

**Miles Community College**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**Minutes**  
**September 26, 2022**

The Board of Trustees of Miles Community College met in regular session at 5:30 p.m., September 22, 2022, in room 106. The following Trustees were present: Jamie Ogolin, Debbie Morford, Garret McFarland, Jeff Okerman, Ryan Jones, and via phone Jenna Janshen. The following Trustee was excused: Tara Andrews. Also present were President Ron Slinger, Candy Laney, Kylene Phipps, Richard DeShields, Erin Niedge, Rita Kratky, Nancy Aaberge, Jerry Olson, Garth Sleight, Jonathan Thornton, Dirk Schmidt, Raymond Knight, Whitney Smith, Chase Tait, Men's Basketball Team, and Star Reporter Ashley Wise.

Chair Jamie Ogolin called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**IMPORTANT DATES:** President Slinger asked Dean Niedge to introduced Student Services Assistant Whitney Smith and Richard DeShields to introduce Campus Compact AmeriCorps volunteer Raymond Knight.

**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: We are headed into College Application Week. Recruitment is well underway for us. Admissions Counselor Jill Olson is doing a great job for MCC. We have shifted marketing focus to the mini session trying to drive enrollment up by end of term. Dean Niedge said that the amount of aid distributed this fall was \$831,000. Trustee Okerman asked Dean Niedge to refresh them on the course sharing platform. Dean Niedge said MCC joined with a couple of other campuses in the MUS last spring with course sharing. Quottly is the name of the company that runs course sharing, which is integrated deeply with the Banner student system on all campuses. There is a website students can access by signing in with their home institution credentials to search for a class that may be unavailable at their home campus but can find it at another Quottly partner campus to take that class. It works very well for us and we have seen more benefit in enrollment than we have sent out.
- 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 have finalized Dish Network, so we now have cable on campus. In the upcoming week you will receive our annual Clery safety report. Student Senate elections were held last Thursday and Friday. They will have their first meeting next Wednesday. Student Senate was able to partner with AmeriCorps on the 9/11 Day of Service and take gift bags to first responders.
- B. a. Athletics:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Athletic Director Jerry Olson reported on the following: Invited Board of Trustee members to the Athletic Hall of Fame dinner at the Town & Country Club. Tickets are available through Athletic Director Olson and cost \$40 each. After expenses the Pioneer Scramble made a little over \$7,000. Our men finished 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Cody rodeo, they finished 3<sup>rd</sup> at Glendive rodeo, and they finished 2<sup>nd</sup> last weekend at the Havre rodeo. The Rodeo team will be in Dillon this weekend for their last fall rodeo. Miles Community College will have a double rodeo this spring. The Volleyball team left today for their matches in Wahpeton and Devils Lake. The Softball team is at UM this weekend for a tournament. The Baseball team is at home on Saturday at 1:00 and Sunday at 10:00. Women's basketball begins with their first scrimmages on October 8 in Colorado.
- 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 excited for the pavement project at the Workforce Readiness Center for our CDL testing site. This will open many opportunities for the college.
- D. Academic Affairs:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, VP Kratky reported on the following: We have been working with faculty to submit early reports and alerts. Fall faculty load has been finalized and we are now beginning our spring scheduling. Trustee Morford asked how much longer we have on the Meat Processing grant. VP Kratky said we have one more year.
- E. President's Report:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, President Ron Slinger reported on the following: President Slinger thanked Walmart for the bags they provided for students at Welcome Wagon Move-in Day, Red Neck Grill for cooking hamburgers and hot dogs for the Welcome Wagon BBQ,

and the Miles City Police Department for working so well with us, and he expressed appreciation for our partnerships. President Slinger, the other community college presidents, and our new lobbyist met with the Governor's office. They discussed a number of issues affecting the community colleges. They asked what could be one-time only funds that we could, as a group, go forward and ask for. They would love for us to be laser focused on our CTE programs and workforce development. The Executive Team is discussing what that would look like for MCC. Then he will take it to the other two community colleges for their input for joint efforts that we could go after. After the Board of Regents meeting, President Slinger was invited to meet with Emily Schneller, Rep. Rosendale representative working out of Billings. President Slinger highlighted the Future Work grant we received that allows us to work with area high schools. There are six high schools we will begin working with. The purpose of this grant is to allow high school students to earn a credential or certificate prior to graduating through dual enrollment. Through this grant, there are six high schools that we will be working with. He gave Trustees an informational sheet regarding MCC, which shows 91 % of our students are Montana residents, 11-1 student - faculty ratio, 42-degree career programs, and 80% of our students receive some sort of financial assistance. Our state aid is only 23.6% of our budget and the rest of our budget is made up from other funding sources.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

#### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- A. Introduction of Men's Basketball Team:** Coach Tait and the Men's basketball team were introduced to the Board of Trustees.
- B. Fall Enrollment Update:** Dean Niedege reported on enrollment. Day 15 is tomorrow and we will update our census numbers with OCHE the first part of October. The numbers we are sharing today are unofficial numbers. Enrollment is up for fall with a 6.6% increase over last fall and 392.54 FTE. FTE will be added with the mini sessions. Headcount is 585, which is up 7.9% overall. Retention for overall degree seeking students is over 60%. We have the highest retention rate since we began to track it in 2010.
- C. Nursing Program NCLEX Pass Rate Update:** VP Kratky reported October 19 is the next State Board of Nursing meeting. After this meeting we will have the quarterly NCLEX report and will be able to share more information with the Trustees. Currently with our 2022 graduates, 14 have taken the test with 12 passing. We are at 85% pass rate, which is 3% higher than the national pass rate of 82%. The two that did not pass, retook the test and passed on their second attempt. We believe the remaining eight have tested, but we cannot guarantee that until we see the official SBON report in October.
- D. Career Services:** Dean DeShields discussed the purpose of our new Career Services office. This program helps high school students find their passion, teach them soft skills to be successful, gives them confidence, and improve the post-secondary attendance at college. Dean DeShields also discussed the current initiatives of AmeriCorps.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

- A. Chair Report:** President Slinger said we are in a very strong budget position. With enrollment up, this is expected.
- B. Old Business:**
- C. New Business:**

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

- A. Chair Report:** Trustee McFarland reported they discussed open and filled positions. We are working on our OCR report. The Human Rights complaint was handled very well by our HR department.
- B. Old Business:**
- C. New Business:**

#### **QUALITY AND ADVOCACY:**

- A. Chair Report:** Trustee Okerman reported they were updated on enrollment and the Future Work grant update. During the Trustee retreat we discussed putting together a peer institution data report. President Slinger has begun to compile a data comparison report, which will keep us more up to date with other institutions. We were also given an update on the budget and the new Foundation search tool.

**ACADEMIC CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

***Trustee McFarland made a motion to accept the Academic Consent agenda. Trustee Okerman seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- A. Athletic Department Strategic Plan
- B. MCC Strategic Plan
- C. Meat Processing
- D. Tour CDL simulator

Adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

The next regular Board of Trustee meeting will be held on Monday, October 24, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in room 106.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary