

Miles Community College
Board of Trustees
Minutes
April 26, 2021

The Board of Trustees of Miles Community College met in regular session at 5:30 p.m., March 22, 2021, via Zoom/face to face. The following Trustees were present: Ryan Jones, Debbie Morford, Sue Morlock, Tara Andrews, and Jeff Okerman. The following Trustees were excused: Garret McFarland and Jamie Ogolin. Also present were President Ron Slinger, Candy Laney, Sarah Kloewer, Kylene Phipps, Erin Niedge, Richard DeShields, Rita Kratky, Jerry Olson, Jay Wiebers, James Simon, Garth Sleight, Jeff Brabant, Jenna Janshen, Marlys Eggum, and Star Reporter Ashley Wise.

Chair Ryan Jones called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: MCC Women's Basketball team came to the meeting and thanked the Trustees for all their support. President Slinger thanked them for everything they do for our campus and community.

IMPORTANT DATES: President Slinger discussed the following: HiSET graduation is tomorrow, April 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the Centra. Senator Daines will be visiting the AAC/Champion Arena this Friday at 1:00 pm. President Slinger will travel to St. Johns in Billings on Sunday, April 25. St. Johns has named the MCC Nursing program as their business partner of the year. Nurses Pinning Ceremony and the Distinguished Alumni Reception will take place on Friday, May 7, and Commencement is scheduled for Saturday, May 8.

REPORTS:

- A. Enrollment Services:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Dean of Enrollment Management and Educational Support Services Erin Niedge reported on the following: Provided an update on enrollment numbers for summer and fall terms. Summer enrollment is up slightly from 2020. We continue to see a strong demand of non-degree students and students from other colleges. Our non-degree applications are up 26% over this time last year. Today we are sitting at 74 FTE for fall enrollment compared to 67 FTE in 2020; however, our fall enrollment numbers are down from 2018 and 2019.
- B. Student Engagement:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Dean of Student Engagement & Auxiliary Services Richard DeShields reported on the following: We are in the process of wrapping up the school year with residence hall closing processes and finalizing new furniture for the residence halls. ASMCC looked at budget proposals regarding fees. Dean DeShields publicly recognized James Simon, ASMCC President, for his service to MCC.
- C. ASMCC:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, President of ASMCC James Simon reported on the following: ASMCC President Simon discussed the elected positions for ASMCC. During the ASMCC meeting they discussed and approved the eLearning Fee proposal and Room & Board Rate Proposal. President Slinger thanked ASMCC President Simon for his service to MCC and our student body.
- D. Administrative Services and HR:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Dean of Administrative Services and HR Kylene Phipps reported on the following: No additions to her written report.
- E. Academic Affairs:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Vice President of Academic Affairs Rita Kratky reported on the following: The May 10 & 11 faculty and staff days itinerary will be finalized this week and will be emailed to everyone.
- F. Athletic Report:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Athletic Director Olson reported on the following: Baseball is now ranked 10th in the nation. Softball played today and won both games by the run rule. Softball's record is now 12/5/1. The two teams that the Women's Basketball team played at the national tournament are two of the most storied programs in junior college history. To win one of the games and play such a close second game was amazing for our

team. Men's basketball team was upset in overtime in the playoffs. Volleyball went to Dawson and won. They lost in the semi-finals to Bismarck. Rodeo has their last rodeo this weekend at Missoula. Cruz McNulty has qualified to go to Casper to the CNFR and Daylon Danks may also qualify after this weekend. We will begin our phone interviews this week for the Women's Basketball Head Coach position.

- G. President's Report:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, President Slinger reported on the following: President Slinger asked Garth Sleight to share news we received from NWCCU today. Associate Dean Sleight said that MCC received a letter from the NWCCU indicating that the evaluation panel assigned to our Year Six Self-Study review has completed its initial evaluation and there are currently no questions for which the panel envisions requiring a virtual visit during its deliberations next week. If the panel has specific additional documents that it might require, they will be in contact with us. They thanked the college for the well written and quality information submitted.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Trustee Stanton moved to approve the November consent agenda. Trustee Andrews seconded the motion. Motion passed.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- A. Nursing Program Update:** VP Kratky reported we have 27 students in our freshman class and 29 students in our sophomore class. It is essential we have 24 of those 27 sophomore students pass the NCLEX test on their first attempt so we will have our 80% pass rate. The sophomores are be taking their Kaplan predictor exams this week and the first part of next week. This will give us an idea of where they are with the Kaplan scores. In addition, after next week they will be earning their final grades. Our May Board of Trustee report will have much more details in terms of where those students are standing with their grades. After next week the sophomore students will be meeting with their faculty advisors in terms of where their Kaplan scores are, their grades, and what they will be doing with their review session in May after graduation.
- B. Baseball Coach Presentation:** Coach Brabant said he feels that all the coaches do an exceptional job with all the athletes. This is their sixteenth MonDak championship conference title that baseball has clinched. The program has been in existence since 2001 and in the Empire Conference in Colorado in Region IX for 4 years. Every year that this program has been in existence we have won the conference title. We have to travel to Glendive to play the final two games of the conference this week. We will travel to Williston on May 7 to play in the conference tournament. We are currently ranked 10th in the nation. We are currently 37 -11 and are 5 or 6 games away of breaking their all-time win record in a given season. We had a 3.4 GPA in the fall and may go over that this spring. We have more than 500 hours of community service hours. Our graduation rate hovers in the 87 – 88% range. We probably have half of our players returning next year. Dawson Perry is the triple crown holder, leading the country in homeruns, RBI, and batting average.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- A. Chair Report:** Budget is tracking as expected and a little better than last year. Tuition is up slightly and we will be spending all the excess revenue and any unspent revenue will go back into reserves. At the end of the year, any excess will be used to reallocate balances that have negative equity fund balances. We have the first reading of a resolution for the Permissive Medical Levy. We will be holding a community meeting to get any public comment on the Permissive Medical Levy before bringing the resolution to the May Board of Trustee meeting for a second reading. This is a continuous process for the Permissive Medical Levy and has to be done every year. Audit has been completed and we have no recommendations. Two other resolutions are being brought forward approving a promissory note to purchase the land at the West End Campus. The loan will go through the college and not the Foundation. The payment will be approximately \$20,000 a year beginning in May 2022 with a balloon payment in 2026 of approximately \$240,000. The loan rate is 4.25% with no prepayment penalty. We are asking Trustees to waive the second reading.

- B. Old Business:** Trustee Andrews asked where are we on the COVID money?
President Slinger said we are still identifying the capital expenditures we can apply the final \$250,000 of the current COVID money to. We have until January 2022 to spend these funds. We have still not received the official notification regarding the next COVID funding.
- C. New Business:** President Slinger said two resolutions are being brought forward, one to approve borrowing \$272,000 to purchase the BLM land and giving President Slinger the ability to sign the loan documents. The second resolution identifies the proposed payment options for this loan. Because of timing, we are asking Trustees to waive the second reading. We have an appraisal on the property that is aging, BLM has already gotten approval to release the patent restrictions, and we have a private company that is willing to loan the money. Trustee Andrews asked what we are using for collateral? The college is going to back the loan with facilities. Trustee Morlock said that it never made sense to have a \$3,000,000 building on land that we did not own. Having this opportunity to purchase the land is pretty amazing. If you think in terms of the percentage of the value of the land as opposed to the building it is less than 10%. It seems like a reasonable investment the only concern always is that we have the money when it comes due. I do believe that the Foundation is going to continue to help us in every way that it can and be involved in fundraising for us.

Trustee Morlock moved to waive the second reading on both resolutions before the Board, the authorization to borrow \$272,000 and the authorization for the repayment schedule as stated in the resolutions. Trustee Okerman seconded the motion. Motion passed

Trustee Andrews moved to approve the resolution to authorize the college to borrow \$272,000 to purchase of the BLM land. Trustee Morlock seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Trustee Okerman moved to approve the repayment schedule out of the general fund. Trustee Andrews seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Trustee Morford said with regards to the resolution in the wording the first installment is May 1, 2022, but on the promissory note the first installment is August 1, 2022. Trustee Morford asked that President Slinger check into these dates. The other correction on the promissory note is it states Dickinson, SD, in the first paragraph, it should say Dickinson, ND. President Slinger said that in going over these documents today with Sheryl Cathey, these two items have been corrected. The first payment is due on May 1, 2022 and South Dakota has been changed to North Dakota.

HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE:

- A. Chair Report:** The committee was briefed on staffing and status of searches and positions. Faculty negotiations will take place on May 17 and 18. The election is May 4. They were also updated on the accreditation report.
- B. Old Business:**
- C. New Business:**

QUALITY AND ADVOCACY:

- A. Chair Report:** The committee received a Nursing program update from VP Kratky. They also received an update on the Heavy Equipment program. The college is considering revamping the program to better serve the needs of the industry and better serve our students. The college is also considering putting the program on moratorium. The committee was also given legislative updates.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. VP Kratky discussed the items on the consent agenda.

Trustee Morlock moved to accept the Academic Affairs Consent agenda. Trustee Andrews seconded motion. Motion passed.

Trustee Jones adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- A. Athletic Department Strategic Master Plan
- B. MCC Strategic Plan
- C. VA Property
- D. Student Conduct Process & BIT
- E. Presentation by Coaches

The next regular Board of Trustee meeting will be held on Monday, May 24, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in room 106 and/or Zoom.

Chair

Secretary