

**Miles Community College  
Board of Trustees  
Minutes  
May 24, 2021**

The Board of Trustees of Miles Community College met in regular session at 5:30 p.m., May 24, 2021, via Zoom/face to face. The following Trustees were present: Ryan Jones, Sue Morlock, Jeff Okerman, Garret McFarland, and Jamie Ogolin. The following Trustees were excused: Debbie Morford and Tara Andrews. Also present were President Ron Slinger, Candy Laney, Sarah Kloewer, Kylene Phipps, Erin Niedege, Richard DeShields, Rita Kratky, Jerry Olson, Jay Wiebers, Jenna Janshen, Diedre Fitzgerald, Molly Magestro, Jessica Lofland, Hannah Nash, Nancy Aaberge, Elizabeth Patten, and Star Reporter Ashley Wise.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Hannah Nash discussed HB102 and encouraged the Trustees to wait for judicial review. Molly Magestro strongly encouraged the Trustees to wait until the HB102 moves through the courts for review. Jessica Lofland, speaking as the representative as classified and exempt staff, asked the Trustees to postpone their decision on policy 1900.4 until the State Supreme Court can act on HB102. Sarah Kloewer also asked the Trustees to postpone their decision on the policy until the State Supreme Court has made their ruling on HB102. Their comments are attached.

**IMPORTANT DATES:** President Slinger discussed the following: Board of Regents will meet this week via Zoom. President Slinger will be in Butte June 1 & 2 for a Montana Chamber of Commerce Board meeting.

**REPORTS:**

- A. Enrollment Services:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Dean of Enrollment Management and Educational Support Services Erin Niedege reported on the following: MCC Registrar Jordan Ulrich has finished verifying and posting all of the degrees for our graduates. We awarded 126 degrees to 111 students. Four graduates are still pending that have incomplete grades or T grades. Dean Niedege thanked everyone who worked on all the various events that took place at the end of the year and who helped move the graduation ceremony from outside to the Centra. We continue to work with OCHE staff and Quottly as we gear up to launch our campus participation in that platform. We are the third institution in the pilot program, along with UM-Missoula and Helena College. We will be putting courses up for registration through the Quottly platform for the fall semester.
- 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: Our housing and dining numbers for fall picked up last week. We have five students staying in the residence halls this summer. Dean DeShields thanked oneHealth for their partnership over this past term with COVID 19 by not only administering COVID testing for our athletes, but also coming to campus in the later part of the term and being so flexible when our schedules changed. They administered over 2,000 tests for our athletes. Molly Cockburn will serve as ASMCC President and Kelbee Denham will serve as ASMCC Vice President. Student Senate awarded Anne Anderson the Faculty Member of the Year and Ron Slinger was awarded Staff Member of the Year. Blayne Hubing was First Year Student of the Year and Reagan Harper was Sophomore Student of the Year. As an incentive for students to get their COVID 19 vaccination, the State of Montana has partnered with Town Pump. Town Pump is giving students a gift card when they present their COVID 19 vaccination card. Dean DeShields thanked the Miles City Fire Department for supporting the Women's Basketball team by giving them a ride on the fire truck after their performance at the national tournament.
- C. 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: We are finalizing some of our job searches and the Rodeo Coach search is moving forward. Dean Phipps welcomed Deidre FitzGerald as Director of

Nursing and Darin Spence as the Women's Basketball Coach. We are finalizing our EMT remodel project and working with VP Kratky to close out the GEER grant. We are also planning a visit from FVCC in June. We continue to survey our faculty and staff in prioritizing projects to make sure we are utilizing the technology needs for classrooms and instructors for remote distance learning.

- D. Academic Affairs:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Vice President of Academic Affairs Rita Kratky reported on the following: She welcomed Dani Hudson and Jennifer Olmstead as our new Nursing faculty members. We have 29 students in the graduating Sophomore class with 28 passing and one receiving a T grade. The Registrar has submitted transcripts to the State Board of Nursing for students that requested it. Once the SBON receives student transcripts, the students can register for their NCLEX exams. We have the support of the Foundation in reimbursing the test fee to students who pass their NCLEX exam on the first attempt. We currently have 23 Freshmen students who will be moving onto the nursing sophomore class. In July, Nursing Director FitzGerald will be attending the SBON quarterly meeting. In September we will have our ACEN visit and during Spring term we will have our regional accreditation visit from NWCCU. Nursing Director FitzGerald said the Nursing faculty continues to work with the graduating students. She also discussed the process for the NCLEX test readiness and review process through Kaplan. Students that wanted to take advantage of this opportunity began this process a week after graduation.
- E. Athletic Report:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Athletic Director Olson reported on the following: AD Olson welcomed Darin Spence as the Women's Basketball coach, who will be on campus Thursday. He has a wealth of experience and has already started recruiting. AD Olson has been traveling with the softball and baseball teams. This was our softball team's first full season. They won their sub-region at Glendive by beating Dawson twice. The team traveled back to Glendive and beat Dawson again to win the regional tournament. They then traveled to super-regional tournament in Iowa where they lost. We are very proud of their first-year accomplishments not only on the field, but also in the classroom. Our baseball team did not win the sub-region, but did advanced to the regional tournament, which they won. They then traveled to Iowa for the super-regional tournament, where they were defeated by Kirkwood Community College. The baseball team was ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in the final poll in the national rankings. AD Olson congratulated Dawson Parry for winning the regular season triple crown, which means he led the nation in batting average, home runs, and RBIs. AD Olson said our spring athletic season is not over yet. Cruz McNulty and Daylon Danks will both be representing MCC at the CNFR in Casper in June. Rebekkah Dallenger was named Player of the Year in the NJCAA and the WBCA. AD Olson congratulated Coach Tait as two of his players, Favour Chukwukelu and Jakim Ricketts, were named Outstanding Graduates. Three of MCC's coaches, Shawna Juarez, Jeff Brabant, and Taylor Harris, received Coach of the Year awards.
- F. President's Report:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, President Slinger reported on the following: President Slinger said MCC hosted Senator Daines and appreciated the individuals that attended. Complimented our Nursing program for the college being named Partner of the Year with St. John's. President Slinger, VP Kratky, Nursing Director FitzGerald attended the ceremony in Billings. He also thanked Dean Niedege for planning two graduation ceremonies and her team, IT, and facilities for all their hard work making graduation activities a huge success. Board of Trustee retreat July 19 – 23.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

#### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- A. Summer/Fall Enrollment Update:** Dean Niedege said that we will have more information with final summer number and finish the end of term processes to report in June. Housing, summer, and fall enrollment are looking good. We did project a slight enrollment increase for the budget next year. Summer enrollment numbers, as of today, are almost right on last summer's numbers with 57 FTE compared to 58 FTE at this time last summer. Summer enrollment last year ended

up at 64 FTE and with more applications received today that have not been entered, we should be getting close to that FTE number this summer. If we look at date to date, fall enrollment is 22% behind last year's numbers; however, at this point last year our continuing Nursing students had been registered. When the Nursing students are enrolled that should bring us up about 18.5 FTE, which would bring us closer but still down about 8%. With the late Memorial Day holiday, and not all high schools being out for the summer, our May 25 SOAR session has about 15 attendees registered; however, as of today the June 9 SOAR session has about 30 attendees registered. As of today, we are looking at 96 FTE this year and we were at 122 FTE on this date last year. We cannot predict retention numbers until the state locks down our end-of-term numbers.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

- A. Chair Report: Trustee Ogolin reported the budget is on track with no concerns. He said we will be asking the Board to waive the second reading on all of the resolutions that are being brought forward tonight.
- B. **Old Business:** None
- C. **New Business:**
  - a. **Resolution to purchase CDL Simulator:** VP Kratky said that our simulator is several years old and the manufacturer no longer services or maintains this model. A simulator does significantly reduce the amount of drive time that the students need to be one-on-one with the instructor in the truck. That certainly relates to the COVID concerns with the instructor and students able to maintain social distancing. This simulator also saves wear and tear on the truck because the students learn how to do the shifting and some of the safety features in the simulator. The concern for waiving the second reading is because of two factors: COVID and its effect on manufacturing, but also in terms of the changes with the federal regulations to obtain a CDL license. There has been a significant increase in simulator orders from manufacturers so they already have a longer line of orders than they are producing. In order to expedite us getting the simulator in a timely manner we are requesting a waive of the second reading.

***Trustee Morlock moved to waive second reading. Trustee McFarland seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

***Trustee Ogolin moved to approve the purchase of the new CDL Simulator. Trustee McFarland seconded the motion.***

***Discussion: Trustee Okerman asked if this simulator would go in our mobile lab. VP Kratky said that it depends on the dimensions of the new simulator and if it will fit in the trailer. Trustee Okerman asked if we are still taking the simulator to different locations. VP Kratky said that prior to COVID we did. Dean Niedge said that the mobile lab was used more as a recruiting tool than actual off-sight remote training.***

***Motion passed.***

- b. **Audit Resolution:** The responsibility of contacting auditing firms, which in the past was done by the State, has fallen back on us. We would like to try to piggy back with a someone in town that is having an audit at the same time.

***Trustee Morlock moved to waive second reading. Trustee McFarland seconded the motion. Motion passed***

***Trustee McFarland moved to accept the audit resolution as stated. Trustee Ogolin seconded the motion. Motion passed***

- c. **FY2022 and 2023 Tuition Resolution:** The increase ranges from between 3.3% and 4.06%. The in-district is 3.3% moving from \$91 per credit to \$94 per credit.

***Trustee Morlock moved to waive the second reading. Trustee Okerman seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

***Trustee Okerman moved to accept the Tuition Resolution as presented. Trustee Ogolin seconded the motion.***

***Trustee Ogolin said that the ASMCC did submit a letter of support for the proposal. Our appropriation is only \$207,000 so we will need to have a tuition increase. Trustee Okerman said that the process is very inclusive with student input.***

***Motion passed.***

- d. **Room and Board Resolution:** two years ago, we stated that we would have small incremental increases each year so we do not have to have large increases to catch up. Both Dining and Housing have an aggregate increase of 5% not to surpass 7%. We are asking Trustees approve an increase for three years. The need for a housing rate increase is to cover the increase of cable and utilities rates. Dining rate increases is to cover a raise in the salaries and food costs.

***Trustee Morlock moved to waive the second reading. Trustee McFarland seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

***Trustee Ogolin moved to accept the Room and Board Rate Increase resolution. Trustee McFarland seconded the motion.***

***Trustee Morlock appreciated hearing that the students want cable. This is not what she expected.***

***Motion passed.***

- e. **eLearning Fee Proposal:** How the delivery of courses have morphed was explained very well. This will streamline the costs. This fee will only apply to students that sign-up for online, blended, or Hyflex courses. This fee will not affect students that want to take face-to-face classes. There is also a Letter of Support from the ASMCC.

***Trustee Morlock moved to waive second reading. Trustee McFarland seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

***Trustee McFarland moved to accept the eLearning Fee resolution as presented. Trustee Okerman seconded the motion.***

***Trustee Morlock was very concerned that the fee was going to be charged to all students, even if they didn't utilize this modality. Now that she understands this fee will only affect the students utilizing the online course delivery, she feels very good about it because this will actually save students money. They are currently paying a minimum of \$30 and up to \$45 per credit depending on the course they are taking. This resolution will change the fee to \$28 per credit.***

***Motion passed.***

#### **HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE:**

- A. **Chair Report:** Trustee McFarland reported they discussed open positions and needing to have Trustees fill out the president's evaluation. Board of Trustee self-evaluations will be sent out and will be due July 1.
- B. **Old Business:**
- C. **New Business:**
  - a. **Oath of Office:** Trustee Jones administered the Oath of Office to Trustee Okerman and Trustee Janshen.

- b. **Election of Trustee Officers:** Currently the slate of officers is as follows:  
Chair Ryan Jones, Vice Chair Jamie Ogolin, and Secretary Tara Andrews

***Trustee McFarland moved to keep the slate of officers to be cast as mentioned. Trustee Okerman seconded. Motion passed.***

- c. **Committee Assignments:** Committee assignments do not change until August; therefore, Trustee Jones will make the assignments prior to the next Trustee meeting.
- d. **Conflict of Interest Disclosures:** Trustees were asked to have the Conflict of Interest Disclosures signed prior to leaving the meeting today.
- e. **BOT Self Evaluation:** Survey Monkey surveys will be sent out to Trustees and ask that the surveys are completed by July 1.
- f. **Firearm and Security Policy:** The committee deliberated this and after much discussion, the HR Committee recommends the Trustees take no action on this policy until the courts make a decision. If the courts do not stay the law, we will call a special meeting prior to June 1.

**QUALITY AND ADVOCACY:**

- A. **Chair Report:** Trustee Ogolin said topics discussed by the committee were COVID protocols, HB 102 was a large part of the discussion, and the committee was updated on the additional stimulus money we will receive in the amount of approximately \$891,000. The college will have one year to spend this funding, which will be May 1, 2022. Half of this funding goes directly to student grants, which will leave approximately \$450,000 to allocate for bettering our schooling and protocols that need to take place.

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

***Trustee McFarland moved to accept the Academic Affairs Consent agenda. Trustee Janshen seconded motion. Motion passed.***

Trustee Jones adjourned the meeting at 7:02 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, June 28, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in room 106 and/or Zoom.

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Chair

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Secretary