

1 FLATHEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
2 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
3 Regular Board Meeting
4 Monday, March 28, 2022, 3:45 p.m.
5 Blake Hall 140
6

7 A regular meeting of the Flathead Valley Community College Board of Trustees convened at
8 3:45 p.m., Monday, March 28, 2022.
9

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

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

13 Patrick Gulick Mark Holston Callie Langohr
14 Lyle Mitchell Kelly Stimpson

15 Trustee Shannon Lund was absent with prior Board approval. Also present were President Jane
16 Karas and Suzanne DeCamp, Clerk of the District.
17

18 **II. PUBLIC COMMENT - None**

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20 **III. CONSENT ITEMS - ACTION**

21 **A.** Approval of the minutes of the Board of Trustees Retreat on February 26, 2022 and
22 the Regular Board of Trustees meeting on February 28, 2022.
23

24 **B.** Next regular Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2022.
25

26 Trustee Kelly Stimpson moved that the Board of Trustees approve ITEMS A & B under Section
27 III, Consent Agenda - Action. Trustee Mark Holston seconded the motion. The motion carried
28 unanimously with six (6) "yes" votes.
29

30 **IV. MONTHLY REPORTS**

31 **A. Students Activities Report**

32 The Student Activities Report was presented by Emmett Jeschke, Student
33 Government President, for the Board to review (see Attachment I).
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35 **B. Faculty Activities Report**

36 The Faculty Activities Report was submitted to the Board and presented by Dr.
37 Julie Robertson, Associate Professor, Physical Therapy Assistant Program (see Attachment II).
38

39 **C. Executive Staff Activities Report**

40 The Board acknowledged the Executive Staff for their informative reports.
41

42 **V. COLLEGE ISSUES**

43 **A. Student Success: Botany Program**

44 Dr. Mirabai McCarthy – Associate Professor of Biology and Chemistry, and a
45 group of her undergraduate biology research students presented information about what they
46 are doing in their Botany Program. The research project has been ongoing for seven years and
47 has had thirty-five students participating. They have received grant funding to help cover the

1 cost of resources and stipends. The students harvest locally grown plants like fungus, lichen,
2 moss and ferns in nature and look for antibiotic potential. After the plants are identified, they
3 are broken down into liquid extracts where they are tested against different forms of bacteria.
4 The students will travel to Alaska in July to attend seminars by ethno-botanists and will return
5 to FVCC to try to apply those methods here. In addition, the students are planning to attend
6 two events at the end of this semester; a STEM colloquium as well as an undergraduate
7 research forum. Over spring break, the students went to the Beardance Trail area in Bigfork
8 and gathered a large crop of plants to be tested in future semesters. They will be taking an
9 experimental approach over the next year or so. They would like to test these plants against
10 different forms of cancer to see if there are ways to use these natural forms of resources to help
11 with treatment.

12 President Karas praised Dr. McCarthy for being one of the many faculty who
13 work so closely with their students to provide them opportunities that they wouldn't have
14 anywhere else. Dr. McCarthy was recognized by one of her former students when he graduated
15 with his degree from Cornell University. He received the President's Honor Award and was
16 able to invite someone who had changed his life and he chose Dr. McCarthy. This same
17 student is currently working on his Ph.D. at Ann Arbor.

18 19 **B. Academic Program Proposals**

20 The Board was presented with five Academic Program Proposals for 2022-
21 2023. During its March 4, 2002 meeting, the Curriculum Committee voted to recommend the
22 following changes:

- 23 1. Advanced Baking and Pastry, CTS Program Deletion
- 24 2. Geospatial Technology, CTS Program Moratorium
- 25 3. Personal Trainer, CAS Program Deletion
- 26 4. General Studies, CTS Program Offering
- 27 5. Integrated Agriculture and Food Systems, AAS Program name
28 change to Agriculture and Food Systems AAS Program

29 Trustee Kelly Stimpson moved that the Board of Trustees approve the Academic Program
30 Proposal recommendations as submitted. Trustee Patrick Gulick seconded the motion. With no
31 further discussion, the motion carried unanimously with six (6) "yes" votes.

32 33 **C. Board of Trustees Events Calendar**

34 President Karas reviewed the Trustees events calendar. Springfest will be held
35 on April 7th. The next Board of Trustees meeting will be April 25th. The American Association
36 of Community Colleges is hosting their annual meeting at the end of April/beginning of May.
37 Commencement will be held on May 13th here on campus outside under a tent. The Board of
38 Regents will be meeting May 18th-19th. The May Board of Trustees meeting will be on the 23rd.
39 Summer Semester begins May 23rd.

40 41 **D. President's Report**

42 President Karas updated the Board on several items:

- 43 • Board of Regents Meeting – March 10th-11th. The meeting took place in Dillon.
44 They addressed issues related to the University System.
- 45 • Interim Budget Committee of the Legislature – President Karas and Beckie
46 Christiaens attended their meeting on March 16th in Helena. The Committee was
47 discussing the Community College Funding Formula. President Karas shared her

1 concerns with the reversion and inflation factors. All three community colleges
2 will meet with the legislative fiscal analyst who represents the Committee, one of
3 the budget staff people from the Commission of Higher Education's Office, and a
4 staff member from the Office of Budget and Planning from the Governor's
5 Office. The three colleges will develop recommendations and options for the
6 Committee to consider at their next meeting in the middle of June.

- 7 • College Center – Construction is continuing to progress.
- 8 • Workforce Training Education – Continuing to look at workforce ideas and
9 solutions. Accelerate Montana is a project that was funded by the Legislature to
10 the University of Montana in Missoula. They received \$6M to do job training
11 across the state. They are supposed to be coordinating with local community and
12 two-year colleges to see if they are already offering the programs that they are
13 wanting to bring to those communities so that they can help them to expand or
14 better serve those that are already in place.
- 15 • Early Childhood Center Building – The college is considering possible uses for
16 the Early Childhood Center Building. A final decision will be made soon.
- 17 • Staffing Update – Duane Anderson, Executive Director of Information
18 Technology announced his upcoming retirement at the end of this fiscal year.
19 After an internal search and interview, Kent Rogers was offered the position.
20 Kent will assume his new role on July 1st.
- 21 • Campus Conversations – President Karas has been meeting with different
22 departments and divisions on campus discussing ways to reconnect with
23 employees after the isolation of COVID. An all employee appreciation dinner is
24 being planned for the week of graduation under the tent. There will also be a
25 dinner and awards ceremony for our adjunct faculty and continuing education
26 teachers.
- 27 • Scholarship Reception – March 16th – The Foundation hosted a reception this
28 year instead of a sit down dinner. Attendees seemed to like the format where
29 they could mingle with each other and the students. Three students spoke and
30 shared how the scholarships helped them and made a difference in their lives.
- 31 • Springfest – April 7th – The event is sold out with a waiting list. It is a wonderful
32 opportunity to raise money for scholarships.

33 34 **VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

35 **A. Emeritus Recommendation**

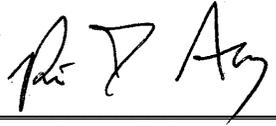
36 Chairperson Akey announced that the Board would go into Executive Session to
37 discuss the Emeritus Recommendation. It was determined that the demand of individual
38 privacy clearly exceeded the merits of public disclosure and therefore he would close the
39 meeting. The meeting was closed at 4:17 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 4:19
40 p.m. Following the reconvening of the meeting, Trustee Mark Holston moved that the
41 Board of Trustees approve the Emeritus recommendation submitted and honor Gregg
42 Davis with Emeritus distinction. Trustee Kelly Stimpson seconded the motion. With no
43 further discussion, the motion carried unanimously with six (6) "yes" votes.

44 45 **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

46 With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

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Pete Akey, Chairperson of the Board



Patrick Gulick, Secretary to the Board

Student Activities Report**March 2022**

The Student Wellness Team hosted a few events throughout February starting with a “speed friending” event prior to Valentine’s Day. The event focused on positive social interactions outside of the typical “college party” environment. Ten students attended and all students stayed in the lounge afterwards to play games and chat. The team handed out about 50 goodie bags containing school supplies, campus resources, positive affirmation cards, and fidget toys on random acts of kindness day. A team member also put together an awareness campaign for “Through with Chew Week” on the campus media screens.

Student Government continues to work on surveying the students through Eagle Online to gather input. They are hosting Freebie Fundays which involves walking around campus and randomly handing out swag. February Fling was held on February 18th at 6:30 pm with 19 students in attendance. Once again, karaoke was a big hit. Also, the process for allocation student activity fee monies for 2022-23 has started. Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society members started meeting on a regular basis to brainstorm activities for the semester. The induction ceremony is set for April 18th at 4pm. Several student organizations are hosting regular meetings, enjoying comradery, and food.

Campus Rec entertained about 80 students at a variety of events. Basketball night received 20+ attendees and volleyball attracted 18. Other events included a Super Smash Brothers tournament, Wii bowling tournament, grocery bingo and trivia event, movie night, and a Bob Ross paint night.

The Student Leadership Program Retreat was held on February 25-27 at Trinity Lutheran Camp on Flathead Lake. Workshop sessions included personality and leadership styles, group dynamics, visioning & goal setting, running an effective meeting, parliamentary procedure, event planning, and leaving a legacy. There were 10 students in attendance.

The Student Lounge in LRC 102 is receiving more traffic. Students are enjoying the group activity area to watch movies, paint nights, grocery bingo, or study. Progress on installing a large screen and projector for movies, games nights, etc. is going well. Also, a new pool table and music service have been selected for this space.

Student Government funds and donations from the Eagle’s Nest and Common Grounds tip jars (\$281) helped restock the student food pantry this month. The pantry received 8 visits and benefited 39 individuals.

Faculty Activity Report**March 2022****Phil MacGregor, E.D., Professor - Computer Applications/Accounting**

Dr. MacGregor hosted an employer panel for the Information Technology and Security program students on Thursday, March 10. There were eight representatives from six different employers in the Valley on this panel. The first hour consisted of introductions and Q&A. The second hour was a rotation of mock interviews. Jim Goudy, Associate Professor of Computer Science/Web Technology brought some of his programming students to the panel. Cathy Allard, FVCC Career Advisor, did a tremendous job organizing the event.

In addition, Dr. MacGregor presented on cybersecurity at the FVCC STEM Colloquium on Friday, March 4.

Wendy Westbroek, Ph.D., Associate Professor - Microbiology

Dr. Westbroek is part of a nationwide NSF-funded network that promotes undergraduate biology education through infusion of urban agriculture in curriculum. She is co-author of a paper recently published by the group in the journal *Ecology and Evolution*. To view the article online: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ece3.8721>

Marty Mullins, Ph.D., Adjunct Faculty - History

Dr. Mullins delivered a Zoom lecture titled "Košice's Influential Communist-Era Subversives" for the Slovak American Society of Washington, D.C. on March 5, focusing on eastern Slovak subversives acting against the Communist regime with an eye toward the current situation in Ukraine. To view the lecture: <https://youtu.be/BpVQIIAcnI8>

Janice Heil, PT, MAPT, Associate Professor, Program Director - Physical Therapist Assistant Program

The PTA Program hosted a continuing education course through the North American Institute on Manual Therapy last month. This will be a 4-course series which will lead to an orthopedic certification upon completion. Eight of our prior PTA program graduates are participating in this certification.

Manda Hudak, B.S., Chef Instructor and Program Director - The Culinary Institute of Montana

The Culinary Team hosted a Chef's Table Dinner of Gratitude and Sharing for our local high school counselors and FCS teachers on Friday, March 11. The purpose of the dinner was to express our gratitude to those who have helped local high school students during recent challenges including COVID. Students expressed their gratitude to FCS teachers and counselors during comments following the dinner that were most appreciated by our guests.

Laura VanDeKop, M.S., Professor - Math

Professors Conrad Rauscher and Laura VanDeKop attended the Achieving the Dream DREAM 2022 virtual conference Feb 15 - 17. DREAM 2022 centered on building stronger pathways to

1 and through postsecondary education; adopting holistic, equity-focused approach to community
2 vitality; eliminating systemic barriers to student success; fostering a sense of belonging through
3 teaching and learning excellence; and leveraging data and analytics for institutional and
4 community well-being.

5
6 The FVCC Math Department celebrated Pi Day on Monday back on campus again! Laura
7 VanDeKop, Don Hickethier, and Fred Longhart served pies in Blake Hall and accepted
8 donations to the Math Excellence Fund. About \$300 was raised that day to support the Math
9 Excellence Award for FVCC students and other awards for local high school and middle school
10 students. There were 10 homemade pies baked by FVCC faculty and staff - a big thank you to
11 all that supported the event!

12
13 The FVCC Math Department hosted the 5th Annual NW Regional MCTM Math Contest
14 (Montana Council of Teachers of Mathematics) on March 17 after a two-year COVID delay.
15 Between 150 - 200 local middle and high school students came to campus to take a series of
16 math tests in the hopes of earning scholarships and other awards. The contest is directed by
17 Peter Musick, Kalispell Middle School math teacher and FVCC adjunct professor. A big thank
18 you to all that helped organize the event!

19
20 **Julie Robertson, PT, DPT, Associate Professor - Physical Therapist Assistant Program,**
21 **eLearning Co-Chair**

22 FVCC's eLearning Faculty Fellows (ELFFs) and Instructional Designers completed the
23 Teaching Online Certificate (TOC) program through Quality Matters, a recognized leader in
24 online education worldwide. The TOC consists of a 7-course series that promotes best practices
25 and excellence in online education. Courses were offered in 1-2 week sections and took five
26 months to complete. The ELFFs plan to utilize this training to help support faculty in designing
27 and implementing online and hybrid courses, effectively selecting and using instructional
28 technology, and integrating the use of Eagle Online in face to face courses. ELFFs also
29 participate in design quality reviews of online and hybrid courses. ELFFs represent each
30 division on campus and include Dr. Janice Alexander (Science), Erin Wenner (Math), Brenda
31 Rudolph (Business), Carlin Hale (Social Sciences), and Dr. Julie Robertson (Health Sciences).