

Miles Community College
Board of Trustees
Minutes
June 23, 2025

The Board of Trustees of Miles Community College met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. April 28, 2025, in room 106. The following Trustees were present: Tara Andrews, Garret McFarland, Jeff Okerman, Jenna Janshen, and Jamie Ogolin. The following Trustees were excused: Debbie Morford and Ryan Jones. Also present were President Ron Slinger, Kylene Phipps, Erin Niedge, Richard DeShields, Rita Kratky, Nancy Aaberge, Jerry Olson, Spencer Taylor, Harley Walchly, and Dirk Schmidt.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: No Public Comment was given.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Vice President Phipps said she was very happy to announce that they are fully staffed in the facilities department. Spencer Taylor and Harley Walchly were introduced to the Trustees. President Slinger highlighted that Vice President Richard DeShields has completed his doctoral degree.

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 provided additional updates: We held our first SOAR session on June 19, welcoming 90 guests to campus. Special thanks to Richard Cox for coordinating the food truck, which provided a great alternative dining option while the Café remains closed due to the ongoing sewer project. We're also pleased to share that, for the first time in 15 years, our Pell Grant disbursements have exceeded \$1 million, a significant milestone for our institution and the students we serve.
- B. Student Engagement:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Vice President of Student Engagement & Auxiliary Services Richard DeShields provided the following updates: As of now, we are up by nine students in the residence halls, leaving 22 beds still available. We will continue to closely monitor enrollment numbers in the coming weeks. Two new residence hall policies have been implemented: personal grills and candle wax are no longer permitted in the halls. These changes are part of our ongoing efforts to enhance safety and maintain a healthy living environment for our residents. Additionally, the Everfi program, which previously addressed alcohol, drug use, and sexual assault education, will be phased out. In its place, we will be launching a new educational program delivered through Canvas, aimed at providing updated, accessible, and comprehensive content for our students..
- B.a. Athletics:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Athletic Director Jerry Olson provided the following updates: An update was provided on our saddle bronc rider, Rope Roghair, who proudly represented us at the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR). Both the men's and women's basketball teams hosted successful summer camps, and roster spots are nearly filled across all athletic programs. Additionally, most teams have met their fundraising goals for the upcoming season. Looking ahead, our annual Pioneer Scramble golf tournament will take place on August 23 at the Town & Country Club.
- 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 provided the following updates: We are once again offering TGIF summer sessions for faculty and staff, continuing our commitment to professional development and engagement during the summer months. The Cafeteria project is progressing smoothly and remains on track.
- D. Academic Affairs:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Vice President of Academic Affairs Rita Kratky provided the following updates: We have received \$55,000 in funding from both the Perkins and Perkins Reserve grants, which will support continued advancement in our career and technical education programs. This week, Nancy Swope is leading the Cyber STEM Camp, engaging students in grades 7 through 12 in hands-on learning and exploration in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, STEM.
- E. President's Report:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, President Ron Slinger provided the following updates: A fundraising update was provided, including news that a request has been submitted to NextEra Energy to support the purchase of a new semi for our CDL program. Additionally, the Custer County Commissioners have agreed to apply for a Coal Board grant on our behalf to further support the CDL initiative. We are also in active conversations with two new school districts, Ekalaka and Colstrip, regarding participation in our Opportunity Realized program, expanding our outreach and impact in the region.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

Motion passed.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- A. Enrollment Update:** Vice President Niedge provided an update on summer and fall enrollment. This summer, we anticipate ending with 92 to 93 FTE and a headcount of 297, marking a record for summer enrollment. Notably, we also saw a significant increase in Quotly metrics during this period. Looking ahead to the fall semester, current enrollment stands at 241 FTE compared to 189 at this time last year, with a headcount of 438. We have 40 students registered for the upcoming SOAR session on July 8, and continue actively working through the strong volume of applications received.
- B. Sky Factor Survey Results:** Vice President DeShields presented the results of the SkyFactor Survey, which we have been administering for the past six years. This year's response rate was exceptionally strong at 87.5%. Notably, we are one of only two community colleges participating in this national survey, which evaluates student satisfaction, learning outcomes, and program effectiveness. Nationally, our institution ranked #1 in overall satisfaction for hall environment, room change procedures, and Dining Services, and #2 for room assignments and community environment. These are clear indicators that we are successfully meeting the needs of our students.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- A. Chair Report:** Trustee Ogolin reported that the committee reviewed the current budget status and confirmed that we remain on track.
- B. Old Business: No old business**
- C. New Business:**
 - a. FY2026 Budget (first reading): They reviewed the 2026 budget proposal.
 - b. Audit Acceptance: MCC had a clean audit that was approved by the Legislative Audit Committee.

HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE:

- A. Chair Report:** Trustee Okerman reported that the committee reviewed current staffing matters and received updates on the Jenzabar system implementation and the ongoing TGIF sessions. Additionally, two action items are being presented for the Board's consideration. Vice President Phipps noted that, following the ratification of the Faculty Master Agreement, it is important to ensure alignment between Board policy and the provisions of the agreement. The two policies being brought forward this evening reflect the language and intent ratified in the Master Agreement.
- B. Old Business:**
- C. New Business:**
 - a. Policy 600.8.1, Contract Year Obligations (first reading):
 - b. Policy 600.8.2, Course Teaching Assignments (first reading):

Trustee McFarland made a motion to waive second readings on both policies presented. Trustee Ogolin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Trustee Okerman moved to accept the changes to the two policies as presented. Trustee McFarland seconded the motion. Motion passed.

QUALITY AND ADVOCACY:

- A. Chair Report:** Trustee Janshen shared that the committee discussed several topics that were highlighted in tonight's meeting, including various grant requests. The committee also received updates on outreach efforts to new school districts regarding the Opportunity Realized program. In addition, there was a general discussion on planning for the upcoming legislative cycle, as well as updates on current enrollment trends and the institutional budget.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Trustees entered Executive Session at 6:35 p.m. and reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- A. NWCCU Accreditation Cycle:**

Adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

The next regular Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Monday, August 28, at 5:30 p.m. in room 106.

Chair

Secretary