SCAC received confirmation from WINHEC approving its letter of interest, advancing to the next phase of that process. An updated five-year funding proposal was submitted to Freeport-McMoRan, and meetings were held related to the AmeriCorps planning grant. Budget updates are in progress.

Updates were provided on the Apache Ember literary journal, expected to be published in late spring, with a majority of submissions from American Indian/Alaska Native authors. Resources will be made available online.

President Warner reported multiple grants and awards, including a \$150,000 Luce Foundation award for Apache History and Culture and submission of the final IMLS grant report. Student Services conducted extensive outreach activities, including FAFSA support, community events, and a Veterans Day breakfast hosted by student government.

Registration opened October 20; administration noted potential impacts to spring enrollment due to TOCC transcript hold requirements and ongoing student communication. Faculty and staff participated in professional development, assessment activities, and preparation of the AIHEC report due December 1.

Vice Chair Stevens raised the importance of establishing an Institutional Review Board (IRB) to ensure ethical oversight of research, particularly related to tribal culture and language. President Warner acknowledged the value of an IRB and noted capacity considerations, agreeing to continue discussions.

2.B. Provost's Report

2.C. Interim Chief Financial Officer's Report

Financial Reports were merged with the President's Reports.

2.D. Approval of Reports

Regent Sangster moved to approve the reports

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

MOTION APPROVED

3. NEW AND ONGOING BUSINESS

3.A. Discussion and possible action on Board governance and meeting structure

3.A.1. Board Subcommittees

Chairperson Thompson led discussion regarding clarification of subcommittee roles, communication, and workflow. Chair Thompson identified subcommittee leadership assignments:

Accreditation – Philip Stevens (SCAC Staff Dr. Eutsey)

Finance – Shirley Boni (SCAC Tia Early)

Student Success – Jessica Natsyn (SCAC Mike Kim)

The Board agreed that items requiring Board consideration should first be reviewed by the appropriate subcommittee, with coordination between the subcommittee chair and designated staff point person. Chair Thompson requested the process be documented in writing for consistency.

Chair Thompson directed Regents to contact Iris Sanchez to schedule subcommittee meetings; a common Zoom link has been established.

3.B. Board Handbook

Chairperson Thompson introduced discussion on proposed Board Handbook. Discussion focused on the distinction between bylaws (policy) and a board handbook (procedures). Dr. Warner and Provost Eutsey emphasized that accreditation standards require written procedures and that ACCJC will ask how policies are implemented. A handbook was described as necessary to ensure consistency, onboarding, communication, and unified board operations.

Vice Chair Stevens questioned whether a handbook was necessary, expressing concern about redundancy with bylaws and potential overreach. Regent Boni supported the need for a handbook, citing lack of onboarding and common practice at colleges, while also noting that Regents are appointed and removed by Tribal Council, limiting Board authority. Chairperson Thompson stated that a handbook would assist with board leadership, communication, subcommittee operations, and onboarding.

No action was taken. The Board agreed the item was for discussion only and will continue discussion at a later meeting when all Regents are present.

3.C. SCAC Board Retreat Date

The board discussed a date for their Annual Board Retreat which they decided on December 23, 2025. The retreat would begin in the morning and a regular board meeting would follow the retreat. The board cited an importance on president evaluations and board evaluations which will be conducted at the retreat. A discussion on the Board Handbook and subcommittees will also be discussed.

3.D. Selection of Attorney

Dr. Warner detailed the agreement she received from Chase Velasquez, an attorney the college had been recommended, due to his credentials in tribal affairs. The rate for Velasquez was discussed and Vice Chair Stevens recommended that Chairperson Thompson be listed as another main point of contact.

Vice Chair Stevens moved to approve the agreement with Chase Velasquez with the change of adding Chairperson Thompson to the list of main points of contacts.

Item: Approve agreement with Chase Velasquez with the change of adding Chairperson Thompson as a main point of contact

Motion: Made by Vice Chair Stevens

Seconded by: Regent Sangster

Vote: 5 yes/0 no

MOTION APPROVED

3.E. Selection of Auditor

Provost Eutsey provided context regarding ACCJC accreditation requirements related to annual fiscal audits following the College's separation from the Tribe effective October 1, 2024. While ACCJC

accepted prior tribal audits for eligibility, the College must now demonstrate independent annual audits going forward.

Administration recommended Walker and Armstrong as auditor under a sole source contract, citing the firm's existing familiarity with Tribal and College finances, experience with tribal organizations, and role in completing the Tribe's outstanding audits. The firm submitted a proposal to conduct the College's first independent audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards for a fiscal year ending June 30, at a proposed cost of \$23,000, excluding additional services if needed.

The auditor will work closely with the Board and Finance Committee, with all audit reports presented to the Board.

Vice Chair Stevens moved to approve the sole source contract with Walker and Armstrong for auditing services.

Item: Approve the sole source contract with Walker and Armstrong for auditing services.
Motion: Made by Vice Chair Stevens
Seconded by: Regent Boni
Vote: 5 yes/0 no

MOTION APPROVED

3.F. Approval of Course Catalog

Provost Eutsey presented the updated SCAC Academic Catalog, noting it is a standalone catalog aligned with TOCC policies and approved annually by the Board. Updates include alignment with TOCC admissions requirements (official high school or college transcripts), minor revisions to degree and program checklists, updated math requirements for certain programs, incorporation of language addressing AI, and updated faculty and staff listings. No new degrees or certificates were added.

Administration requested Board approval of the updated catalog, noting future catalogs should be approved earlier in the academic year as the College progresses toward accreditation.

Vice Chair Stevens moved to approve the Catalog.

Item: Approve the catalog
Motion: Made by Vice Chair Stevens
Seconded by: Regent Boni
Vote: 5 yes/0 no

MOTION APPROVED

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session items.

5. NEXT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next tribal council meeting will be held December 2, 2025.

The next board meeting will be held December 23, 2025

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

6. ADJOURNEMENT

Vice Chair Stevens moved to adjourn the meeting.

Item: Approve adjournment of meeting.

Motion: Made by Vice Chair Stevens

Seconded by: Regent Boni

Vote: 5 yes/0 no

MOTION APPROVED

The meeting was adjourned.