

**Miles Community College
Board of Trustees
Minutes
December 16, 2024**

The Board of Trustees of Miles Community College met in regular session at 5:30 p.m., December 16, 2024, in room 106. The following Trustees were present: Tara Andrews, Jamie Ogolin, Garret McFarland, Ryan Jones, and Jeff Okerman. The following Trustees were excused: Jenna Janshen, and Debbie Morford. Also present were President Ron Slinger, Candy Laney, Kylene Phipps, Erin Niedge, Nancy Aaberge, Jerry Olson, Sandra Barclay, and Greg Kmetz.

Chair Andrews called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Greg Kmetz said as the local state Representative for Eastern Montana, he wants to be an advocate for MCC.

IMPORTANT DATES: President Slinger provided the following updates: He expressed his gratitude to Representative Kmetz for his continued support of MCC. The President also distributed copies of the Legislative Guide to the Trustees, a document prepared by Vice President Niedge and Director of Marketing and Communications, BeKa Stein Phipps. He extended his thanks to them for their efforts in producing the guide. Additionally, President Slinger will be in Helena on January 6.

REPORTS:

No reports were given.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Trustee Ogolin moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Trustee McFarland seconded the motion.

Motion passed.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- A. President's Update:** The fall semester has concluded, and we are now fully focused on the upcoming spring semester, which is shaping up to be exceptionally strong. Enrollment metrics indicate positive growth, with increases in both headcount and FTE.

Additionally, President Slinger recognized Vice President Richard DeShields for achieving a significant milestone—completing his Doctorate program coursework and comprehensive exams. He still has his dissertation to complete. Notably, Dr. DeShields was honored by the faculty of his program with the Promising Leader Award, reflecting his outstanding leadership potential.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- A. Chair Report:** Trustee Ogolin provided the following report: The Finance Committee reviewed a snapshot of the current financial standing, noting that the budget remains aligned with expectations. The percentages of revenues and expenses are consistent with the time of year and are on track. The committee also discussed legislative challenges and highlighted the ongoing success with enrollment.
- B. Old Business:** None
- C. New Business:** None

HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE:

- A. Chair Report:** Trustee Okerman provided the following report: The board was briefed on staffing updates, including current open positions. An update on Jenzabar was also presented, and it was noted that faculty negotiations are scheduled to begin in March. Additionally, the Pioneer Profiles were highlighted as a point of interest.
- B. Old Business:** None
- C. New Business:** None

QUALITY AND ADVOCACY:

- A. Chair Report:** Trustee Okerman provided the following report: Significant time was dedicated to discussions on the current legislative session. It was noted that, due to concise and focused preparations, we are entering this legislative session better prepared than ever before. The "One-Time-Only" funding request has been

successfully included in the Governor's budget. The board was also briefed on the status of the funding formula and its implications, as well as the positive trends in spring enrollment.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- A. NWCCU Accreditation Cycle:** We are beginning a 15-month preparation period for our accreditation cycle, beginning in January. Each month, we will focus on a specific aspect of the accreditation process to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the requirements. This will include clarifying the role each individual plays in fulfilling our institution's mission.

Adjourned the meeting at 5:44 p.m.

The next regular Board of Trustee meeting will be held on Monday, January 27, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in room 106.

Chair

Secretary