

**Miles Community College
Board of Trustees
Minutes
August 23, 2021**

The Board of Trustees of Miles Community College met in regular session at 5:30 p.m., August 23, 2021, in room 106. The following Trustees were present Garret McFarland, Debbie Morford, Jamie Ogolin, Tara Andrews, and Jenna Janshen. The following Trustees were excused: Ryan Jones and Jeff Okerman. Also present were President Ron Slinger, Candy Laney, Richard DeShields, Nancy Aaberge, Richard Cox, Erin Niedge, Rita Kratky, Jerry Olson, Jay Wiebers, Diedre FitzGerald, Garth Sleight, Molly Magestro, and Star Reporter Ashley Wise.

Vice Chair Jamie Ogolin called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

IMPORTANT DATES: President Slinger discussed the following: President Slinger introduced the volleyball team and Dining Services Assistant Richard Cox to the Trustees. President Slinger also said convocation will be held on August 30 in the 300 rooms, and baseball alumni weekend is scheduled on September 11.

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: Student Services staff will be attending 28 college fairs across four states in person this fall. Pioneer Express registrations are off to a good start, receiving 10 high school student applications today.
- 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: September 2 we will be hosting a Welcome Wagon BBQ. Enrollment in housing is up three students from where we were last year. We have replaced all of the beds and mattresses in the residence halls this year. We are rolling out mental health training for faculty and staff this week.
- C. Administrative Services and HR:** In Dean Phipps's absence, no report was given.
- 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: All of our faculty will be back next week. They are finalizing the fall schedule and will be meeting to go over head count after the last SOAR session registrations on September 3.
- E. Athletic Report:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Athletic Director Olson reported on the following: The Pioneer Scramble will be held this Saturday with a limit of 18 teams. Athletic Director Olson had the privilege of watching the volleyball team in Butte last week. Their first home game is September 14.
- F. President's Report:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, President Slinger reported on the following: President Slinger said there was a two-day strategic planning workshop last week with Dr. Landen Pirius. We will be engaging faculty, staff, students, and community member for their input in the plan. The SBDC office had their accreditation visit on August 4, next month we will have the ACEN accreditation visit, and next spring we will have the NWCCA accreditation visit.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- A. Enrollment Update:** Dean Niedge said this reported is changing every day. As of today, we are sitting at 279 FTE, but are well behind last year. We had 48 students attend the SOAR session; however, there are 22 students that attended SOAR but are not registered. Our final SOAR session is September 3 and anticipate this session being very large. We are fairly steady with new first-time numbers. The new first-time and transfer numbers will go up as we resolve some of the SOAR issues from last week. We have 24 more students registered in Early College (high school dual enrollment) than we had at this point last year. This number does not include the applications received today. The retention number continues to tick up. When faculty members return and begin working this list we should see this number

increase. Pleased with pre-nursing student numbers this year, however these students do not tend to be a full FTE.

- B. **Nursing Program Update:** President Slinger reported we are at 88% pass rate, 21 out of 24 of our graduates have passed the NCLEX. We have five more students that have to test. We need to hit 24 passing to get over the 80% threshold that the ACEN looks for. We will need three of the five remaining students to pass. We will not know if the five have taken the NCLEX until October. One of the students who did not pass retook the test and passed. ACEN could deny our accreditation if we do not meet the 80% pass rate; however, they could grant us accreditation but we would be on condition. Our Nursing program is an accredited program through the State Board of Nursing in the state of Montana, but what we are trying to get is the professional accreditation of ACEN as well. This will provide our students with endless pathways to employment.

- C. **SkyFactor Residence Survey:** Richard reported this is a survey we do with our residence hall students that identifies their overall satisfaction with our college and housing program. Last year the company that helps formulate the survey recognized MCC as one of the top five institutions in the country for the work we are doing with our students. There were only two community colleges who participated in the survey, therefore we were being compared to four-year colleges. This survey is measuring overall satisfaction, overall learning, and overall program effectiveness. In the overall learning section, MCC ranked number one in the country. We had a 67% response rate with the survey.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- A. **Chair Report:** Trustee Ogolin reported that the budget was finished. We were able to put \$50,000 into reserves.

- B. **Old Business:** No Old Business

- C. **New Business:** No New Business

HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE:

- A. **Chair Report:** Trustee McFarland reported they talked about staffing, professional development days went well this summer, message of inclusion, and COVID protocol.

- B. **Old Business:** No Old Business

- C. **New Business:** No New Business

QUALITY AND ADVOCACY:

- A. **Chair Report:** Trustee Ogolin reported the committee discussed the relationship with Transco, Montana Chamber proposal, MCC Employee outreach, strategic plan, and COVID protocol.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. No report

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

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

Adjourned the meeting at 6:50

The next regular Board of Trustee meeting will be held on Monday, September 27, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in room 106.

Chair

Secretary