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**Minutes of the 110<sup>th</sup> Business Session of the Annual Meeting  
April 9, 2024  
In-Person Meeting, Columbus, OH**

**1. Call to Order**

President Carter called the meeting to order at 10:46 AM Eastern Daylight Time.

**2. President's Remarks**

President Carter started off her remarks by thanking God and noting what a true honor it was to have served as AACRAO President in the past year. In addition, President Carter thanked the AACRAO Staff, Board of Directors, and the AACRAO members for their support.

Despite the United States Supreme Court overturning Affirmative Action in higher education, AACRAO has remained diligent in its efforts to foster an inclusive academic and workplace environment for students and institutional staff. While many organizations are still confronting the issue of diversity within their organizations, AACRAO is wrapping up the third time in the association's history with an all-female presidential trio and will have the fourth this upcoming year. The Board of Directors continues to be the most racially diverse board in AACRAO's history. President Carter recognized Charles McKinney (AACRAO's First Black President), Fred Fresh (AACRAO President in 1998), Cleveland James (Chair of the Black Caucus), Adrienne Kellum McDay (First Female Black President), and Paul Taylor (Creator of the 2024 Taskforce which led to the creation of the board position of Vice President for Access and Equity) for their efforts in fostering inclusivity and diversity within the organization.

Under President Carter's leadership, AACRAO created an Accessibility Task Force, which began with an audit of all of the association's products and services to be sure they were inclusive. As a result of this task force, AACRAO began to take steps in ensuring a positive change towards more inclusivity and accessibility at its meetings. President Carter thanked Past President Rhonda Kitch and Dr. Whitney N. West for helping her co-chair the task force. In addition, President Carter thanked the task force members: Chantel Black, Nga Dang, Iman Riddick, Christine Welden, Dr. Tina DeNeen, Jody Gordon, and Brittany Brown.

AACRAO also created a Racial Equity Advocacy Work Group and released for the first time ever a climate survey, designed to get a pulse of the community and

how AACRAO is doing on the front of achieving racial equity. President Carter thanked the advisory group members: Tiffany Gusbeth, Dr. Yasmine Hill, Dr. Jimmy Jung, Marisol Marrero, Chad Saunders, and the AACRAO Staff Members: Melanie Gottlieb, Quintina Barnett Gallion, Dr. Tina DeNeen, Martha Henebry, and Dr. Mike Simmons who helped with the survey.

Although AACRAO celebrated many wins this past year, President Carter noted that there is still more work that could be done. She reminded the membership that underrepresented groups, individuals with disabilities, and women still continue to struggle. It's important to continue advocating for these underrepresented groups. Women and people of color are still struggling in the workplace with dual rules and inequality when it comes to wages. As an association, President Carter encouraged the membership to continue with uplifting, encouraging, and being accountable to growth.

### **3. Executive Director's Remarks**

Executive Director Gottlieb noted that the AACRAO staff continues to follow the strategic plan while focusing on the following five goals:

1. To advance the knowledge and understanding of the professions we serve
2. Foster a culture of innovation and scholarship
3. To be the premier provider of accessible and credentialed career pathways for our professions
4. Reimagine engagement and community
5. Develop and lead strong advocacy coalitions to benefit the advancement of higher education

AACRAO developed a partnership with UPCEA to launch the Convergence Conference, which explores innovative credentials and emerging pathways between non-credit and credit learning. Although it was the first meeting, it immediately sold out, and the conversations will continue in New Orleans in the fall.

AACRAO Exchange was also launched this past year, as a part of AACRAO's goal to reimagine community and engagement. AACRAO Exchange is an online platform that enables members to connect outside of the Annual Meeting by committee, caucus, or interest group. In addition, communities of practice have also been developed, which allows members and non-members to come together and tackle barriers of higher education.

The Peer Mentoring Program also launched as a direct result of the Mentoring Work Group report. Over 60 peer mentor pairs have been matched.

The AACRAO Board formalized a new structure alongside the PACs called Programmatic Liaisons. This is the community that houses the Community and Content Facilitators, who help to manage the communities within AACRAO

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Exchange, AACRAO SEM and Tech and Transfer Conferences. AACRAO also formed a Technical Advisory Council. This group is focused on deepening the technical knowledge as it relates to the digital ecosystem surrounding learner records. The group will advise the association in the areas of member research, education, and policy guidance. The first AACRAO Curriculum Committee was also formed this year. In order to meet the strategic plan goal of creating credentialed career pathways for the professions in AACRAO's membership areas, AACRAO needed representation from the membership to help guide curriculum development, and standardize learning outcomes across all modalities. This is important in recruiting and training AACRAO faculty.

Last year, the membership voted to allow the Board of Directors to make changes in the membership structure. AACRAO began the first phase of implementation in December, which opened the rosters allowing unlimited members for member institutions. This was an important move for the association because membership numbers have been on a downward slope for over a decade. As a result of this change, more than 4,000 individuals have signed up for an AACRAO membership. Executive Director Gottlieb reiterated the commitment that AACRAO has for its membership, noting that AACRAO will continue to introduce resources to help train new staff, help the membership build succession plans, and help build bridges with the related areas across campuses to help individuals elevate their work while helping to advocate for the resources that are needed in order to achieve their goals. Prior to the opening of the rosters, AACRAO had about 10,200 members. As of last week, AACRAO now has more than 14,500 members from over 2,300 institutions. Executive Director Gottlieb acknowledged that AACRAO gathered some feedback from small colleges that ultimately made the current model even better. As AACRAO moves forward, the association will continue to gather feedback. This requires inclusive dialogue so that all voices from the membership can be heard.

#### **4. Introduction of Parliamentarian**

President Carter introduced Dr. Marc Booker as Parliamentarian for the 2024 Business Meeting.

#### **5. Nominations and Elections Committee**

Dr. Wendolyn Davis, Chair of the 2023-2024 N&E Committee reported the following results of the elections for AACRAO leadership, held electronically during Fall 2023:

President-Elect: Cassandra Moore, Anne Arundel Community College

Vice President for International Education: Dr. Hala Abou Arraj, Idaho State University

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Vice President for Leadership and Management Development: Dr. Tiffani Robertson, Governor's State University

Vice President at Large: Dr. Carrie Jeffers, Macomb Community College

These individuals will all serve three-year terms, expiring at the Business Session of the 2027 Annual Meeting.

Dr. Wendolyn Davis also introduced the Nominations and Elections Committee for 2024-2025: Sofia Almeda Montes of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley will serve as Chair and Chris Dorsten of Kent State University will serve as Vice-Chair. They were both elected electronically by the membership in the fall of 2022.

Sarah Reed of the University of California Berkley was elected as Chair-Elect, and Dr. Brenda Schumann of The University of Texas at Austin was elected as Vice Chair-Elect. The following individuals were elected as committee members and will serve one-year terms: Scott Campbell of The University of Chicago, Jessika Harris of the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Sun Jamerson of Lorain County Community College, Dr. Michelle Newman of American Public University System, and Alex Underwood of The University of Arizona. Dr. Reginald Garcon of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore was elected as 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate, Theresa Rodriguez of Carleton College was elected as 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate, and Tashana Curtis of the University of Baltimore was elected as 3<sup>rd</sup> Alternate.

President Carter thanked 2023-2024 Chair Dr. Wendolyn Davis and Vice-Chair Sasha Suzuki for their work on behalf of the Association.

**6. Approval of the 2023 Business Meeting Minutes**

On behalf of the AACRAO Board of Directors, Vice President for Finance, Ari Kaufman, moved that the minutes from the Business Session of the 2023 Annual Meeting be approved. A second was not required for the motion.

The motion was approved without dissent.

**7. Finance and Audited Financials**

Vice President Kaufman provided a summary of AACRAO's 2023 audited financials and made a note of the update to AACRAO's Investment Policy in addition to the creation of a new Strategic Spending Policy.

He then thanked the members of the Finance, Investments and Audit Committee: Jackie Carter, Philip Hunt, Dr. Connie Newsome, Brenda Selman and Melissa Manual (Member-at-Large).

**7. Recognition of Service**

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President Carter recognized the following individuals for their outstanding service to the Association:

- The Columbus Co-Chair of Volunteers: Chris Dorsten of Kent State University and Molly McDermott-Fallon of The University of Cincinnati.
- The Program Committee Chair: Sam Fugazzotto of the University of Las Vegas as Chair, and Dan Weber of Oakton College as Vice-Chair, and the 2024 Annual Meeting Program Committee.

### **8. Transition**

President Carter thanked the outgoing Board Members for their outstanding service to the Association:

- Past-President Dr. Rhonda Kitch,
- Vice President for Leadership and Management Development Philip Hunt,
- Vice President at Large Dr. Tiffani Robertson, and
- External Board Member Rob Shomaker.

President Carter introduced Dr. Kristi Wold-McCormick as the new AACRAO President for 2024-2025. Now-President Dr. Kristi Wold-McCormick, in turn, recognized Past President Jackie Carter for her outstanding service as President during the 2023-2024 term.

### **9. 2024-2025 AACRAO President Comments**

President Wold-McCormick thanked the membership and noted what an honor it was to serve as AACRAO President for this upcoming year. She thanked the amazing AACRAO leaders who served before her, especially the strong women, who helped to pave a smooth path and set high standards. President Wold-McCormick also thanked her University of Colorado team and colleagues for their support. Registrars, Admissions and Enrollment Professionals do more than just recruit, admit, enroll, and graduate students. Higher education professionals are in pivotal positions to help change the future of higher education. Individuals need to be better equipped to serve diverse learners in order to meet campus and societal needs.

AACRAO has been leading a national discussion on innovation around Learning Mobility. As leaders in this space, President Wold-McCormick encouraged the membership to continue to learn, and be responsive to the needs and interest of individuals at every stage of the learning journey. Campuses must adapt to and support new innovations and learning pathways. AACRAO can help open doors to opportunities. In the year ahead, President Wold-McCormick asked the membership to consider:

- Joining a Caucus
- Engaging with colleagues in the AACRAO Exchange
- Submitting a session proposal
- Listening to podcasts

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- Writing or reading newsletters or journal articles
- Participating in a webinar
- Take an online class and earn an AACRAO credential

President Wold-McCormick, University of Colorado Boulder, introduced the Board of Directors for 2024-2025:

- President Dr. Kristi Wold-McCormick, University of Colorado Boulder
- President-Elect Cassandra Moore, Anne Arundel Community College
- Past President, Jackie Carter, Washington University in St. Louis
- Vice President for Access and Equity Roslyn Perry, Allegheny College
- Vice President for Admissions and Enrollment Management Brenda Selman, University of Missouri-Columbia
- Vice President for Finance Ari Kaufman, Berklee College of Music/Boston Conservatory at Berklee
- Vice President for Information Technology Christopher Huang, Purdue University Fort Wayne
- Vice President for International Education Dr. Hala Abou Arraj, Idaho State University
- Vice President for Leadership and Management Development Dr. Tiffani Robertson, Governor's State University
- Vice President for Records and Academic Services Julia Pomerenk, University of Oregon
- Vice President at Large Dr. Connie Newsome, Campbell Law School
- Vice President at Large Dr. Carrie Jeffers, Macomb Community College

### **8. Annual Meeting 2025 – Seattle, WA**

President Wold-McCormick introduced the Co-Chair of Volunteers for the 2025 Annual Meeting in Seattle: Chantel Black and Steve Downing.

A video of Seattle, Washington was played to promote the 2025 AACRAO Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington.

### **10. Adjournment**

President Wold-McCormick gavelled the Business Session to adjournment at 11:53 AM Eastern Daylight Time.

### **Attachments**

2023 Business Session Minutes