

1 FLATHEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
2 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
3 Regular Board Meeting
4 Monday, December 21, 2020 3:45 p.m.
5 Virtual—Zoom
6

7 A regular meeting of the Flathead Valley Community College Board of Trustees convened at
8 3:45 p.m., Monday, December 21, 2020, virtually via Zoom.
9

10 **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

11 Chairperson Shannon Lund called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. The following Board
12 members were in attendance:
13

14 Lyle Mitchell	Kelly Stimpson	Mark Holston
15 Callie Langohr	Patrick Gulick	Peter Akey

16
17 Also present were President Jane Karas and Monica Settles, Clerk of the District.
18

19 **II. PUBLIC COMMENT-None**

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21 **III. CONSENT ITEMS - ACTION**

- 22 A. Approval of the minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting on November 23,
23 2020.
24 B. Next regular Board of Trustees meeting – January 25, 2021
25

26 Trustee Kelly Stimpson moved that the Board of Trustees approve ITEMS A, & B Under Section
27 III, Consent Agenda-Action. Trustee Patrick Gulick seconded the motion. The motion carried
28 unanimously with seven (7) "yes" votes.
29

30 **IV. COMMENTS**

31 **A. Monthly Reports**

32 **1. Student Activities Report**

33 The Board received and reviewed a written (Attachment I) Student
34 Activities Report.
35

36 **2. Faculty**

37 Associate Professor, Physical Therapy Assistant, Julie Robertson,
38 presented the Board with a report from Faculty (Attachment II).
39

40 **3. Executive Staff Activities Report**

41 The Board of Trustees received written reports from the Executive Staff
42 for review.
43

44 **V. COLLEGE ISSUES**

45 **A. BioTech CTS Program**

1 Dr. Ruth Wrightsman, Professor, Biology, presented the Board with an update on
2 the current BioTech CTS program. In 2012, FVCC created the first Community College
3 Biotechnology transfer program in Montana after receiving a National Science Foundation
4 Advancement Technology Education Grant from the National Science Foundation. This
5 program, the first of its kind, has inspired several students to persist in their biotechnology
6 studies as they graduate from FVCC. The program has allowed many students the opportunity to
7 engage in original research projects. Several of Dr. Wrightsman's students have been selected to
8 present their research at the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technology meetings.
9 One of her students received the outstanding undergraduate research project award at the
10 Montana Space Grant Consortium conference in 2015. In addition to the program's success Dr.
11 Wrightsman has also been able to develop a network of high school teachers who incorporate
12 biotechnology and DNA-technology methods in their curriculum. The project (DNA Bootcamp)
13 provides continuing education opportunities for these teachers, while also providing dual
14 enrollment opportunities for students. The DNA Bootcamp project has impacted approximately
15 3-4,000 students since its inception. This project has opened a pathway for those interested in
16 biotechnology to start their education at FVCC. Following the completion of FVCC's
17 biotechnology program, students are able to take the Biotechnician Assistant Credentialing Exam
18 (BACE). The BACE is an industry-recognized exam designed to assess core skills and
19 knowledge sets identified by industry and represented within the academic and performance
20 standards of Biotechnology programs. Earning the BACE credential opens many opportunities
21 for individuals at any level and applies to a variety of sectors within biotechnology.

22
23 **B. Board Policy, Chapter I, Doctrine, Section 111, COVID-19 Face Covering**
24 **(First Reading)**

25 The Board was presented with Board Policy, Chapter I, Doctrine, Section 111,
26 COVID-19 Face Covering (First Reading). This is a new policy. In accordance with Board
27 policy, Chapter II, Organization, Section 60, it is requested that this policy be authorized on the
28 first reading by the Board in recognition of emergency conditions, so it will become effective
29 immediately and prior to the start of the Spring Semester 2021. Should the policy be approved
30 and implementation becomes immediate, the policy will still be brought to the Board for a
31 second reading. It was noted that the policy has been through legal review. The policy would
32 bring consistency and support the health and wellbeing of the college's employees, students,
33 visitors and guests. Trustee Mark Holston moved that the Board of Trustees approve Board
34 Policy, Chapter I, Doctrine, Section 111, COVID-19 Face Covering (First Reading). Trustee
35 Callie Langohr seconded the motion. Upon further discussion, Trustee Kelly Stimpson inquired
36 about age limits and what individuals will be required to wear masks and asked for clarification
37 on what constitutes face coverings under the definition. President Karas noted that requirements
38 for ages and exempted individuals is listed in the procedures related to the policy, which will also
39 be made available. In addition, it was noted that face shields will be added to the list of
40 acceptable face coverings under definitions. Following discussion, the motion carried with six
41 (6) "yes" votes, with Trustee Lyle Mitchell voting "no".

42
43 **C. Board of Trustees Events Calendar**

44 President Karas reviewed the Trustees' events calendar and noted that the next
45 regularly scheduled Board meeting is Monday, January 25, 2021. The college will be closed for
46 winter break December 23, 2020-January 3, 2021. An All Employee In-Service will be held on

1 January 13, 2021 and spring semester will begin on January 19.
2

3 **D. President's Update**

4 President Karas updated the Board on several items:

- 5 • President Karas thanked faculty and staff for all of their hard work and
6 dedication over the past year as we all worked through a challenging year.
7 The faculty and staff went well above and beyond to continue to provide a
8 quality education for all of our students.
- 9 • President Karas updated the Board on Fall enrollment. Fall enrollment
10 was down approximately 8.9% over Fall Semester of last year. Although
11 enrollment is down more than we had expected, FVCC's enrollment was
12 less than the national average of 10.9%. The college continues to monitor
13 enrollment for the upcoming Spring Semester, which at the present time, is
14 down significantly but there should be an uptick in enrollment after the
15 break and the holidays. Spring Semester is scheduled to begin on Tuesday,
16 January 19.
- 17 • President Karas continues to work with the other two community colleges
18 and participates at legislative committee meetings as it relates to the
19 community college funding formula.
- 20 • President Karas was able to meet with several local Legislators to discuss
21 proposed legislation that will impact all community colleges, including,
22 the community college funding formula and new legislation on community
23 college districts and their operations.
- 24 • Fundraising for the Encore Campaign continues with upcoming donor
25 meetings.
- 26 • President Karas noted that there will be a small 2% increase in the
27 Founders' Hall rates for the upcoming semester. The college has not
28 implemented a rate adjustment or increase in the past year. Even with the
29 small increase in rates, the new Founders' Hall rates are well below the
30 local and state average.

31 **E. Consideration of Settlement Agreement**

32 The Board is being presented with a settlement agreement. Due to the privacy of
33 individuals involved, Chairperson Lund announced that the demand of individual privacy clearly
34 exceeded the merits of public disclosure and therefore she would close the meeting. The meeting
35 was closed at 4:19 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 4:36 p.m. Trustee Mark Holston moved
36 that the Board of Trustees approve the settlement agreement as presented. Trustee Callie Langohr
37 seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with six (6) "yes" votes,
38 Trustee Kelly Stimpson abstained.
39

40 **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

41 With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.
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44
45

46 ms

1 _____
2 Shannon Lund, Chairperson of the Board

3
4 _____
5 Kelly Stimpson, Secretary to the Board
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**Student Activities Report
December 2020**

Student Government has started to update the student lounge with new TVs and furniture. They are working on hosting a Study Skills Seminar in early February. This event will be a hybrid event and available to students online via Zoom

In honor of Native American Heritage month, the Native American Student Association hosted two Indian Taco events in partnership with the Eagles Nest. To help create awareness, informational ads/slides were included in the Privy Press and on the media screens.

The Genders and Sexualities Alliance met with several Safe Zone trained employees to discuss creating a more inclusive campus culture. Several great ideas were discussed. A few of the ideas include adding pronouns to signature lines, developing a webpage with resource links, and creating slides for the media screens and the Privy Press on LGBTQ+ terminology.

The Student Wellness Team continued to host weekly Wellness Wednesday events. Topics covered in November were diabetes awareness, sexual health, affirmative consent, bystander intervention, and the Great American Smokeout.

The FVCC Food Pantry assisted 23 families in November with Thanksgiving dinner food boxes. Kalispell Regional Hospital donated 16 turkeys, 7 turkeys were donated by FVCC employees, and the remaining food was purchased from the food pantry fund. Over 615 pounds of food was distributed assisting 73 individuals for Thanksgiving. In November, the pantry received 8 visits and assisted 21 individuals.

Community Involvement - A local community partner (Heritage Place) requested assistance with gifts for seniors. A Socks and Slippers for Seniors drive was held and collected 21 donations. Housing students were provided with an opportunity to make no-sew blankets over the Thanksgiving break; 14 blankets were donated.

A CASA Giving Tree was set up in Blake Hall and included 99 gift requests for local foster children. A Tots for Tots collection box was also located in Blake Hall. It didn't take long for the Student Engagement Office to start looking like Santa's Workshop!

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4 **Faculty Activity Report**
5 **December 2020**
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7 **Stephanie Paidas, Ph.D., Assistant Professor - Psychology**

8 Dr. Stephanie Paidas' developmental psychology students have been engaging in group
9 discussions regarding late adulthood (ages 65+). As a result, they developed ideas and plans to
10 offer socially-distanced support to local assisted living and skilled nursing care facilities in the
11 form of video messages, cards and letters, and crafting projects. Many of her students work in
12 these settings and want to have a meaningful impact on the Flathead's aging population.
13

14 In addition, Dr. Paidas recently enrolled in a 25-hour professional development course entitled
15 "Complex Trauma: Beyond Competency," which she believes will enhance her course materials
16 in psychology as well as enable her to better meet the needs of students with traumatic
17 backgrounds. Almost three years ago, Dr. Paidas began tracking the number of students in her
18 courses who disclose histories of significant trauma, and the percentage is surprisingly high
19 (about 75%).
20

21 **Marty Mullins, Ph.D., Adjunct Instructor - Social Sciences**

22 Dr. Marty Mullins has been integrating the use of the FVCC Library's SIRS (Social Issues
23 Resources Series) Database into her Introduction to American Government class. Students
24 selected contemporary topics (such as 'Undocumented Immigration' and 'Gun Control: Second
25 Amendment and the Right to Bear Arms) from the SIRS Database. This online database filters
26 and provides 'For' and 'Against' viewpoint articles that are sourced from vetted periodicals.
27 Students then argued their own viewpoints based on these sources in essays and papers. The
28 purpose of the assignment was to familiarize students with quality source materials from
29 opposing positions and to strengthen their skills in developing and defending a thesis statement.
30

31 **Phil MacGregor, Ed.D., Professor - Computer Applications/Accounting**

32 Dr. Phil MacGregor attended a one-day virtual conference, hosted by Interop Digital on
33 December 3, 2020. Sessions included cloud and artificial intelligence security, infrastructure for
34 the intelligent edge, network security for the changing work environment, and assessing cloud
35 maturity.
36

37 **Christina Relyea, Ph.D., Professor - Natural Resources**

38 Natural Resources adjunct instructor and United States Forest Service retiree, Rick Trembath,
39 built an osprey platform for the Bigfork Swan River Nature Trail. Rick worked with local female
40 Boy Scouts of America Troop 1916 and the Bigfork Rotary Club on the project. Another Natural
41 Resources adjunct instructor, Diane Whited, helped with the platform design. Flathead Electric
42 installed the platform on December 8, 2020 on PacifiCorp property located by the dam.
43