

Miles Community College
Board of Trustees
Minutes
October 27, 2025

The Board of Trustees of Miles Community College met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. October 27, 2025, in room 106. The following Trustees were present: Jeff Okerman, Jenna Janshen, Garret McFarland, Tara Andrews, Jamie Ogolin, and Ryan Jones. The following Trustee was excused: Debbie Morford. Also present were President Ron Slinger via Zoom, Candy Laney, Kylene Phipps, Erin Niedge, Nancy Aaberge, Jerry Olson, Dirk Schmidt, Garth Sleight, Coach Kortum, the MCC Women's Basketball team, Coach Tait, and the Men's Basketball team.

Chair Andrews called the meeting to order at 5:29 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Garth Sleight addressed the Trustees regarding his pending retirement on June 30, 2026.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Men's and Women's Basketball Teams were formally introduced to the Board of Trustees. President Slinger announced that the annual Halloween Carnival will be held on Wednesday, October 29, and that Advising Day is scheduled for Thursday, October 30. He also reported attending the ACCT Leadership Congress in New Orleans, accompanied by Trustees Okerman and McFarland.

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: Vice President Niedge provided an enrollment update to the Board of Trustees, reporting that the college is projected to see a 12% increase in full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment and a 24% increase in total headcount by the end of the semester. As of tomorrow, the student headcount is expected to reach 1,000. She also expressed her appreciation to the Director of Marketing and Communications, BeKa Stein Phipps, for her contributions to the design of the wrap on the CDL semi.
- B. Student Engagement:** In the Vice President of Student Engagement & Auxiliary Services Richard DeShields' absence, there were no updates given.
- B.a. Athletics:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Athletic Director Jerry Olson provided additional updates: He thanked the Board of Trustees for their support of Pioneer Palooza, which successfully raised \$27,000; however, he noted that some expenses are still pending payment. He reported that the volleyball team earned the number one seed in the West and will compete at 4:00 p.m. Central Time on Saturday for a spot in the district tournament. He also provided an update on the Rodeo Team's current rankings. Additionally, he noted that the basketball season will begin this weekend in New Town, North Dakota, and that both the baseball and softball teams have concluded their fall seasons. Teams continue to increase their community service hours and fundraising efforts.
- 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: Vice President Phipps reported that the VPAA search is progressing on schedule, with the goal of extending an offer by the end of November. She also invited the Trustees to attend Ross Lawrence's farewell gathering, which will be held tomorrow from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the MCC library.
- D. Academic Affairs:** In the Vice President of Academic Affairs Rita Kratky's absence, there were no updates given.
- E. President's Report:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, President Ron Slinger provided the following updates: President Slinger expressed his appreciation to Garth Sleight for his years of dedicated service to Miles Community College. He also reported that the Saddle Horn Apartments, which are planned for construction on the property adjacent to the college, have been approved for tax credits by the Montana Board of Housing. Additionally, President Slinger noted that he will meet with the Custer County Commissioners next week to discuss the VA property.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

Motion passed.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. **Close the Loop Presentation – Alumni & Friends Program:** November 1 marks the target launch date of the Alumni and Friends newsletter. As of today, there are 1,428 names on the distribution list, with approximately 200 additional names still to be added. The newsletter will be distributed monthly through Constant Contact and will be similar in format to the Friday Memo. This initiative represents an important first step in engaging alumni with the college and establishing a foundation for the annual giving program.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

A. **Chair Report:** Trustee Ogolin reported that the budget remains on track and that both the supplemental income funding and the Jenzabar funds are expected to arrive soon. He also noted that the Trustees received an update on the Alumni & Friends program, as well as information about the upcoming economic impact report, which will be released in the near future.

B. **Old Business:** None

C. **New Business:** None

HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE:

A. **Chair Report:** Trustee Okerman reported that the committee discussed staffing matters and received an update on Jenzabar. He noted that two action items are being presented for consideration this evening.

B. **Old Business:** None

C. **New Business:**

- a. **2027/28 Academic Calendar (first ready)**

Trustee McFarland moved to waive the second reading of the 2027/28 Academic Calendar. Trustee Janshen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Trustee Ogolin moved to accept the 2027/28 Academic Calendar as presented. Trustee Okerman seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- b. **Policy 600.15 Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention (first reading):** Vice President Phipps discussed the changes to the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Policy being brought forward.

Trustee McFarland moved to waive the second reading. Trustee Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed

Trustee McFarland moved to approve the new language to policy 600.15 as presented. Trustee Janshen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

QUALITY AND ADVOCACY:

A. **Chair Report:** Trustee Janshen reported that she met with President Slinger and received updates on the implementation of the Alumni and Friends program as well as current enrollment figures.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Consent Agenda: President Slinger discussed the items on the Academic Consent Agenda.

Trustee McFarland moved to accept the Academic Affairs consent agenda as presented. Trustee Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

A. NWCCU Accreditation Mid-Cycle Visit

Adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

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

Chair

Secretary