

Miles Community College
Board of Trustees
Minutes
November 24, 2025

The Board of Trustees of Miles Community College met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. November 24, 2025, in room 106. The following Trustees were present: Jenna Janshen, Garret McFarland, Jamie Ogolin, Debbie Morford, and Ryan Jones. The following Trustees were excused: Tara Andrews, and Jeff Okerman. Also present were President Ron Slinger, Candy Laney, Kylene Phipps, Erin Niedege, Rita Kratky, Nancy Aaberge, Jerry Olson, Dirk Schmidt, and Star Reporter Hunter Herbaugh.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: No Public Comment was given.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: President Slinger made no updates to the announcements.

REPORTS:

- A. Enrollment Services:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Vice President of Enrollment and Educational Support Services Erin Niedege provided additional updates: No updates were given.
- B. Student Engagement:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Vice President of Student Engagement & Auxiliary Services Richard DeShields provided additional updates: Our occupancy for the upcoming spring semester has increased by four students. This Thursday, the Café will host a Thanksgiving dinner for students who do not have a place to go for the holiday. Additionally, Jennifer Mannie has been hired as the new bookstore manager, and Cam Blevens has been selected to receive the Athlete in Service Award.
- B.a. Athletics:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Athletic Director Jerry Olson provided the following updates: Both basketball teams competed last Saturday with both teams winning their games. They are currently playing at Western Nebraska. All other athletic teams have concluded their seasons for the semester. Additionally, both our baseball and softball coaches have submitted their resignations.
- 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 have extended an offer to a VPAA candidate, and it has been accepted. Dr. Dimitre Harding will serve as the new Vice President of Academic Affairs and is expected to begin after the first of the year. We are also seeing significant interest in both the baseball and softball head coach positions. In addition, interviews for the math instructor position are scheduled for next week.
- D. Academic Affairs:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Vice President of Academic Affairs Rita Kratky provided additional updates: We are conducting a CDL position search, with interviews scheduled this week. We recently held our IT Advisory Board meeting, which yielded excellent results. Additionally, we are finalizing the schedule for our January Faculty and Staff Days, taking place January 7–13.
- E. President's Report:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, President Ron Slinger provided the following updates: Being named to the Aspen Top 200 is a testament to the Board's vision and the outstanding work of our faculty and staff. MCC was also recognized for this recognition by Commissioner Christian during the recent Board of Regents meeting. The first MCC Alumni and Friends newsletter was emailed to 1,087 recipients on November 1, achieving an impressive 53% open rate, well above the national average of 37%. Only four individuals requested to be removed from the distribution list. Additionally, we are receiving an extra \$30,000 in grant funding to support our CTE programs.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Trustee Ogolin moved to approve the consent agendas as presented. Trustee Janshen seconded the motion.

Motion passed.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- A. Enrollment Update:** Vice President Niedege presented the end-of-term data and provided an update on spring enrollment. Annualized enrollment numbers are off to

a strong start. Total fall FTE is 469.3, reflecting an 11.7% increase over last fall. Fall FTE for Montana residents is 386.3, a 13.3% increase from the previous year. Fall headcount stands at 1,013, representing a 29% increase, while Montana resident headcount is 909, a 30% increase over last fall. Spring enrollment remains a moving target due to dual and concurrent enrollment activity. At this time, we are essentially even with last year’s numbers, currently at 260.8 FTE compared to 263 FTE on this date last year. Spring headcount is 450, which is a 7.9% increase from the same time last year. Garth Sleight and Traci Glasscock continue to work diligently with our high school partners to process concurrent enrollment. Quottly also remains a significant contributor, with 116 non-degree-seeking students enrolled, equating to approximately 27 FTEs from other colleges.

- B. Nursing Program NCLEX Update:** President Slinger provided an overview of the recent NCLEX pass rates. Of the 26 graduates from this past spring, 17 passed the NCLEX on their first attempt. Seven students did not pass on their first attempt; however, four of those have since passed on their second attempt, and two students have yet to take the exam. President Slinger reviewed the various pathways available to meet State Board of Nursing and ACEN pass rate requirements. He reaffirmed that the Nursing Program’s goal is a 100% pass rate and outlined several strategies being implemented to achieve this objective. He also reported that the recent meeting with the Nursing Advisory Board was highly productive. He expressed confidence that the Nursing Program’s faculty and staff are working diligently to strengthen the program in ways that will lead to higher NCLEX pass rates for future graduates.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- A. Chair Report:** Because the Trustee retreat was held on November 4, no committee meetings took place.
- B. Old Business:** None
- C. New Business:** None

HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE:

- A. Chair Report:** Because the Trustee retreat was held on November 4, no committee meetings took place.
- B. Old Business:** None
- C. New Business:** None

QUALITY AND ADVOCACY:

- A. Chair Report:** Because the Trustee retreat was held on November 4, no committee meetings took place.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. VP Kratky discussed the changes that are being brought forward.

Trustee Janshen moved to approve the Academic Consent Agenda as presented. Trustee Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- A.** NWCCU Accreditation Mid-Cycle Visit

Adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

The next regular Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Monday, December 15, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in room 106.

Chair

Secretary