

**FLATHEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
RETREAT  
Thursday, June 18, 2015  
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
Flathead Valley Community College**

A Board Retreat comprised of the Flathead Valley Community College Board of Trustees, and President Karas was convened at 9:00 a.m., Thursday, June 18, 2015.

Board members present were Robert Nystuen, Tom Harding, Shannon Lund, Tom McElwain, John Phelps, Mark Holston and Callie Langohr. President Jane Karas, Vice President of Administration and Finance, Chuck Jensen, Vice President of Instruction and Student Services, Brad Eldredge and Monica Settles, Clerk of the District, were also in attendance.

Chairperson Nystuen called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m.

**President's Update**

President Karas updated the Board on the recent review of the Early Childhood Center (ECC). The college recently conducted an independent study of the ECC. The study indicated areas in which the center is working well and areas for improvement. The college will continue to improve the coordination of the Early Childhood Education Program and the ECC.

President Karas updated the Board on recent K-12 partnerships. The college is currently offering a Summer Experience Program. The program is designed for high school juniors and seniors. Students are able to immerse themselves in a true college experience with the free four-week summer program. The students will have the opportunity to choose from several different courses while earning college credit that will put them on track to getting their college education. Students who participate will be earning three free college credits and these three credits will not count against their six free credits under Running Start. In addition, the college is also offering a new program this year for teachers. In response to direct input from local teachers the college created Teacher Camp. Teacher Camp is a compressed two-week schedule that allows teachers to mix and match classes to earn one to four college credits. Four of these college credits will satisfy all 60 required OPI renewal requirements. There has been a great response to this program with 43 teachers enrolled. Trustee Nystuen suggested the Board try to visit all the area high schools throughout the year to give them an idea of what is going on in the local K-12 arena.

FVCC recently partnered with the University of Montana's Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Services to provide area residents a unique opportunity to obtain a bachelor's degree in elementary education without leaving the Flathead Valley. The new program was designed to allow students to complete the remaining two years of study in elementary education through the University of Montana at FVCC. Following some challenges with course transfers and enrollment numbers, the program will begin to be offered this fall.

Per the Board's request at the last retreat, President Karas provided an update on the

Lincoln County Campus (LCC). The college continues to recruit students for its Lincoln County Campus (LCC). Currently LCC has experienced a limited number of students with spring headcount at 84. Following an unsuccessful LCC Director search last year, the college will revise the organizational structure of LCC. In addition, the college will be offering some new programs, such as a CDL course, and the nursing program will begin to offer the Practical Nursing program at LCC.

Due to requests from the business community, the college began building a new Brew Master Program. The college worked with community members, a hired consultant and Dr. Heather Estrada, Assistant Professor/Program Director, Agriculture, and other college staff to design curriculum and course materials for such a program. The new program will begin to be offered this fall. While enrolled in the program students will be required to complete coursework in microbiology, chemistry, brewing science, agronomy, facilities and operations and a variety of business operations. Due to limited classroom and lab availability, the program will take 12-14 students the first year with a potential to take more as opportunities to increase lab and classroom space provides. Students must be 21 years of age at the start of the program. Currently there have been 35 applications for admissions to the program downloaded from the website.

The college will be hosting two Fulbright Scholars this fall. One of the scholars is from China and will be teaching a Mandarin Chinese language class along with some international business classes. The second scholar is a Fulbright graduate student who will be teaching Brazilian Portuguese. Both scholars will be at FVCC beginning fall semester. Gerda Reeb, International Student Coordinator, is currently in Japan on a Fulbright Scholar program, studying the Japanese education system. The college continues to review and reevaluate all of its study abroad programs.

President Karas will continue with her Community Conversations by finishing up in Lincoln County and Whitefish next week. There has been great feedback from the communities in which President Karas has been. President Karas will present a review of all the community conversations at a future Board meeting.

*\*\*Break 10:40 am-10:50 am\*\**

### **Preliminary Review of FY16 Budget**

Chuck Jensen, Vice President of Administration and Finance presented the Board with an in-depth review of the FY16 budget. The first public reading of the budget will be presented at the June 22, Board meeting with the second public reading being presented at the July Board meeting.

*\*\*Break 12:15 pm-12:30 pm\*\**

### **Board Self Assessment Tool**

Due to a request by the Board at the November 2014 Board Retreat, the Board would like to possibly change and update its current self assessment tool. The Board requested that

President Karas review and research several different self assessments models and present them to the Board over the next few months. The Board will then review and reevaluate the possibility of changing the current model.

### **Student Housing**

Following discussion at a prior retreat and at the request of the Board, the college contracted with an outside agency to conduct a Student Housing Feasibility Study. The consulting group recently forwarded their draft report to the college. Brad Eldredge presented the Board with an in-depth review of the draft report.

President Karas noted that FVCC is primarily a commuter campus, supported in part by local taxpayer dollars. The development of student housing could change the focus of the campus from serving students in our service region to attracting and serving out of district and out of state students. Trustee Phelps noted that if housing were provided for one to two percent of the student body, it would not change the focus of the college. There was discussion as to the impact of housing to the college.

Following lengthy discussion on the topic, the Board requested that the final report be presented at the July Board meeting. The Board requested President Karas and staff provide a thorough business plan with more information on all potential costs related to housing, potential types of housing, amount of housing that should be provided, the cost of building student housing, operation costs, and pros and cons of student housing so that the Board can make an informed decision to either move forward or not with student housing. Following the presentation of the final report at the July meeting and a thorough review of an extensive business plan for student housing the Board hopes to make a decision on the direction of student housing. The business plan will be presented to the Board during a fall Board meeting.

### **Master Plan Update**

President Karas presented the Board with an updated Master Plan. Following review and discussion of the Master Plan, the Board continues to see a student center and fitness center as top priorities within the Master Plan. President Karas noted that the college is currently looking at a pavilion space and hopes to begin building soon, dependent upon costs and in partnership with the foundation. The pavilion would provide a space for the college to hold potential classes and events as space is becoming limited for larger events and meetings on campus. The college will also continue to move forward with a timeline and a plan for building a student center and fitness center in the near future.

### **Miscellaneous/Other**

Trustee Nystuen shared information on an upcoming workshop. Trustee Nystuen, Jodi Smith, Susie Burch and Ned Cooney have been putting together a workshop that will focus on high functioning Boards. The workshop is designed to be a day-long workshop that will provide board members with tools on being a successful board. In addition to the workshop, there will also be break-out sessions available.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.  
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