

Miles Community College
Board of Trustees
Minutes
September 25, 2023

The Board of Trustees of Miles Community College met in regular session at 5:30 p.m., September 25, in room 106. The following Trustees were present: Jamie Ogolin, Jeff Okerman, Debbie Morford, and Jenna Janshen. The following Trustees were excused - Garret McFarland, Tara Andrews, and Ryan Jones. Also present were President Ron Slinger, Candy Laney, Kylene Phipps, Richard DeShields, Rita Kratky, Nancy Aaberge, Erin Niedge, Austin Kountz, Garth Sleight, Sam Giordanengo., the MCC Volleyball team, Coach Cusimano, Assistant Coach Gliko, and Dirk Schmidt.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

IMPORTANT DATES: President Slinger highlighted the following: President Slinger, Dean DeShields, and Chair Ogolin will present our Opportunity Realized Program at the ACCT Leadership Congress in Las Vegas on October 8 - 13.

REPORTS:

- A. Enrollment Services:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Dean of Enrollment and Educational Support Services Erin Niedge reported on the following: Fall recruitment is in full swing with our Admissions Counselor Jill Olson in her third week of travel. We have made it through financial aid disbursement and fee payment. The OPI State Director was able to travel to Miles City and meet with our Learning Center Staff. With some shifts this year, we have moved BeKa into a Marketing Director's role and hired Jenna Bolstad as a Marketing Assistant for Athletics and Shelley Freese to help write alumni stories.
- B. Student Engagement:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Dean of Student Engagement Richard DeShields reported on the following: It is the third week of school and we are engaging more with students. Housing numbers are down by two students. We have two openings in the Café, one for a Director and one for the morning cook. Austin Kountz will be joining our Trustee meetings as the Student Senate President. Our Student Senate spent time with the VA residents for community service hours.
- B. a. Athletics:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Athletic Director Olson reported on the following: Volleyball had a good week last week. They are now 4 and 2 in the conference sitting in third place. The baseball team had its alumni game and Hall of Fame banquet on September 29 with 45 attendees. Softball was scheduled to play last weekend but the field conditions prevented it. The Rodeo opened their season at Cody, WY, and traveled last weekend to Northern in Havre. Men's and Women's basketball begin their official practice in October. The Pioneer Golf Scramble fundraiser raised \$7,000 after expenses. The PioneerPalooza, an athletic fundraiser, is scheduled on October 28 in the Centra. The Athletic Hall of Fame banquet will be held on November 11 at the Town & Country Club. On February 1 we will have the elementary school classes attend the basketball games.
- C. Administrative Services and HR:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Dean Kylene Phipps reported on the following: We are starting Pioneer Profiles that spotlight faculty, staff, and students. Dean Phipps thanked our facilities and IT staff for being able to respond to critical issues at the beginning of the school year.
- D. Academic Affairs:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, VP of Academic Affairs Rita Kratky reported on the following: Faculty is diving into some of the new eLearning tools in their classrooms and working with Associate Dean of Instruction and eLearning Sam Giordanengo to transition into using the new tools. They are in the process of finalizing the spring and summer class schedules.
- E. President's Report:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, President Ron Slinger reported on the following: We have added an 18th partnership school district to our Opportunities Realized program. During VP Kratky and Sam Giordanengo's visit to Big Sky High School in Missoula, Big Sky High School asked to participate in our Opportunity Realized Program. They are interested in enrolling International Baccalaureate students this spring and then they are interested in enrolling all of their seniors next year, which could be 250 students in fall 2024 and 250 students in spring 2025. President Slinger was interviewed by the Montana Free Press regarding the Opportunity Realized Program. President Slinger discussed the new design at the end of his report where he will list the strategic plan initiatives and how they are aligned with our strategic plan commitments. The Foundation Scholarship Donor/Recipient reception went very well.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Trustee Okerman moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Trustee Morford seconded the motion. Motion passed.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- A. Introduction of Volleyball Team:** The volleyball team and coaches were introduced to the Trustees.
- B. Fall Enrollment Update:** Dean Niedege explained the enrollment numbers discussed tonight are unofficial numbers as we have not hit census yet. The FTE and headcount can still change a little. We have a mini-session on October 25. Right now, we are down about 10 FTE compared to this time last year with 382 compared to 392 last year. Headcount increased by 13% from this time last year. Currently, our headcount is 660 students. This is the highest fall headcount we have had since 2004. She is also pleased with our retention numbers at 51.8%, these are only degree-seeking students.
- C. Close-the-Loop Presentation – Mental Health:** Richard discussed how some of our initiatives and state-wide initiatives are being worked on.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- A. Chair Report:** Due to the Trustee Mini Retreat, there were no committee meetings.
- B. Old Business:** None
- C. New Business:** None

HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE:

- A. Chair Report:** Due to the Trustee Mini Retreat, there were no committee meetings.
- B. Old Business:** None
- C. New Business:** None

QUALITY AND ADVOCACY:

- A. Chair Report:** Due to the Trustee Mini Retreat, there were no committee meetings.

ACADEMIC CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Consent Agenda:** VP Kratky discussed the proposed changes in the Academic Consent Agenda.

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

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- A. Athletic Department Strategic Plan

Adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

The next regular Board of Trustee meeting will be held on Monday, October 23, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in room 106.

Chair

Secretary