

**FLATHEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
RETREAT**

Saturday, February 26, 2022

8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Flathead Valley Community College

A Board Retreat of the Flathead Valley Community College Board of Trustees convened at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, February 26, 2022.

Chairperson Pete Akey called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. The following Board members were in attendance:

Patrick Gulick

Mark Holston

Callie Langohr

Shannon Lund

Kelly Stimpson

Trustee Lyle Mitchell was absent.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

- Microsoft Teams – The college is moving to transition from the Zoom online meeting platform to Microsoft Teams which is included in our Microsoft licensing. Canceling the Zoom contract will create a budget savings. There is a faculty sub-committee working with the Information Technology Department to see if we can switch the online classes to Microsoft Teams.
- College Center – We are waiting for the updated completion schedule. It is still looking like mid-August. The college is planning events for the grand opening. The President's Dinner will be held in the new center and will be a kick off to the Foundation's Festival of Flavors (FOF). The FOF wine tasting event will be held in the new gymnasium on October 8th. A few acts have been booked for the fall. A computerized ticketing system has been purchased.
- Staffing – Like other employers in the valley, we have offered positions to people from outside of the area, but the lack of affordable housing makes it challenging to live here. We cannot compete with the private sector for employees looking for more pay. Nationally, other community colleges are also losing staff and are unable to fill positions.
- Enrollment – Our FTE is down, but headcount is up. More students are taking classes, but are not taking a full-time credit load. Historically enrollment is inverse to the economy. We have been brainstorming ideas on how to engage and connect with different groups of students.
 - Recently graduated high school students who are choosing to enter the workforce after finishing high school rather than going to college.
 - Adult students who only need 3-15 credits to complete their degree. We may create an all-inclusive “get it done” type of scholarship that would pay for those students to complete their degree.
 - One idea to come out of the President's Council might be to advertise a “sign on bonus” of sorts, where if the student decides to come to FVCC they could get a gift card to the bookstore, but they would have to stay for a certain amount of time and maintain an agreed upon GPA.
- Early Childhood Center – We are discussing options for the future of the building. One

option would be to use a RFP and bid it out for a private company to run and try to keep some slots for FVCC.

- Founders Hall – Repairs needing to be made in Founders Hall will be done after spring semester. The repairs are covered under warranty.
- President’s Council – The council is working on ways to reconnect and keep employees engaged coming out of COVID. Starting to plan monthly social gatherings in different places each month with light refreshments. President Karas has scheduled meetings with all of the different departments to meet new staff and greet existing. She is also looking at changing some of the campus committee structures to help employees to feel more connected.
- Local Employer Trainings- Meeting with local employers whose employees might need additional training in math, communications, writing, or basic computer skills. Partner with employers to make customized certificates based off of a menu of classes that they would like to offer to their employees. The classes could be offered in-person or on-line. Employers could possibly use it as a recruitment and retention benefit.
- RV Technician Program – We have been talking to the folks at Bish’s RV about putting together a RV Technician Program. A few other businesses have reached out to Peter Fusaro in the Trades Program. Trustee Kelly Stimpson suggested putting together a story for the local news to share with the community about these industry partnerships.
- Brewing Science Program – The instructor is leaving to take a job with Applied Materials. We are exploring the program’s future.
- Campus Security – Many of the buildings on campus already have security cameras, we are working on getting them for all buildings.

***Break 9:32 a.m. - 10:32 a.m. ***

BOARD ROLES AND OBLIGATIONS

President Karas presented materials about Highly Effective Boards received from the Association of Community College Trustees. Trustee Callie Langohr acknowledged Pete Akey for his strong leadership as Board Chair. President Karas asked the Board to think about how the Board meetings are currently being run and to let her know if they have any suggestions on how they might be better. The Board shared that they really like the presentations by the departments at each meeting. They would welcome presentations from the Bookstore and other non-instructional departments. Presentations do not have to be formal. Interested in touring more areas, maybe one per quarter, when the agenda is lighter.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE FUNDING FORMULA

President Karas reviewed the 2021 Montana Code Annotated Appropriation Definitions for Community College Districts. Changes were made to the community college funding formula at last year’s Legislative Session. The Education Budget Committee will be meeting in Helena on March 16th to address the funding formula factors, no values have been added.

FVCC MONEY BASICS

Beckie Christiaens explained how the different revenue flows into the college (excluding scholarship monies from the Foundation) and the separate expenditures.

BUDGET UPDATE

Beckie Christiaens presented different FY2023 budget scenarios with student enrollment numbers staying the same, increasing, and decreasing for President Kara and the Board's review.

WAIVERS

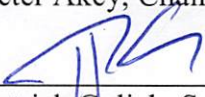
President Karas briefly discussed the budgeted \$1M in tuition waivers this year. Not recommending any changes for next year at this time.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

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Peter Akey, Chairperson of the Board



Patrick Gulick, Secretary to the Board