



**San Carlos Apache College**  
**Board of Regents**

Regular Meeting Minutes  
**October 30, 2025 - 5:24pm**  
 San Carlos Apache College, San Carlos, AZ

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**1.A. The meeting was called to order at 5:24pm**

**1.B. Roll Call:**

Board of Regents	Present	Absence		Attendance Time
		Excused	Unexcused	
Durena Thompson, Chair	x			5:24pm
Philip Stevens, Vice Chair	x			5:24pm
Loreal Jones, Secretary	x			5:48pm
Isaiah Belknap, Regent			x	
Shirley Boni, Regent	x			5:24pm
Jessica Natsyn, Regent	x			5:24pm
Kerri Sangster, Regent		x		
<b>SCAC Staff</b>				
Dr. Linda Warner, President	x			5:24pm
Dr. Lisa Eutsey, Provost	x			5:24pm
Tia Early, Interim VP of Finance / Director of the Apache Institute	x			5:24pm
Shelley McPherson, Interim VP of Operations	x			5:24pm
Thomas Worcester, Special Projects Manager (Provost)	x			5:24pm
Iris Sanchez, Administrative Assistant	x			5:24pm

**A quorum was established.**

**1.C. Invocation by Durena Thompson**

**1.D. Announcement**

Chairperson Thompson reported on attendance and participation at the **ACCT training in New Orleans**, including a presentation delivered with Dr. Warner.

Chairperson Thompson shared insights gained regarding board leadership, organization, and preparation. Then encouraged Regents to attend the **2026 ACCT conference**.

Dr. Warner introduced **Iris Sanchez**, emergency hire administrative assistant, who will assist with agendas, minutes, and board materials. Ms. Sanchez introduced herself and outlined her background in higher education.

**1.E. Public Comments Section**

There were no public comments.

**1.F. Approval of Agenda**

Corrections were noted regarding spelling errors in the minutes (including names related to the Roberta Patton Award).

Due to earlier discussion and removal of executive session items, the agenda required formal approval.

**Item:** Approval of Agenda with edits and changes to be made.

**Motion:** Made by Regent Natsyn

**Seconded by:** Vice Chair Stevens

**Vote:** 5 yes/0 no

**MOTION APPROVED**

**1.G. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Vice Chair Stevens moved to table approval of the October minutes pending corrections.

**Item:** Approve to table October minutes pending corrections

**Motion:** Made by Vice Chair Stevens

**Seconded by:** Regent Natsyn

**Vote:** 4 yes/0 no

**MOTION APPROVED**

Discussion occurred regarding board evaluation, president evaluation, and board governance documents.

Regent Natsyn moved to schedule a board retreat and table executive items.

**Item:** Approve scheduling a board retreat and to remove executive meeting  
**Motion:** Made by Regent Natsyn  
**Seconded by:** Vice Chair Stevens  
**Vote:** 4 yes/0 no

**MOTION APPROVED**

## **2. REPORTS**

Chairperson Thompson requested that reports be summarized with highlights, as full reports were included in the board packet.

### **2.A. President's Report**

Dr. Warner highlighted key parts of the report.

The **BIA building** was officially transferred to the San Carlos Apache Tribe and then conveyed to the College as a fixed asset. This marks the **first building owned by the College**. The College is soliciting bids for flooring, electrical, and plumbing work in preparation for occupancy.

**Joseph Burshia** was hired as Human Resources Manager; he is a San Carlos Apache tribal member.

The San Carlos Apache Tribe's general support for the college reduced compared to previous years and a discussion was had on whether this would affect accreditation.

The college rescheduled their Studying Indigenous Leadership Conference due to road closure and some disorganization occurring, resulting in the loss of their venue.

### **2.B. Provost's Report**

It was established that Provost Eutsey would explain her report along with accreditation updates in section 3D.

### **2.C. Interim Chief Financial Officer's Report**

Tia Early highlighted the college's bank transition and how the finance department is reorganizing as well as working within Quickbooks to conduct reconciliations.

## **2.D. Approval of Reports**

Regent Natsyn moved to approve the reports.

**Item:** Approve president, provost, and interim chief financial officer reports.

**Motion:** Made by Jessica Natsyn

**Seconded by:** Regent Boni

**Vote:** 5 yes/0 no

**MOTION APPROVED**

## **3. NEW AND ONGOING BUSINESS**

### **3.A. Discussion and possible action of Board Governance and Meeting Structure**

It was discovered that not all regents and attendees had the same agenda item for 3A.

Regent Natsyn moved to table the item until the next board meeting.

**Item:** Approve to table item 3A until the next board meeting.

**Motion:** Made by Regent Natsyn

**Seconded by:** Regent Boni

**Vote:** 5 yes/0 no

**MOTION APPROVED**

### **3.B. Report to SCAT Council**

Dr. Warner referred to the meeting agenda she was preparing to present at a tribal council meeting on November 4th, 2025. She highlighted different sections of the report including the award the college received from AmeriCorps, events the college would be hosting, and ways the college is working towards accreditation. A spelling error was noted by regent Boni on Dr. Warner's agenda.

The board discussion whether or not Dr. Warner should include board attendance on the tribal council agenda. It was decided the board's attendance would not be included and the board would create a handbook in order for the board to have stronger policies.

### **3.C. Discussion of Board Handbook**

The board discussed why it was important to create a Board Handbook.

### 3.D. ACCJC Accreditation File

Provost Eutsey explained the 21 item evidence the college submitted to ACCJC. The submission covered institutional authority, operational status, governance, finances, academic programs, student learning outcomes, faculty qualifications, student support services, admissions, learning resources, planning, and integrity. ACCJC acknowledged receipt and completion of the **initial review**, confirming that **no additional information is required at this time**

Regent Stevens asked clarifying questions regarding documentation of the Cultivating Relationships federal grant, which staff confirmed is included. Regent Boni inquired whether external accreditation experts were used to review the application. Administration responded that no external consultants were hired; however, guidance was obtained from California Indian Nations College, a peer institution recently accredited by ACCJC.

Discussion followed regarding readiness for early initial accreditation. Dr. Eutsey noted the **area of greatest concern is Board capacity and engagement**, emphasizing that successful early accreditation would require strong, unified board participation. Board members discussed the importance of strengthening internal processes.

Interim VP of Finance Tia Early provided an update on financial clean-up efforts, internal reviews, audit preparation, staffing constraints, and the administration's commitment to compliance and accountability.

### 3.E. Discussion and possible action on Selection of Attorney

The Chair emphasized the need for legal counsel, Chairperson Thompson noting the guidance they received during their New Orleans trip. Dr. Warner informed the Board that she is in the process of consulting with **Chase Velasquez**, who was recommended by the tribal attorney due to his experience with nonprofit organizations. Dr. Warner requested that the Board **table the selection of an attorney** until she can speak with Mr. Velasquez and obtain **fee estimates**.

Regent Stevens moved to table item 3E until a later date.

**Item:** Approve to table attorney selection until estimates can be obtained.  
**Motion:** Made by Regent Stevens  
**Seconded by:** Regent Natsyn  
**Vote:** 5 yes/0 no

**MOTION APPROVED**

### 3.F. Discussion on selection of an auditor

Provost Eutsey noted that the Board is responsible for selecting the auditor and that using the same firm as the Tribe could be beneficial due to continued financial and grant-related connections during SCAC's initial years of separation. Administration will provide the scope of work once received, with the goal of selecting an auditor before the end of the calendar year so the first audit may occur in spring.

Board discussion addressed compliance with bylaws and finance policies. Vice Chair Stevens emphasized the importance of adhering to Board bylaws. It was further clarified that SCAC has not previously had its own audit due to recent operational separation from the Tribe and the need to complete a full fiscal year. SCAC is currently not behind schedule.

#### **4. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

##### **4.A. College President's Evaluation**

##### **4.B. SCAC Board Evaluation**

Due to accreditation timelines and the value of full participation, the Board agreed earlier in the meeting to **table executive session items** and schedule a **board retreat** to address:

Board evaluation

President's evaluation

Board handbook / code of ethics / code of conduct

#### **5. NEXT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

##### **5.A. Tribal Council Meeting**

A tribal council meeting will be held on November 5, 2025. Chairperson Thompson expressed that they would make an effort to attend with Dr. Warner.

##### **5.B. Next Board of Regents Meeting**

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday November 18, 2025

##### **5.C. Graduation**

Chairperson Thompson urged all board members to attend Graduation which will be held on May 15, 2026 at the San Carlos High School.

#### **6. ADJOURNMENT**

Regent Stevens moved to adjourn the meeting.

**Item:** Approve the adjournment of the meeting

**Motion:** Made by Regent Stevens

**Seconded by:** Regent Natsyn

**Vote:** 5 yes/0 no

**MOTION APPROVED**

**The Meeting was Adjourned.**