Nebraska Statewide Workforce & Educational Reporting System (NSWERS)
Executive Council Business Meeting Notification and Agenda

September 14, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
Meeting Held Online via Zoom

Public notice of the Executive Council meeting was given by posting the date, time, and location on the NSWERS.org website.

Minutes:

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – President Brian Maher called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

1.1 ROLL CALL

Roll Call showed the following Executive Council members in **attendance**:

Mr. Greg Dart, NSWERS Secretary/Treasurer
(as proxy for Dr. Leah Barrett)
Dr. Jeffrey Gold, NSWERS Member
Dr. Brian Maher, NSWERS President
Dr. Paul Turman, NSWERS Vice President

1.2 ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PLACEMENT OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT INFORMATION

Dr. Maher announced that information regarding the Open Meetings Act is available at the entrance to the meeting room and on the NSWERS.org website.

2. **APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

2.1 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comment.

2.2 APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

No agenda items were removed, added, or corrected. The September 14, 2026, meeting agenda passed on a motion by Dr. Turman, seconded by Dr. Gold.

Dr. Gold	Yea
Dr. Turman	Yea
Mr. Dart	Yea
Dr. Maher	Yea

2.3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NSWERS BUSINESS MEETING, July 22, 2026

Motion to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2026, NSWERS Executive Council Business meeting passed with a motion by Dr. Turman, seconded by Dr. Gold.

Dr. Turman	Yea
Dr. Maher	Yea
Dr. Gold	Yea
Mr. Dart	Abstained

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

3.1 Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action with respect to the data requests in support of the Nebraska Education Data Fellowship program.

Dr. Hastings provided a summary overview. These are data requests from partner institutions to support analyses for the education data fellows' program. Eleven data requests were presented for consideration. Partner organization staff reviewed and iterated on these requests as they prepared them. They then submitted them to the NSWERS Management Committee for consideration.

On August 18th, the NSWERS Management Committee conducted a full review. It sent some items back to the requesters for additional modifications. The requested revisions were made, and those items were included in the package. The subject matter primarily focuses on student pathways, including persistence, transfer student completion and re-engagement, employment and talent, work-based learning, wages and in-state employment, and institutional capacity, such as creating various data products.

In summary, NSWERS received six requests from the community colleges and five from NU campuses. Other fellows are also working on projects, but they will use different data sources, so they're not coming to you here. A few requests came with provisional recommendations, and a few from the university still have data stewards reviewing the packages. Dr. Hastings noted that he did not know whether the NU data stewards have completed their review yet. He noted that as we move forward, if the stewards decide not to move in that direction, we can pull back on those pieces. The Management Committee originally considered a couple of other applications. There were 13, and a few of the fellows withdrew those applications because they're going to use other institutional information for their analysis.

A motion to approve the data requests as presented in support of the Nebraska Education Data Fellowship Program was passed on a motion by Dr. Gold, seconded by Dr. Turman.

Dr. Gold	Yea
Dr. Maher	Yea
Mr. Dart	Yea

Dr. Turman Yea

4. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

4.1 Grant Notification for Statewide Financial Aid Evaluation (Dr. Hastings)

Dr. Hastings informed the Council that NSWERS policies and procedures require him to notify the Council of any potential new grant funding. He provided an update on a grant application NSWERS planned to submit in support of a statewide financial aid evaluation. He reminded members that the Executive Council had considered the evaluation in July and directed NSWERS to continue developing a statewide financial aid evaluation program in consultation with partners and other stakeholders. NSWERS had since advanced that work and was prepared to begin executing the project, but would require dedicated full-time resources to maintain momentum.

Dr. Hastings reported that, as directed by the Executive Council in July, he had continued discussions with the philanthropic community regarding support for the project. He was in discussions regarding a 40-month grant request to fund two positions, a project coordinator and a postdoctoral research fellow, and NSWERS had prepared a grant plan for a foundation's consideration.

Dr. Hastings outlined the project timeline. During the first few months, NSWERS would focus on recruiting and onboarding the two grant-funded, time-limited positions. The second phase would expand data-sharing agreements to include financial aid-related data, secure any necessary IRB approvals, and begin producing baseline descriptive analyses to inform broader evaluation efforts. The total grant request was projected to be just over $1 million.

4.2 Staffing Update (Dr. Hastings)

Dr. Hastings reported that the Executive Council had previously approved additional staffing resources for NSWERS in the budget, including funding to build out an education and training team. The team is intended to dedicate staff to working directly with partners, providing education and training on available NSWERS resources, including those within Insights+ and those accessible through data requests, and collaborating with partners on new evaluation opportunities. These staff members would focus solely on education and training rather than on other analytical work.

Dr. Hastings noted that the search for a Director of Education and Training had been unsuccessful. Following discussions with human resources and internal stakeholders, the decision was made to appoint an existing staff member to the role on an interim basis. David Nguyen, who has extensive familiarity with NSWERS data, data requests, and opportunities for partners to use information in meaningful ways, will serve as interim

Director of Education and Training for the next 12 months. During this period, he will help define and shape the role. Dr. Hastings stated that Mr. Nguyen's expertise and experience working with partners made him a strong fit for the position. Mr. Nguyen will transition into the role over the next several weeks.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the NSWERS Executive Council Business Meeting passed with a motion from Mr. Dart and seconded by Dr. Turman.

Dr. Maher	Yea
Dr. Gold	Yea
Mr. Dart	Yea
Dr. Turman	Yea

President Maher adjourned the meeting at 2:23 p.m.

The next NSWERS Executive Council Meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2026, 1:30 PM, at the Nebraska Innovation Campus.