

WESTERN REGIONAL HONORS COUNCIL

Business Meeting Minutes

WRHC Conference • Las Vegas, Nevada

Date: Saturday, April 11, 2026

Time: Called to Order: 8:32 a.m.

Presiding: Megan Hughes, President

Officers Present

Name & Title	Institution
Megan Hughes, President	Metropolitan State University of Denver
Bill Doyle, Vice President	University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Sandra Pérez, Past President	California State University, Long Beach
Christina E. Denison, Secretary	Central Washington University
Ryan Swanson, Treasurer	University of New Mexico
Timothy Nichols, Member-at-Large	University of Montana
Quindy Gronley, Student Representative	University of Montana
Sofia Castillo Pavon, Student Representative	Metropolitan State University of Denver

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 a.m. by President Megan Hughes.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2025 NCHC meeting was made and seconded.

- Moved by: Gavin Keulks (Southern Oregon University)
- Seconded by: Dr. Timothy Nichols (University of Montana)
- Result: Motion carried

3. Acknowledgment of Conference Host

President Hughes extended sincere thanks to Dr. Bill Doyle and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas for hosting WRHC 2026.

4. Conference Host – 2027 and Beyond

Seed funding available: up to \$5,000 from WRHC and \$1,000 in support from NCHC. Note: Dr. Sandra Pérez will remain on the board until a 2027 host is officially identified.

Year	Institution	Notes
2027	University of Denver (interested)	A call was issued to ask if any other institutions are interested. CalPoly Pomona and Washington State University also expressed interest.
2028	Estrella Mountain Community College (EMCC), Maricopa CC District, Avondale, AZ (Dir. Erin Blomstrand)	Boise State University also expressed interest in 2028.
2029	Dominican University of California, San Rafael, CA (Dir. Lynn Sondag)	
2030+	To be determined	

Institutions interested in hosting may contact past hosts for guidance:

- UNLV 2026: Dr. Bill Doyle
- MSU Denver 2025: Dr. Megan Hughes
- CSU Long Beach 2024: Dr. Sandra Pérez
- University of Montana 2023: Dr. Timothy Nichols
- UNM 2022: Amaris Ketcham

5. Scribendi Update

Presented by Amaris Ketcham. Outgoing and incoming editors were introduced.

- A new Outreach Editor position was announced and its purpose explained.
- Scribendi is launching an ambassador program to increase student participation from other institutions.
- Discussion of a student publications board in coordination with NCHC: Amaris Ketcham spoke with NCHC's James Zebrowski about this initiative; Scribendi submitted a panel proposal to NCHC on this topic.
- Christopher Syrnyk will continue to advocate to the NCHC for increased support for Scribendi.
- Funding context: UNM pays for faculty, student office, and all software, and has created an endowment raising approximately \$12,000/year. WRHC currently covers mailing and printing costs.
- A motion was later made regarding dues in part to address Scribendi funding (see Motions, below).
- Action item: Send Scribendi to non-dues-paying schools with a note encouraging them to rejoin.

6. WRHC Website Update

Presented by Megan Hughes and Christina E. Denison.

- Discussion of membership management software, specifically WildApricot.
 - Concerns raised about cost; Dr. Timothy Nichols expressed the view that it is "worthy of investment."
- The membership discussed whether to hire a student to maintain the website.
- Action item: Christopher Syrnyk to reach out to NCHC to inquire about shared services.
- Budget estimates for website improvements were discussed; a vote will be deferred until after Syrnyk speaks with NCHC.

7. Treasurer's Report

Presented by Dr. Ryan Swanson (full report attached).

- 134 schools are active on the roster; approximately 75 schools paid dues as of September.
- The primary source of WRHC revenue is conference registration.
- A challenge exists due to dues being collected at the beginning of the academic year rather than the fiscal year.
- QuickBooks is in use for automated invoicing.
- Discussion of whether funds can be placed in a higher-yield savings account (raised by Gavin Keulk, Southern Oregon University).

8. Motions

Motion	Moved By	Seconded By	Result
Raise annual membership dues to \$150, with language that members experiencing financial hardship may contact the Treasurer to reduce dues to \$100.	Sandra Pérez	Motion carried	PASSED
Increase conference registration fees by \$25 across all registration types (base rate), with a 10% discount for groups of 6 or more students.	Gavin Keulks	Sandra Pérez	PASSED

9. Nominations

a. Student Representative (1-year term)

A call for student nominations was issued. Interested parties should send nominations to President Megan Hughes.

b. WRHC Board Member-at-Large

Following a call for nominations, Katie Englert was named as the new Member-at-Large.

10. NCHC Updates

Presented by Christopher Syrnyk, NCHC president-elect.

- Reminded members of opportunities at NCHC: board positions, committees, and publications.
- Members were reminded that the WRHC/NCHC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) needs to be signed.

11. Recognition

President Hughes extended sincere thanks to Dr. Timothy Nichols, Dean of the Davidson Honors College at the University of Montana, for his dedicated service to WRHC.

12. Other Business

- Scribendi will be sent to non-dues-paying schools along with an invitation to rejoin WRHC.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at the conclusion.