

1 FLATHEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
2 BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
3 Regular Board Meeting  
4 Monday, October 26, 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, October 26, 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 Mark Holston Peter Akey Callie Langohr  
15 Patrick Gulick Lyle Mitchell Kelly Stimpson  
16

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

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

21 **III. CONSENT ITEMS - ACTION**

- 22 A. Approval of the minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting on September 21,  
23 2020.  
24 B. Next regular Board of Trustees meeting – November 23, 2020  
25

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

30 **IV. COMMENTS**

31 **A. Students**

32 The Board was presented with a written report, from students for review, please  
33 see Attachment I.  
34

35 **B. Faculty and Staff**

36 Associate Professor, Physical Therapy Assistant, Julie Robertson, presented the  
37 Board with a report from Faculty, please see Attachment II.  
38

39 **C. Monthly Reports**

40 **1. 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. Student Success: Chemistry Research Projects and Remote Chemistry Lab**  
46 **Offerings**

1 Dr. David Long, Associate Professor, Chemistry, shared with the Board some  
2 undergraduate student research projects and ways the chemistry department is delivering remote  
3 learning using lab kits. Dr. Long updated the Board on William Pardis, a former FVCC student  
4 who invented an instrument called a pHyter, which measures the ocean's acidity or pH levels.  
5 Until recently, monitoring efforts required expensive equipment and trained technicians.  
6 William saw this as a barrier and worked to create a new device that is inexpensive, accurate and  
7 easy to use. Mr. Pardis' pHyter device is being used by nationally recognized firms throughout  
8 the globe. The pHyter was recently featured by NOAA's Ocean Acidification Program and  
9 Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. In addition to providing students with the opportunity  
10 for research, the chemistry department has also facilitated student success through its remote  
11 offerings. For students wishing to take remote lab courses this year, the chemistry department is  
12 offering mailed out lab kits of equipment for students to use at home. These kits allow students  
13 to complete labs and interact with the professor in real time remotely. This also allows the  
14 professors to correct students' lab work and respond in real time as well.  
15

### 16 **B. Board Policy, Chapter VIII, Academic Affairs (First Reading)**

17 The Board was presented with Board Policy, Chapter VIII, Academic Affairs  
18 (First Reading) for review and approval. Trustee Kelly Stimpson suggested an additional minor  
19 change to Section 80. The suggested change is to replace the "Vice President" with President.  
20 President Karas noted that this is the first reading and the suggested change can be made and  
21 presented at the second reading. Trustee Kelly Stimpson moved that the Board approve Board  
22 Policy, Chapter VIII, Academic Affairs (First Reading) with the suggested change. Trustee Mark  
23 Holston seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously with  
24 seven (7) "yes" votes.  
25

### 26 **C. Finance and Audit Committee Report**

27 The Finance and Audit Committee met prior to the Board meeting. The  
28 committee reported that they received a review of the presented Year End Fiscal Report.

#### 29 **1. Year End Fiscal Report**

30 Beckie Christiaens, Vice-President, Chief Financial Officer, Finance and  
31 Administration, presented the Board with the Year End Fiscal Report, ending June 30, 2020. The  
32 committee reported that the year-end report looked great and only change was a slight decrease in the  
33 local mill levy.  
34

### 35 **D. Board of Trustees Events Calendar**

36 The Board reviewed the Trustees' events calendar and noted that the Board of  
37 Regents' November meeting will be held virtually, November 19-20. The next regularly  
38 scheduled Board meeting is Monday, November 23. The college will be closed in observance of  
39 the Thanksgiving Holiday on Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27. The fall semester will  
40 end on Wednesday, November 25. Several courses will be offered for four-weeks online only  
41 beginning November 23. The upcoming legislative session is scheduled to begin on January 4,  
42 2021. The schedule and how meetings will be set-up is still to be determined. The Spring  
43 semester is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, January 19, 2020.  
44

### 45 **E. President's Update**

46 President Karas updated the Board on several items:

- 47 • President Karas noted that the recent Festival of Flavors was a success and was

1 the first year that the culminating grand wine event was virtual. Once all the  
2 information is in from the dinners and grand event, President Karas will update  
3 the Board on final amounts raised.

- 4 • The Encore Campaign continues to move forward. President Karas and the  
5 Foundation continue to speak with donors and hope to have the campaign closed  
6 out in the very near future. The walls are going up on the new College Center and  
7 the building is beginning to take shape.
- 8 • The college continues to work closely with Flathead City and County Health on  
9 Covid-19 measures and protocols. The college's Covid Quick Response Team  
10 continues to work with the college community and continually monitors and  
11 assesses the Covid pandemic and makes the necessary changes and  
12 recommendations. The college has also hired a Covid-19 Support Specialist who  
13 tracks and helps with contract tracing efforts on campus.
- 14 • President Karas continues to meet and work with Legislators on the funding  
15 formula. The upcoming legislative session is set to begin on Monday, January 4.  
16 The Legislative Session may look different this year depending on how they  
17 choose to conduct the session via in-person or virtual or a combination of both.
- 18 • The bookstore is currently undergoing some changes in layout, operations and  
19 staffing. With the new changes, the bookstore will work MSU bookstore's 501-  
20 C3 company to better serve students. The new partnership will help with  
21 merchandising, book sales and ordering and will be able to provide more offerings  
22 to students to better meet their needs.

23  
24 **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

25 With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

26 ms

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 Shannon Lund, Chairperson of the Board

29 \_\_\_\_\_  
30  
31 Kelly Stimpson, Secretary to the Board  
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33  
34

# ATTACHMENT I

## Student Activities Report October 2020

1  
2  
3  
4  
5 Student Government continues to meet on a weekly basis and is working on setting their goals  
6 for the upcoming academic year. They hosted fall elections online on September 22-23 and  
7 welcomed 3 new freshman senators, 2 sophomore senators, and a Vice President.

8  
9 The Native American Student Association hosted free Indian tacos in the Eagles Nest from 11-3  
10 on Native American Heritage Day. In the afternoon, a Native American slide show was displayed  
11 on the media screens. They have elected new officers and meet every 2nd & 4th Monday @3pm.

12  
13 Mask and Hammer plans to scale back on their shows this semester. They are currently working  
14 on a show via Zoom.

15  
16 The Audionauts (Music Club) have hosted 2 events in September and are currently preparing for  
17 a conference in mid-October. New member recruitment is ongoing.

18  
19 The Genders and Sexualities Alliance meets weekly on Thursday afternoons. In September, they  
20 hosted a game night and researched options for Safe Zone training for faculty, staff and students.

21  
22 Intervarsity Christian Fellowship continues to host weekly bible studies, prayer events, club  
23 meetings and Friday Night Unite events. They hosted a weekend fall conference with  
24 approximately 18 students in attendance.

25  
26 The Podcast Club is new this year and is working in partnership with the library to encourage  
27 students to learn about creating podcasts. William Brooks is the president and he is working on  
28 rebuilding membership. They hosted 3 meetings in September.

29  
30 Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society officers held two planning meetings. Dates have been set for an  
31 open house and fall induction ceremony. They are planning a service project focused on food  
32 insecurity issues.

33  
34 The Student Wellness Team meets regularly on Thursdays. They are hosting a Wellness  
35 Wednesday event every week. Topics covered during these events are: emotional health, healthy  
36 relationships, affirmative consent, bystander intervention, physical fitness and nutrition.

37  
38 Campus Rec and Intramurals has continued to provide recreational opportunities for students to  
39 engage in such as a 9/11 color run, gaming tournaments, dog park adventures, folf, pumpkin  
40 painting, paintball, and bowling.

41  
42 Voter Engagement activities took place on Constitution Day and National Voter Registration Day  
43 in September. Voter registration, ballot and non-partisan information will be provided through  
44 November 2.

45  
46 The FVCC Food Pantry assisted 36 individuals in September and distributed 724 pounds of food.

# ATTACHMENT II

## Faculty Activity Report October 2020

FVCC Faculty are continuing to work diligently to create positive learning experiences for their students, whether delivering course content via live remote class sessions, asynchronous online courses, or in-person classes while maintaining a safe environment through infection control measures and physical distancing. Although faculty have been unable to travel to conferences and continuing education courses, some have attended virtual offerings that have provided valuable learning experiences. These, and other activities, are outlined below.

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

Dr. Phil MacGregor attended a virtual conference, Interop Digital, on October 7 and 8, 2020. It is a conference for IT professionals to learn and discover the newest and most valuable IT strategies. Sessions he attended included those on network automation, Artificial Intelligence (AI) for networks and big data, security, cloud implementation strategies, security for the cloud, and DevOps. He will be able to share with his students some of the up and coming IT strategies.

### **Tim Price, M.S., Assistant Professor - STEM**

Tim Price attended an Autonomous Vehicle Technology Sensors Workshop hosted by NCAT (National Center for Autonomous Technology). The content was exciting and sparked ideas that may be useful for undergraduate research projects. Since the conference was conducted entirely in Virtual Reality with 3D headsets for everyone, it provided Professor Price an opportunity to critique what aspects of VR were effective in communicating/sharing information, and what was ineffective.

### **Julie Robertson, PT, DPT, Associate Professor - Physical Therapist Assistant Program**

Dr. Julie Robertson and PTA Program Director Janice Heil attended a virtual multi-state physical therapy conference October 9-10, co-sponsored by the Physical Therapy Associations of Montana, Washington, Idaho, Hawaii, and Wisconsin. A variety of courses were offered, including exercise for the boomer plus generation, concussion management, injury prevention and rehab for skiers, and physical therapy for Parkinson's Disease. Dr. Robertson and Professor Heil look forward to incorporating the new research and information into their PTA program curriculum.

### **Stephanie Paidas, Ph.D., Assistant Professor - Psychology**

Dr. Stephanie Paidas recently participated in a panel discussing the relationship between outdoor recreation and overall health for the annual Crown of the Continent's "Business of Outdoor Recreation Summit," which supports local tourism-based businesses and the economy with an eye on how to sustainably grow and manage this sector.

In addition, Dr. Paidas has been teaching psychology courses remotely, and recently offered students in each course the opportunity to provide anonymous feedback about the remote format. She received unanimous reports that students appreciate the "live" remote format so that they can

1 actively learn with a live professor while balancing the demands of work and family life. They  
2 also reported benefitting from their student-led discussions, which keep them engaged during  
3 Zoom sessions, as well as their online discussion posts. Dr. Paidas has been very impressed with  
4 students' critical thinking skills and creative applications of course content to "the real world."  
5

6 **Eliza Thomas, M.A., Assistant Professor - Education**

7 In the Early Childhood and Education areas of study, Eliza Thomas has been working on  
8 maximizing the technology to not only meet adult student needs but also prepare future teachers  
9 for the use of technology. Classes have actively discussed how to build relationships, manage a  
10 classroom, and still utilize best practices in a remote, hybrid, and face to face model. They have  
11 the opportunity to experience and reflect on all three delivery methods as classes in the program  
12 are functioning in all three spaces currently. Professor Thomas is utilizing technologies such as  
13 Eagle Online, Zoom, Document Cameras, and Screencastify, a video recording application.  
14 These future teachers have experienced and are learning about education as history is being made  
15 and they will be better equipped to meet the challenges of their future classrooms. They are also  
16 discovering that relationships come first in any environment.  
17

18 In EDU 297, Art Methods K-8, Professor Thomas reached out to a provider of educational  
19 materials to commission work, including a well-regarded Pikana ledger artist, John Isaiah  
20 Pepion, that students study in this course. The artist now represents not only Montana, but  
21 indigenous people in the arts. This year's class had the opportunity to watch the process and see  
22 the results of advocating and incorporating Indian Education for All (IEFA) in an authentic and  
23 meaningful way.  
24