

Miles Community College
Board of Trustees
Minutes
May 19, 2025

The Board of Trustees of Miles Community College met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. May 19, 2025, in room 106. The following Trustees were present: Jenna Janshen, Garret McFarland, Jeff Okerman, Ryan Jones, and Jamie Ogolin. The following Trustees were excused: Tara Andrews and Debbie Morford. Also present were President Ron Slinger, Candy Laney, Kylene Phipps, Erin Niedge, Richard DeShields, Nancy Aaberge, Rita Kratky, Molly Magestro, and Dirk Schmidt.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: No Public Comment was given.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: President Slinger discussed his upcoming travel to Great Falls and Helena for meetings.

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: She expressed her gratitude to the staff involved in organizing the HiSET Graduation, Nurses Pinning Ceremony, and Commencement. We have commissioned Shelley Freese, the artist behind Dancing Cow Studio and an MCC employee of 30 years, to create an original painting of the campus. The artwork will also be licensed for use in future marketing initiatives.
- 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: Fall occupancy has increased by 10 students, bringing us to approximately 83% of the occupancy level at the start of last fall. Three students will remain on campus throughout the summer. Efforts are ongoing with the IT department to continue the installation of security cameras. Additionally, due to the temporary closure of the Café this summer as a result of the sewer project, BeKa Stein Phipps, Director of Marketing and Communications, produced a video showcasing the dining services area for use during the summer SOAR sessions.
- B.a. Athletics:** In Athletic Director Jerry Olson's absence, Vice President DeShields provided the following updates: MCC saddle bronc rider Rope Roghair has qualified for the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR). He also provided the Trustees with an update on the recent awards earned by MCC athletes. All athletic teams have exceeded their fundraising goals, with the exception of Women's Basketball; however, they are planning a summer camp that is expected to help them meet their target as well.
- 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: She recognized Dr. Molly Magestro for her outstanding work, leadership, and dedication to the campus, following the recent announcement of her resignation. The Café renovation project is continuing as planned.
- D. Academic Affairs:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Vice President Rita Kratky provided the following updates: She provided an update on the Perkins Grant and the Perkins Reserve, which support Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs as well as dual enrollment initiatives.
- E. President's Report:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, President Ron Slinger provided the following updates: Two high school students graduated this spring from MCC with credentials from our CDL program, as part of the Accelerating Credential Initiative. To support the continued growth of this initiative, we have applied for a \$50,000 grant from the Montana Community Foundation's Community Impact Program. We also plan to use a similar application format to seek funding from the Montana Future at Work program, administered through OCHE. We have had promising discussions with NextEra Energy about contributing toward the purchase of a new semi-trailer for the CDL program. Following a presentation on the Accelerating Credential Initiative, they also expressed interest in establishing a scholarship to support high school students participating in the program. Additionally, the Le Veque Estate has made another generous contribution of \$113,000, bringing the total value of that endowment fund to \$700,000. We also received a \$20,000 contribution from a donor to support the nursing program, with the stipulation that the funds not be used for scholarships. This year, a portion of those funds was used to support the campus disaster drill. After receiving photos of the event and thank-you notes from students, the donor indicated she may be able to contribute an additional \$50,000 to \$100,000 to the

program in the coming year. Lastly, he shared that MCC has been contacted by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) regarding participation in a pilot program in partnership with Microsoft. The initiative, titled *AI for All*, aims to position community colleges at the forefront of artificial intelligence education and implementation.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

Motion passed.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- A. Enrollment Updates:** Vice President Niedge provided an update on summer and fall enrollment. Summer sessions are currently underway, with enrollment just under 91 FTE. Compared to last year, headcount has increased by 27%. Fall enrollment projections are also strong, showing a 22% year-over-year increase. Last fall, enrollment stood at 419 FTE. Additionally, there have been significant increases in both FTE and headcount among dual enrollment students, as well as approximately a 50% rise in headcount for non-degree-seeking students.
- B. Close the Loop Presentation – End of the Year:** President Slinger provided a year-in-review summary and shared plans for moving forward. He also introduced the redesigned Planning and Budgeting Allocation (PBA) process, outlining its goals and anticipated impact on institutional planning and resource alignment.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- A. Chair Report:** President Slinger reported that the budget remains in a strong position and that the budget development process is progressing well. Vice President DeShields presented a resolution related to technology updates for Pioneer Hall. As part of the proposal, they are requesting a waiver of the second reading.
- B. Old Business: None**
- C. New Business:**
 - a. Pioneer Hall Technology Updates Resolution (first reading):

Trustee Jones moved to waive the second reading of the Pioneer Hall Technology Updates Resolution. Trustee McFarland seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Trustee Ogolin moved to accept the Pioneer Hall Technology Updates Resolution as presented. Trustee McFarland seconded the motion. Motion passed.

HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE:

- A. Chair Report:** Trustee Okerman reported that the committee received updates on staffing matters and was briefed on recent developments related to the Jenzabar system.
- B. Old Business:**
 - a. Faculty Master Agreement (second reading):

Trustee McFarland moved to accept the Faculty Master Agreement as presented. Trustee Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- C. New Business:**
 - a. Oath of office: This was postponed until both Trustee Andrews and Trustee Morford are present.
 - b. Election of Trustee Officers: Trustee Okerman proposed a new slate of officers: Tara Andrews as Chair, Garrett McFarland as Vice Chair, Jeff Okerman as Secretary.

Trustee McFarland moved to accept the slate of officers as presented. Trustee Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- c. Committee Assignments:** Assignments will be brought forward at the July meeting.
- d. Conflict of Interest Forms:** Trustees have completed their conflict of interest disclosure forms.

QUALITY AND ADVOCACY:

A. **Chair Report:** Trustee Janshen reported that, due to scheduling conflicts, the committee did not meet this month.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A. President's Evaluation: The Trustees entered Executive Session at 6:13 p.m. and reconvened at 7:37 p.m.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

A. **NWCCU Accreditation Cycle:**

Adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

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

Chair

Secretary