

**Miles Community College  
Board of Trustees  
Minutes  
January 24, 2022**

The Board of Trustees of Miles Community College met in regular session at 5:30 p.m., January 24, 2022, in room 106. The following Trustees were present Ryan Jones, Debbie Morford, Jamie Ogolin, Tara Andrews, and Jenna Janshen. The following Trustees were excused: Jeff Okerman and Garret McFarland. Also present were President Ron Slinger, Candy Laney, Kylene Phipps, Richard DeShields, Erin Niedege, Nancy Aaberge, Garth Sleight, Rita Kratky, Jerry Olson, Jay Wiebers, Coach Tait, Coach Spence, Sarah Small, and Star Reporter Ashley Wise.

Chair Ryan Jones called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**IMPORTANT DATES:** President Slinger discussed the following: Excited about the mental health presentation by Coach Potter and Nanette Potter on Wednesday evening in the Centra. Introduced new employee Sarah Small, who is the new night custodian. Thursday evening, he will be attending the Chamber Banquet, February 12 is the Buckaroo Bash, and February 19 is the Athletic Hall of Fame.

**REPORTS:**

- A. Enrollment Services:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Dean Niedege reported on the following: Dean Niedege is pleased with the initial enrollment MCC received from our partnership in the MUS pilot program, Montana Course Sharing platform, hosted by Quottly. We had 14 students from other campuses enroll in our online classes.
- 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: The auxiliaries are at the same number as last year on this date. We are bringing key note speakers Coach Mark Potter and Nanette Potter to campus on Wednesday. They will be speaking on some of the issues of mental health and the stigmas associated with counseling and depression. Student Senate is beginning to meet and will report out next month.
- B. a. Athletic:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Athletic Director Jerry Olson reported on the following: Due to COVID 19, our game with Lake Region tomorrow has been moved to Thursday. Softball will open their season on February 11 & 12 at the Minot Dome. Baseball is scheduled to kick off their season this weekend in Miles City. Both Softball and Baseball are receiving votes for the top 20 teams in the nation from the NJCAA poll. Buckaroo Bash is scheduled on February 12, Reverse Raffle tickets will be kicking off soon, and the Athletic Hall of Fame will be held on February 19.
- C. Administrative Services and HR:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Dean Phipps reported on the following: Dean Phipps did not have updates to the report submitted, but wanted to highlight the new HR webpage. Our IT staff continues to be proactive with support and maintaining our IT infrastructure. Both of the ARPA grants were resubmitted earlier this month for the new sewer line project and the new Nursing facility. The state Infrastructure Advisory Commission will be meeting on January 27 and will provide the Governor their recommendations.
- 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: The welding cutting machine, purchased by the Perkins grant, has arrived and the new part-time instructor Daniel Thormodsgard has installed it. The Social Work course, which is being taught by Anna Rapson, had a good start with 11 students currently enrolled.
- E. President's Report:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, President Slinger reported on the following: Ross Lawrence was selected for the Blue and Silver award for Fall semester. Sarah Kloewer was chosen to the MUS Teaching Scholar program. Wally Badgett was nominated for the Cowboy Hall of Fame. GPA's for the athletic teams were very good this fall semester.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

***Trustee Ogolin moved to approve the consent agenda. Trustee Morford seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- A. Introduction of Men's and Women's Basketball Teams:** Men's and Women's Basketball teams introduced themselves, where they are from, and their major.
- B. Spring Enrollment:** Dean Niede discussed preliminary enrollment information as of today. Current FTE number is 381. With our Registrar leaving at the end of December, we are off a little on our timeline of entering concurrent enrollment so on paper we are lagging slightly behind. When the concurrent enrollment is entered, this number will increase. As of this afternoon the current headcount number is 582. Last year we ended at 686 headcount. We may exceed this if we have strong concurrent enrollment numbers. The new incoming class for spring numbers are up 5% from last year. Non-degree numbers are also back up. Preliminary overall fall to spring retention number is 84.59%.
- C. Workforce Solutions Program:** President Slinger said this program mirrors our Mission Statement and Core Themes. It is a partnership between MCC and the Montana business community. This is a program that will benefit all of Montana, not just eastern Montana. This program is a guided pathway for companies to create their own unique company specific certificate to train and upscale their employees. The companies see this as an employee retention tool. Each company's certificate will include two mandatory courses. Once the two mandatory courses have been completed the students, along with their supervisor, will be able to pick from a list of elective courses the company has chosen. These courses will be existing courses we already offer. If the course they select is offered during the employee's normal work day, the company will agree to provide release time for the employee to attend via zoom, thus there is no need for the employee to leave their place of business to attend class. This modality makes it possible to serve companies anywhere in Montana. We have Stockman Bank set-up for the Workforce Solutions program with four employees enrolled. SCL Health and the Montana Chamber Youth Entrepreneurs program are very interested in this program. President Slinger will be meeting with seven other companies regarding the Workforce Solutions program. Except for the Montana Chamber Youth Entrepreneurs program, the students in this Workforce Solutions program will all be adult learners. His hope is that we will have upward of 10 companies in this program this Fall with anywhere from 35 to 45 students.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

- A. Chair Report:** Trustee Andrews said the budget is out of sorts, but that had to do with the timing of income coming in and enrollment. Trustee Ogolin reported they discussed COVID funding. There is still approximately \$170,000 to be allocated. The Executive Team is moving forward with items that have been identified as qualifying for this funding. Audit is ongoing.
- B. Old Business:** No Old Business
- C. New Business:** No New Business

### **HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE:**

- A. Chair Report:** Trustee Janshen reported they discussed current staffing. Dean Phipps is still waiting on the IT Assessment report from Chris Gill. They toured the HR website page, which is very well done. A new defensive driver training has been implemented. Going forward, anyone driving college vehicles will need to take this training prior to their trip. The committee was given an Accreditation update. They are currently working on compiling information for the report. The report will be submitted in March and the virtual visit will take place in April. Trustee Janshen said they have before them a Resolution Calling for an Election and they are requesting a waiver of the second reading. Feedback is being collected on the 2022/23 academic calendar. This is only a one-year calendar, as they are assessing the fall start date going forward. The calendar will be brought to the Trustees next month. A COVID 19 update was also given to the committee.
- B. Old Business:** No Old Business
- C. New Business a: Resolution Calling for an Election:**

***Trustee Janshen moved to waive second reading. Trustee Morford seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

***Trustee Janshen moved to approve the Resolution Calling for an Election. Trustee Andrews seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

**QUALITY AND ADVOCACY:**

- A. **Chair Report:** Trustee Morford reported the committee was given an update on spring enrollment, MCC Workforce Solutions program, CDL program, and Nursing update.

**ACADEMIC CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. **Academic Consent Item:** VP Kratky discussed the four items on the Academic Consent agenda to be voted on this evening.

***Trustee Ogolin moved to approve the Academic Consent agenda as presented. Trustee Janshen seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- A. Athletic Department Strategic Master Plan
- B. MCC Strategic Plan
- C. VA Property
- D. Presentation by Coaches
- E. Foundation
- F. Meat Processing

Adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

The next regular Board of Trustee meeting will be held on Monday, February 28, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in room 106.

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Chair

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Secretary