

1 FLATHEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
2 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
3 Regular Board Meeting
4 Monday, December 22, 2014, 3:45 p.m.
5 Board Room - Blake Hall/SCA Building
6

7 A regular meeting of the Flathead Valley Community College Board of Trustees convened at
8 3:45 p.m., Monday, December 22, 2014, in the Board Room of Blake Hall/SCA 140/144.
9

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

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

14 John Phelps Thomas Harding Mark Holston
15 Shannon Lund Ralene Sliter

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17 Also present were President Jane Karas and Monica Settles, Clerk of the District. Trustee
18 Tom McElwain was absent with prior board approval.
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20 **II. CONSENT ITEMS - ACTION**

- 21 **A.** Approval of the minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting on November 24, 2014.
22 **B.** Recommendation that the Board of Trustees accept the Monthly Human Resources
23 Report as submitted.
24 **C.** Next regular Board of Trustees meeting – January 26, 2015
25

26 John Phelps moved that the Board of Trustees approve ITEMS A, B, & C Under Section II,
27 Consent Agenda-Action. Ralene Sliter seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously
28 with six (6) "yes" votes.
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30 **III. COMMENTS**

31 **A. Students**

32 A written report was submitted for the students (Attachment I) and reviewed by
33 the Board.
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35 **B. Faculty and Staff**

36 Gregg Davis, Associate Professor, Economics, submitted a written report to the
37 Board (Attachment II). The Board reviewed the written report and had no further questions.
38

39 **C. Monthly Reports**

40 **1. Executive Staff Activities Report**

41 The Board of Trustees thanked the Executive Staff for their informative
42 reports. Trustees noted all the hard work all faculty and staff do every day to continue to make
43 FVCC an amazing place for students.
44

45 **D. Commissioner of Higher Education Report-**

46 John Cech, Deputy Commissioner of Two-Year Education, submitted a written
47 report to the Board (Attachment III) and it was reviewed with no questions.
48

49 **E. Public Comment**

1 None

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3 **IV. COLLEGE ISSUES**

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5 **A. Student Success: Student Research Conference Update**

6 Dr. Christina Relyea, Associate Professor, Natural Resources, presented
7 an update on the recent Student Research Conference. Dr. Relyea noted that the Student
8 Research Honors Conference was held on campus on Friday, December 5. The conference was
9 open to any student on campus. There were twenty-six student presentations given and seven
10 poster presentations. The area of winning original research topics presented ranged from music
11 and math, fuel cell, gender and gaming and dehumanization and disease. The honor student
12 winners will be presenting at the Western Regional Honors Conference later during the Spring
13 semester in Reno, Nevada. The Spring Student Research Conference will also be held this
14 spring with the hopes that some of the nursing students will make presentations along with more
15 high school students. Dr. Relyea is currently the Director of the Honors Program at the college.
16 This year the Honors Program will have 30 students enrolled along with 30 students continuing
17 from last year.

18
19 **Financial Aid Year End Report**

20 Cindy Kiefer, Director, Financial Aid, presented the Board with the
21 Financial Aid Year End Report. It was noted that the amounts of aid students are borrowing is
22 trending downward. In addition, the college is continuing its efforts to provide the best financial
23 literacy education and programs for students to help them better understand the responsibility and
24 consequences of student loan borrowing. College Goal Montana will be held February 4, to assist
25 students and parents in the completion of the FAFSA.

26
27 **B. Student Center/Fitness Center Update**

28 President Karas updated the Board on the requested timeline of a possible
29 new student center or fitness center. President Karas noted that the Board requested an updated
30 possible timeline of events for a student center and/or fitness center during their recent retreat.
31 President Karas noted that the college will be conducting a student housing feasibility study
32 during the upcoming months. The plan is to hold some focus groups during the Spring semester.
33 Following the completion of the student housing feasibility study results, the Board will review
34 them and make a decision as to move forward or not with student housing. The Board will also
35 discuss the future of student housing and plans would be made for continued discussion and
36 development of a Student Center/Fitness Center. Plans would include needs assessment,
37 viability, types of a center, funding options, etc.

38
39 **C. Board Policy**

40 The Board was presented with Board Policy, Chapter I, Doctrine, Section
41 90: Disability Provisions (First Reading). The Board is being asked to review and approve the
42 first reading of the presented policy. President Karas indicated that the policy has been reviewed
43 and approved by all appropriate college personnel. Following review of the policy, Thomas
44 Harding moved that the Board approve Board Policy, Chapter I, Doctrine, Section 90: Disability
45 Provisions (First Reading). Ralene Sliter seconded the motion. With no further discussion, John
46 Phelps called for the question. The motion carried unanimously with (6) six "yes" votes.

47
48 **D. Finance and Audit Committee Report**

1 The Finance and Audit Committee Report met prior to the Board meeting
2 to discuss the proposed Resolution 14-7: General Obligation Refunding Bonds Amending and
3 Superseding a Resolution (Resolution 14-4), Adopted June 23, 2014. Following review of the
4 proposed resolution, the Finance and Audit Committee recommended approval of Resolution 14-
5 7.

6
7 **E. Resolution 14-7: General Obligation Refunding Bonds Amending and**
8 **Superseding Resolution (Resolution 14-4)**

9 Due to timing of the bond refinancing, a revision of the Board Resolution
10 (Resolution 14-4) passed on June 23, 2014 is recommended so additional maturities can be
11 included in the refinancing of the Series 2005 and 2006 bonds. Following review of Resolution
12 14-7, Thomas Harding moved that the Board approve Resolution 14-7: General Obligation
13 Refunding Bonds Amending and Superseding Resolution (Resolution 14-4). Shannon Lund
14 seconded the motion. Chuck Jensen, Vice President of Administration and Finance, noted that the
15 refinance of bonds will save the taxpayers approximately \$600,000.00. With no further
16 discussion, Ralene Sliter called for the question. The motion carried unanimously with (6) six
17 “yes” votes.

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20 **F. Trustees Events Calendar**

21 Trustees reviewed the Board of Trustees Events Calendar included in the
22 agenda. President Karas noted that the next Board meeting is scheduled for January 26. The
23 college will be closed Thursday, December 25-Sunday, January 4, 2015, for the upcoming winter
24 break.

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26 **G. President’s Update**

27 President Karas updated the Board on several items:

- 28 • President Karas reported that she recently attended a White House Summit
29 on college accessibility on December 4, in Washington, D.C. There were
30 about 600 representatives from colleges and universities from around the
31 nation at the event.
- 32 • The Employee Holiday party was held on December 6. The evening
33 provided a nice celebration for employees and was catered by The
34 Culinary Institute of Montana students.
- 35 • Student Art Week was held December 8-12, followed by a student concert
36 and awards celebration.
- 37 • Nine Culinary Arts students graduated on December 8.
- 38 • FVCC and The University of Montana held a combined legislative
39 meeting on December 16, approximately 13 local legislators attended to
40 hear President Karas and President Engstrom present on the University
41 and Flathead Valley Community College’s continued success.
- 42 • The FVCC Annual Report has been recently completed and Trustees and
43 the community will be receiving the reports soon. President Karas
44 thanked Sally Johnson, Tara Roth, Colleen Unterreiner, Katie White and
45 staff on another amazing and successful Annual Report.

46
47 **V. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

48 Chairperson Nystuen thanked everyone for attending and inquired whether or not

1 there was any other discussion before the Board convened into an Executive Session. There
2 being no further discussion, he announced the Board would enter into an Executive Session to
3 discuss the evaluation of the President and Emeritus recommendations and it was determined
4 that the demand of individual privacy clearly exceeded the merits of public disclosure and
5 therefore he would close the meeting. The meeting was closed at 4:17 p.m. The meeting was
6 reconvened at 5:08 p.m.

7 Following the reconvening of the meeting, Thomas Harding moved that the Board
8 of Trustees approve the Emeritus recommendations submitted and honor John Rawlings and with
9 Emeritus distinction. Shannon Lund seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the
10 motion carried unanimously with six (6) "yes" votes.
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13 **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

14 With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.
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17 Robert Nystuen, Chairperson of the Board

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19 _____
20 John M. Phelps, Vice Chairperson of the Board
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