

1 FLATHEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
2 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
3 Regular Board Meeting
4 Monday, February 22, 2021 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, February 22, 2021 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 Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, Chris Clouse and Monica
18 Settles, Clerk of the District. President Jane Karas was participating in the Legislative Session.
19

20 **II. PUBLIC COMMENT-None**
21

22 **III. CONSENT ITEMS - ACTION**

- 23 A. Approval of the minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting on January 25,
24 2021.
25 B. Next regular Board of Trustees meeting – March 15, 2021
26

27 Trustee Kelly Stimpson moved that the Board of Trustees approve ITEMS A, & B Under Section
28 III, Consent Agenda-Action. Trustee Patrick Gulick seconded the motion. The motion carried
29 unanimously with seven (7) "yes" votes.
30

31 **IV. COMMENTS**

32 **A. Monthly Reports**

33 **1. Students**

34 Student, Grace Cockrell, Student Government Representative and Student
35 Wellness Team Member, presented the Board with the Student Activities Report (Attachment I).
36

37 **2. Faculty**

38 Associate Professor, Physical Therapy Assistant, Julie Robertson,
39 presented the Board with a report from Faculty (Attachment II).
40

41 **3. Executive Staff Activities Report**

42 The Board of Trustees received written reports from the Executive Staff
43 for review.
44

45 **V. COLLEGE ISSUES**

1 **A. Paramedic Program Partnership with Tribal Partners and Miles Community**
2 **College**

3 Ryan Pitts, Assistant Professor, Emergency Management Systems, provided the
4 Board with an update on the Paramedic Program’s partnerships with its tribal partners and its
5 partnership with Miles Community College. The Blackfeet Tribal Emergency Medical Service
6 (EMS) received a grant from the Montana Healthcare Foundation to train local Emergency
7 Medical Technicians (EMT’s) to become Paramedics. The Flathead Valley Community College
8 Paramedicine program has collaborated with the Blackfeet Tribal EMS to provide this training.
9 Currently, the nearest Advanced Life Support ambulance that responds to the Browning area is
10 located in Cut Bank, a 35- minute drive from Browning. Having trained paramedics and
11 advanced care available in the local community will significantly decrease the time that a patient
12 may have to wait for these life-saving interventions. The Blackfeet EMS system will have a
13 much greater ability to provide this advanced care in a timely manner and this should in turn
14 have an immediate effect to improve the morbidity and mortality statistics of their community.
15 The second cohort class of 8 students started in January. The program can accept a cohort of 12
16 students and currently the cohort consists of 8 students with 9 students in the original class. In
17 addition, Flathead Valley Community College has partnered with Miles Community College
18 (MCC) to offer our program to MCC students, with MCC providing the space and classrooms on
19 its campus.
20

21 **B. Core Themes Approval**

22 As we head into a new 7-year accreditation cycle, the college must re-examine its
23 strategic plan and core themes to be sure they address the new 2020 standards of accreditation.
24 The new standards have a much heavier focus on student achievement and require FVCC to use
25 disaggregated data to decrease achievement gaps in student metrics such as persistence, retention,
26 and graduation. Three of our core themes have objectives and indicators that can be
27 disaggregated around these metrics: Developmental education, workforce preparation and
28 transfer preparation. We have begun the work to disaggregate the data and focus on achievement
29 gaps that may exist based on age, gender, part-time versus full-time status, socioeconomic status,
30 and first generation status. With the increased focus on student success, the core theme of
31 community education and engagement does not fit into the structure of the new standards as
32 easily. The objectives and indicators are difficult to measure and impossible to disaggregate
33 because we do not gather information about subgroups amongst our community members. The
34 community engagement core theme work will now be integrated into the strategic plan and be
35 highly visible to recognize the relevance of this work. In addition, the workforce training and
36 adult education aspects of community education will be measured in the workforce preparation
37 and developmental education core themes. Trustee Mark Holston moved that the Board of
38 Trustees approve the three core themes of developmental education, workforce preparation, and
39 transfer preparation for the 2020-2027 accreditation cycle. Trustee Kelly Stimpson seconded the
40 motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously with seven (7) “yes” votes.
41

42 **C. Boiler Project Bid Award**

43 The college bid out a boiler replacement. The college received two bids for the
44 project. Diamond Plumbing and Heating, Inc. provided the lowest bid. Trustee Kelly Stimpson
45 moved that the Board approve awarding the contract to the lowest bidder Diamond Plumbing and
46 Heating, Inc., and authorize President Jane Karas to sign the Notice of Award and to negotiate the

1 Notice to Proceed and Final Contract as necessary with Diamond Plumbing and Heating, Inc.,
2 pending legal review as deemed necessary. Trustee Peter Akey seconded the motion. With no
3 further discussion, the motion carried unanimously with seven (7) “yes” votes.
4

5 **D. Biotechnology CTS Program Approval**

6 At its February 12, 2021 meeting, the Curriculum Committee voted to approve the
7 new Biotechnology CTS Program. The program is being presented to the Board for review and
8 approval. The Biotechnology program offers hands-on competency based instruction to prepare
9 students for entry-level positions in the biosciences industry. Students completing this program
10 will be prepared to take the Biosciences Assistant Credentialing Exam (BACE), which is an
11 industry-recognized credential. Trustee Peter Akey moved that the Board approve the
12 Biotechnology CTS Program as presented. Trustee Kelly Stimpson seconded the motion. With
13 no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously with seven (7) “yes” votes.
14

15 **E. Board of Trustees Events Calendar**

16 Vice President Chris Clouse reviewed the Trustees’ events calendar and noted that
17 the next regularly scheduled Board meeting is Monday, March 15, 2021. The March Board of
18 Regents meeting will be held March 11-12 and could possibly be held virtually.
19

20 **F. President’s Update**

- 21 • Due to President Karas participating in the Legislative Session, no
22 President’s report was provided. President Karas will provide an update at
23 a later time.
- 24 • Shannon Schumacher, Executive Director, Institutional Advancement, did
25 provide the Board with a brief update on the Encore campaign and hopes
26 to close the campaign in the very near future.
27

28 **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

29 With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.
30

31
32 ms

33 _____
34 Shannon Lund, Chairperson of the Board
35

36 _____
37 Kelly Stimpson, Secretary to the Board
38

ATTACHMENT I

Student Activities Report February 2021

The semester is off to a good start. Week of Welcome (WOW) activities took place during the first week of classes. The week started off with a welcome breakfast hosted by Student Government. They distributed 60 grab and go breakfasts to new and returning students. The week long activities also included a Cocoa and Cookies Club Day, Grocery Bingo, Among Us gaming tournament, Ask Me Tent, and two virtual Q & A sessions.

Student Government has been busy during the month of January and February. Weekly trivia/surveys are taking place on their course site on Eagle Online with an average of 70 students participating each week. They are making progress on refurbishing the student lounge in Blake Hall, room 160. Trivia Night events are being hosted monthly. A successful Study Skills Seminar took place on February 6th with 23 students in attendance. The event was offered in-person and online. Presentations were given on stress management, research techniques, note taking, time management and goal setting.

Student Wellness meets on a weekly basis and participated in Week of Welcome activities. They hosted a successful Fresh Check Day event and had 29 attendees. Fresh Check Day is a fun, uplifting and interactive event that focuses on mental health awareness and suicide prevention. It is supported by the Jordan Porco Foundation.

Phi Theta Kappa is continuing to meet on a regular basis and hosted a service project at the Flathead Food Bank.

The Intersarsity Christian Fellowship is hosting 3 bible studies and 1 worship night per week.

Other student organizations that are continuing to meet on campus this semester are the Genders and Sexualities Alliance, Mask and Hammer, Audionauts (music club), Simiinekum (Native American Student Association), and the Podcast Club.

We welcomed the Firearms Guild as a new club this semester and are currently working with a group of students to establish a Black Student Union. If there is enough student interest, they will start the process to establish a new student club next month.

ATTACHMENT II

Faculty Activity Report February 2021

David Regan, M.F.A., Associate Professor - Ceramics

FVCC has acquired two pieces of equipment for the ceramics studio which were donated by the UM Western art department. The equipment consists of a computer-fired, automated Geil brand gas kiln and a Bailey de-airing clay mixer/pug mill. Both are almost brand new and together are worth approximately \$25,000. Professor Regan purchased them during his last year teaching at UM Western prior to coming to FVCC. The FVCC heavy-ops department drove to Dillon to pick them up for the cost of the fuel.

Robyn Hoggatt, B.A.S., Assistant Professor, Program Director - Surgical Technology

The Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA) reviewed and approved a Maximum Enrollment Capacity increase from eight to twelve students per cohort for the Surgical Technician program. Twelve students were accepted into the Surgical Technology Program for spring 2021. In addition, Professor Hoggatt attended the 24th Annual Association of Surgical Technology Educators Conference virtually on February 12 & 13. Topics included Revisions to the Core Curriculum for the Surgical Technician, Preparing Students for the Certification Exam and Bridging the Gap between Clinicals and Classroom.

Manda Hudak, B.S., Chef Instructor - Culinary Arts

Chef Hudak contributed to the 2021 Flathead Beacon Food Issue for an article titled, "Cook like a Pro," which provides local Flathead Valley chefs' tips for easy upgrades to home cooking. This has been a particular topic of interest, since a silver lining to the pandemic is that more people are cooking from home. Chef Hudak advises that home chefs make their own vinaigrette rather than purchasing it at the store, and she shares her recipe for tomato vinaigrette in the February 10th publication. The article can be viewed online at <https://flatheadbeacon.com/2021/02/09/cook-like-a-pro/>

Brenda Rudolph, M.B.A., Professor, Business/Allied Health

Professor Rudolph was asked to perform a Program Review evaluation on the Medical Coding Program at City College (MSUB) in Billings. The program has done a thorough self-study and she will read the report, compare with specific criteria, and make comments from an external perspective. This is the second external report that Professor Rudolph has completed for a Montana college and their Program Review process.

Christina Relyea, Ph.D., Professor - Natural Resources, Honors Program Director

First year natural resource students have partnered with MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks to design and build floating islands for the Sekokinee Springs fish hatchery outdoor fish ponds. These floating islands will provide refugia to protect juvenile westslope cutthroat trout from aerial predators. Students have completed the frames and will be testing two designs in April. Currently, they are growing several native wetland plants that will be added to the frames. When complete these floating islands will be micro-ecosystems providing habitat for fish below and birds and insects

1 above. The roots of the plants will also aid in gas exchange and nutrient filtration of the pond
2 water. This is an exciting opportunity as it provides a practical learning experience for students
3 to reinforce ideas that Dr. Relyea and colleagues are teaching in the classroom. Win for the fish,
4 win for the students!