

**Miles Community College**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**Minutes**  
**April 24, 2023**

The Board of Trustees of Miles Community College met in regular session at 5:30 p.m., April 24, 2023, in room 106. The following Trustees were present: Jamie Ogolin, Debbie Morford, Jeff Okerman, Garret McFarland, Jenna Janshen, and Tara Andrews. The following Trustee was excused: Ryan Jones. Also present were President Ron Slinger, Candy Laney, Kylene Phipps, Erin Niedge, Richard DeShields, Nancy Aaberge, Sam Giordanengo, Jay Wiebers, and Star Reporter Ashlie Wise.

Chair Ogolin called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**IMPORTANT DATES:** President Slinger reported the HiSET graduation will be held on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the Centra. Nurses Pinning will be on Friday, May 5, at 4:00 in the Centra, and Commencement is on Saturday, May 6, at 10:00 in the Centra.

**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: Dean Niedge congratulated Jill Olson, Admissions Counselor, on a very successful travel season. We increased over 4000 miles compared to this time last year with an additional 10 high school visits. A special note on financial aid, for the last three years we contracted with a company for all of our mandated student loan outreach. We are contracting with them to do some additional repayment counseling for repayment of student loans. If we go over 18% nonpayment of student loans, MCC is put on sanctions.
- B. Student Engagement:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Dean of Student Engagement Richard DeShields reported on the following: We are wrapping up residence halls and having students reapply for housing. We are down slightly because of our third-year athletes that came back from their COVID year. We are down 15 students from this time last year. Opportunity Realized has wrapped up with mock interviews with students. Part of our facility maintenance in the residence halls, the cabinet and the shelving project, will only be a two-year project not three as indicated during last month's meeting. Student Senate is wrapping up its year with its last meeting tonight. Austin Kountz has been selected as next year's Student Senate President. Student Senate did vote to support the administration's proposal for tuition and room & board. They also passed a bylaw amendment to fund a stipend for faculty and staff who serve as advisors for clubs.
- B. a. Athletics:** In Athletic Director Olson's absence Dean DeShields reported: The two MCC rodeos were very successful this weekend. Daylon Danks won first in his event. Our Women's team ranked second during the weekend rodeo. Baseball and Softball are both doing quite well in their season. Cowtown Classic made a little over \$23,000, which is about a \$2,000 increase over last year.
- C. Administrative Services and HR:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Dean Kylene Phipps reported on the following: We have a handful of faculty and staff positions in various stages of the search process. The facilities department is getting ready for HiSET, Nurses' Pinning, and Commencement ceremonies and then moving right into preparing for summer camps in the residence hall as well as getting ready for the fall semester. The IT department is focusing on efficiencies across campus and security backup.
- D. Academic Affairs:** In VP Rita Kratky's absence no additional report was given.
- E. President's Report:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, President Ron Slinger reported on the following: We actually have 13 Opportunity Realized high school partners. He is now reaching out to get endorsements for the program from the business and economic development community to get them to validate and support this program. Our goal with this program is upon high school graduation students are job ready. Western Governors Association consists of 19 states west of the Mississippi. The governors in this association all collaborate and look at policy and initiatives. Governor Gianforte will be hosting a conference with the Western Governors Association next month in Bozeman. President Slinger has been asked to serve on a panel discussion talking about launching local careers and more specifically how to engage rural communities in opportunities for high school students to get credentials but also get engaged in the workforce. He will be highlighting the MCC Opportunity Realized program, CNA outreach, and our Meat

Processing partnership with Big Sky High School. Senator Kenneth Bogner will be the commencement speaker this year.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- A. Summer Enrollment Update:** Dean Niedge discussed enrollment as of April 20. There was a cyber attack on the MUS data warehouse through MSU, which impacted our ability to pull current numbers as of today. Summer numbers are up from last year at 45 FTE and 146 Headcount compared to 28.7 FTE and 90 Headcount last year. Of those 45 FTE, a little over 42 are Montana FTE. It is still early to track enrollment for Fall. We are rolling out additional terms of classes in May.
- B. Nursing Program Update:** President Slinger gave a nursing program update and highlighted the ACEN Board recently changed their accreditation standards. There are now three different ways they will give program accreditation. First, the graduating class has an 80% or higher pass rate on their first attempt at taking the NCLEX. Second, if all test takers in a class reach 80% or better regardless of how many times they take the NCLEX test. Third, they will look at the three-year average pass rate of all test takers. If these criteria had been in place for the last three years, MCC would have been in the 100 percentiles with our students passing no matter the number of times they took the test. Moving forward, we are still wanting our students to pass on the first attempt. The Nursing program has implemented a six-week post-graduation review program for graduating sophomores to participate in as they prepare for their NCLEX exams. All of our graduating class has already signed up to take that post-graduation class. Nursing faculty will then keep in touch with students until they take the NCLEX test.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

- A. Chair Report:** Trustee Andrews reported the budget is looking good. It looks as if we have a deficit; however, that is just a timing issue. We are trending better than last year. We do have two things in the old business and two things in the new business. We are asking to waive the second reading of the Tuition and Fee resolution.
- B. Old Business:**
  - a. Permissive Medical Levy Resolution (second reading):**

***Trustee McFarland moved to accept the Permissive Medical Levy resolution. Trustee Okerman seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

- b. Centra Boiler Resolution (second reading):**

***Trustee McFarland moved to accept the Centra Boiler resolution. Trustee Morford seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

- C. New Business:**
  - a. FY24 and FY25 Tuition & Fee Resolution (first reading):** this has been vetted across the campus, Trustees, and students. The Student Senate has approved the resolution. We are asking for a waive of the second reading as we need to get these numbers to the Commissioners office for the Board of Regents meeting on May 17 and 18.

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

***Trustee McFarland moved to accept FY24 and FY25 Tuition & Fee resolution as presented. Trustee Janshen seconded the motion.***

***Trustee Okerman commented that the increases were well vetted in committee with a lot of discussion with the Trustees. Plus, the student involvement and the transparency with the increases are pretty powerful.***

***Motion passed.***

- b. Room and Board Resolution (first reading): no action**

**HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE:**

- A. **Chair Report:** Trustee McFarland said Dean Phipps covered everything in her report. They finished faculty negotiation, and faculty & staff positions are being worked on and filled.
- B. **Old Business:**
- C. **New Business:**

**QUALITY AND ADVOCACY:**

- A. **Chair Report:** Trustee Okerman said they discussed where we are legislatively and talked about the tuition & fees increases.

**ACADEMIC CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. **Academic Consent Items:** Associate Dean of Instruction and eLearning Sam Giordanengo discussed the items being brought forward for approval.

***Trustee McFarland moved to approve the Academic Consent Items as presented. Trustee Janshen seconded the motion.***

***Trustee Okerman said the Academic Consent agenda said “Add College Studies 111”, what is our Opportunity Realized program? President Slinger said that College Studies 111 is the Opportunity Realized program.***

***Motion passed.***

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- A. Athletic Department Strategic Plan
- B. MCC Strategic Plan
- C. Meat Processing
- D. Tour CDL simulator
- E. Update on Nursing Program

Adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

The next regular Board of Trustee meeting will be held on Monday, May 22, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in room 106.

---

Chair

---

Secretary