

**Miles Community College  
Board of Trustees  
Minutes  
February 24, 2025**

The Board of Trustees of Miles Community College met in regular session at 5:30 p.m., February 24, 2025, in room 106. The following Trustees were present: Tara Andrews, Garret McFarland, Ryan Jones, and Jenna Janshen. The following Trustees were excused: Jamie Ogolin, Jeff Okerman, and Debbie Morford. Also present were President Ron Slinger, Candy Laney, Kylene Phipps, Erin Niedge, Richard DeShields, Nancy Aaberge, Jerry Olson, Sandra Barclay, Dirk Schmidt, the MCC Rodeo Team, and Coach La Cross.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No Public Comment was given.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Coach La Cross introduced the Rodeo team to the MCC Board of Trustees. He also gave Trustees the dates of the rodeos the team will be attending. President Slinger reported the March Board of Regents meeting has been changed to a one-day meeting via Zoom.

**REPORTS:**

- A. Enrollment Services:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Vice President of Enrollment and Educational Support Services Erin Niedge reported on the following: VP Niedge said we recently learned that MCC has been chosen to participate in the field test phase for the DESSE, (Dual Enrollment Survey of Student Engagement), a CCSSE instrument specifically designed for high school dual enrollment students. This semester, dual enrollment students now represent over 50% of our total headcount.
- B. Student Engagement:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Vice President of Student Engagement & Auxiliary Services Richard DeShields reported on the following: Our enrollment numbers remain strong for this year. However, we are currently down 21 students for fall 2025, primarily due to the fact that returning students have not yet begun the housing application process. Notably, 86% of our students completed the housing survey this spring.
- B. a. Athletics:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Athletic Director Olson reported on the following: Athletic Director Olson announced that the final basketball home games will take place tonight. He also provided an update on the upcoming baseball and softball games in Arizona. Additionally, he expressed gratitude to everyone who attended the Buckaroo Bash, noting that the event is expected to raise over \$69,000 once all expenses are accounted for. The Reverse Raffle raised \$23,000.
- C. Administrative Services and HR:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Vice President of Administrative Services and HR Kylene Phipps reported on the following: VP Phipps said the Women's Basketball Coach applications have been reviewed and interviews have been scheduled.
- D. Academic Affairs:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Vice President Kratky reported on the following: VP Kratky said the History Day was a huge success. The Nursing Disaster Drill will be conducted on February 26 and 27 in room 106, the Nursing hallway, and the east parking lot.
- E. President's Report:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, President Ron Slinger reported on the following: President Slinger provided a report on his participation in the ACCT Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C., where he met with Montana's legislators. He also shared that this semester, our student headcount has surpassed 1,000. To put this in perspective, our total headcount for the entire year in 2021 was 943, and we have already exceeded 1,000 students this semester. This significant growth is a testament to the outstanding efforts of our staff and faculty

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

***Motion passed.***

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- A. Spring Enrollment Update:** VP Niedge said we have the highest enrollment in 20 years. She provided an update on Spring and Summer FTE, headcount, and overall enrollment numbers.

- B. **Legislative Session Update:** President Slinger provided an update on HB2, our funding formula, and our strategy moving forward. He highlighted that MCC was included in the funding for the '1, 2, Free' program for dual enrollment. Flathead Valley Community College has also been included in the one-time-only funding request. Although we requested an increase in our allocation from \$900,000 to \$1.2 million, this request was denied. As a result, the three community colleges will each receive \$300,000. Additionally, President Slinger explained the process for approving the funding packages emerging from the committees.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

- A. **Chair Report:** President Slinger presented the Budget Status report to the Trustees, noting that income levels are within \$3,000 of where they were at this time last year. He emphasized that our finances are in a strong and positive position.
- B. **Old Business:** None
- C. **New Business:**

**HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE:**

- A. **Chair Report:** Trustee McFarland said everything discussed today during the committee meeting was included in the written report.
- B. **Old Business:** None
- C. **New Business:**

**QUALITY AND ADVOCACY:**

- A. **Chair Report:** President Slinger said the committee received an in-depth legislative update.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- A. **NWCCU Accreditation Cycle:**

Adjourned the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

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

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Chair

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Secretary