

1 FLATHEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
2 BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
3 Regular Board Meeting  
4 Monday, September 27, 2021, 3:45 p.m.  
5 Blake Hall 140/144  
6

7 A regular meeting of the Flathead Valley Community College Board of Trustees convened at  
8 3:45 p.m., Monday, September 27, 2021.  
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  
14 Shannon Lund Mark Holston  
15 Callie Langohr Kelly Stimpson  
16

17 Trustees Lyle Mitchell and Patrick Gulick were absent with prior Board approval. Also  
18 present were President Jane Karas and Monica Settles, Clerk of the District.  
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 July 26, 2021  
24 B. Approval of the minutes of the Special Board conference call on August 9, 2021  
25 C. Next regular Board of Trustees meeting – October 25, 2021  
26

27 Trustee Kelly Stimpson moved that the Board of Trustees approve ITEMS A, B & C Under  
28 Section III, Consent Agenda-Action. Trustee Mark Holston seconded the motion. The motion  
29 carried unanimously with five (5) "yes" votes.  
30

31 **IV. COMMENTS**

32 **A. Students Activities Report**

33 The Student Activities Report was presented by Megan Parsley, President,  
34 Student Wellness Club, to the Board for review (see Attachment I).  
35

36 **B. Faculty Activities Report**

37 The Faculty Activities report was submitted to the Board and presented by Julie  
38 Robertson, Associate Professor, Physical Therapy Assistant Program (see Attachment II).  
39

40 **C. Executive Staff Activities Report**

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

45 **V. COLLEGE ISSUES**

46 **A. Student Success: Agriculture Program and Campus Farm Update**

47 Dr. Heather Estrada, Associate Professor/Program Director, Agriculture,

1 presented the Board with an update on the Agriculture Program and the Campus Farm. FVCC  
2 offers a variety of Ag related programs where students learn the science and theory of farming  
3 and sustainable food sourcing. This year, students were able to do internships on the campus  
4 farm. The culinary program partnered with the Ag program and the farm to incorporate hands-on  
5 learning on different local food sources. The farm also provided hundreds of pounds of food to  
6 its farm share holders throughout the summer months. Dr. Estrada noted that the farm continues  
7 to grow several species of dark fruit or super fruits in partnership with Montana State University.  
8 The program is studying the benefits of the fruits along with analyzing the anti-oxidant value  
9 and sugar content of these super fruits. The farm has also participated in dry bean trials and  
10 wheat investigation.

#### 11 **B. Strategic Plan**

12 The Board was presented with an updated Strategic Plan for review and approval.  
13 Dr. Chris Clouse, noted that the Strategic Plan has been reviewed and updated as the college  
14 begins its new accreditation cycle. Following review of the new plan, Trustee Kelly Stimpson  
15 moved that the Board of Trustees approve the Strategic Plan as presented. Trustee Shannon  
16 Lund seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously with  
17 five (5) “yes” votes.

#### 18 **C. Resolution 22-2, Disposal of Surplus Property**

19 The Board was presented with Resolution 22-2, Disposal of Surplus Property  
20 through sale. The college found it necessary to dispose of surplus property that is no longer  
21 suitable for the college. Trustee Shannon Lund moved that the Board of Trustees approve  
22 Resolution 22-2, Disposal of Surplus Property Through Sale. Trustee Mark Holston seconded  
23 the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously with five (5) “yes”  
24 votes.

#### 25 **D. Trustees Events Calendar**

26 President Karas reviewed the Trustees events calendar and noted that the Festival  
27 of Flavors events will be held October 3-9. The online auction will conclude the Festival and  
28 will be held virtually. The ACCT Leadership Congress will be held in San Diego, October 13-  
29 16. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 25.

#### 30 **E. President’s Update**

31 President Karas updated the Board on several items:

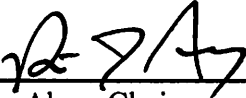
- 32 • All Employee In-Service was held outside on August 23. Being held outside  
33 allowed for an in-person event. In-Service was followed by a welcome back  
34 reception for all employees.
- 35 • The college continues to work closely with federal, state and local  
36 recommendations on Covid-19 measures and protocols. The college has created a  
37 Covid Quick Response Team that is continually monitoring Covid and making  
38 necessary recommendations in regards to Covid-19 mitigation efforts. President  
39 Karas thanked the faculty and staff for all their additional work and effort to make  
40 FVCC a safe place for students.
- 41 • The Board of Regents recently held their meeting September 16. Updates were  
42 given on multiple University System issues and FVCC’s Budget was accepted.
- 43 • The college recently used Federal CARES dollars. The college was able to write  
44

1 off \$300,000 of student debt for 295 students that had fiscal challenges preventing  
2 them from furthering their education during the pandemic. The balances were for  
3 students enrolled sometime during March 2020 and Spring 2021.  
4


5 **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

6 With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

7 ms

8 

9 \_\_\_\_\_  
10 Peter Akey, Chairperson of the Board

11 

12 \_\_\_\_\_  
13 Patrick Gulick, Secretary to the Board  
14  
15

# ATTACHMENT I

## Student Activities Report September 2021

Student activities are off to a great start this year and it is wonderful to see more students on campus! The semester started with 10 days of Week of Welcome (WOW) activities. These activities included a welcome dinner for Founders Hall residents, free breakfast, Club Day, and an outdoor movie. The second week included a grocery bingo event that pulled in 26 students. The TRIO Tuesday Ice Cream Social was a big hit and recruited several new students for the program. The week wrapped up with Around the World in 90 Minutes and a game day hosted by Student Government.

Club Day was a good opportunity for students to learn about engagement opportunities on campus. Most student organizations have started to meet on a regular basis. To further support the clubs, a Student Organization Orientation and Student Leadership Retreat are scheduled for later this month.

The Student Wellness Team hosted a successful Fresh Check Day event on Wednesday, September 15, on the BC lawn with approximately 60 people in attendance. Fresh Check Day is an uplifting mental health promotion and suicide prevention event that includes interactive expo booths, peer-to-peer messaging, and support from multiple campus departments, student organizations, and local, off-campus resources. It also included music, free lunch, and great prizes and giveaways.

The Food Pantry has been busy this semester with 28 total visits (23 unique; 17 new). The total number of people benefitted is 49.

The new Student Lounge in LRC 102 is a great space for students to play ping-pong, foosball, chess, corn hole, board games, and more. It is also a place for students to study and take much needed naps. We are working on running electricity to the TV's so students can enjoy gaming tournaments. With the development of a new Student Lounge and a new Recreation and Wellness Coordinator starting next week, new opportunities for student engagement are imminent.

1  
2  
3 **Faculty Activity Report**  
4 **September 2021**  
5  
6

7 **Mirabai McCarthy, Ph.D., Associate Professor - Biology**

8 Dr. Mirabai McCarthy was awarded a \$21,400 grant from the National Institutes of Health  
9 (NIH), Montana INBRE program for the 2021-22 academic year to support an undergraduate  
10 research project titled "Antibiotic Potential of Lichen, Fungi and Plants in NW Montana". This  
11 research program has received financial support for six years in a row, totaling over \$131,000.  
12 Together, Drs. Ruth Wrightsman and McCarthy have mentored over 40 students on specimen  
13 collecting, identification, and antibiotic testing, with the ultimate goal of identifying previously  
14 undiscovered sources of antibiotics.

15  
16 **Laura VanDeKop, M.S., Professor - Math**

17 This past May, Laura VanDeKop participated in the virtual Expanding Your Horizons and taught  
18 students about ancient number systems. In June, she attended a Mastery Grading virtual  
19 conference and is piloting Mastery Grading in her M132 course this fall. In addition, Laura  
20 participated in the Achieving the Dream coaches visit Aug 2 - 4.  
21

22 **James LaPierre, A.A.S., Paramedicine Program - Interim Program Director**

23 The Paramedicine program graduated their paramedic class of 2021 this summer with a total of  
24 eight students. Four have traveled for their exams and have successfully earned certification with  
25 the NREMT. Three have active paramedic licenses in Montana, and one in California. One  
26 student is currently practicing in South Africa, and will be returning this month to test for his  
27 American license. The other three students will complete testing on September 21st to receive  
28 their certifications and be eligible for state licensing wherever they choose.  
29

30 **Colleen Bench, Radiologic Technology Program Director**

31 The Radiologic Technology program graduated three students in May who all accepted job offers  
32 at Logan Health. Current senior rad tech students, who are 1 year into their 2-year program, all  
33 sat for the state Limited Licensing Exam last week and all passed well into the 90th percentile.  
34 With limited licenses the hospital will hire them as PRN techs so they can gain experience by  
35 working on call and during evening and weekend shifts. Five new students started the program at  
36 the beginning of fall semester.  
37

38 **Janice Heil, PT, MAPT, Physical Therapist Assistant Program Director**

39 The Physical Therapist Assistant program graduated nine PTA students this past July. Students  
40 will sit for the national licensure exam in October.  
41

42 **Carla Genovese, MSN, RN-BC, CCRN, Nursing Program Director**

43 The ASN program admitted eight students in Kalispell and three in Libby this fall semester. Six  
44 practical nursing (PN) students will graduate in December. The Nursing program received three  
45 wearable task/patient education simulators via a Perkins Grant that faculty will incorporate into  
46 their curriculum. In addition, the Libby campus received a new patient bed and crib for the skills  
47 lab to update very old equipment via a Perkins Grant. Katie Johnson joins the Lincoln County

1 Campus as the Nursing Program Coordinator in Libby. All students continue to learn about  
2 Covid protocols and how to quickly adapt to changing situations as they meet the requirements to  
3 go to clinical sites.  
4

5 **Eliza Thomas, M.A., Associate Professor - Education**

6 Eliza Thomas had the opportunity to present in kind for local area teachers in the content area of  
7 Elementary Math and Reading at the Math in the Mountains and the Northwest Montana Back to  
8 School Reading Conference. In addition, this summer she was elected to the Steering Committee  
9 for the Best Beginnings Council serving young children and families in the community.  
10

11 Most graduating students in both the EDEC AAS Program and the 2+2 EDU Program are  
12 gainfully employed meeting the needs of students and young children in our valley and beyond.  
13 Currently, there are six students participating in the EDU 2+2 program with the University of  
14 Montana at Level 1 and eight participating as Level 3 students. They will all be placed in area  
15 schools this fall to gain field experience. All area schools are incredibly supportive of the  
16 students' partnership program between FVCC and UM. In addition, an official articulation  
17 agreement was created between the EDU departments at MSU-Bozeman and FVCC to better  
18 support students who are transferring.  
19

20 **Karla Ryan, M.S. Associate Professor - Anatomy & Physiology**

21 This summer Karla Ryan designed and implemented a science camp for area 5th graders. They  
22 explored various topics each week including the heart, astronomy, bees, and chemistry  
23 experiments. FVCC's Environmental Health & Safety Coordinator Kelly Leaser, Instructional  
24 Specialist Dave Weichel, and Chemistry Professor Adam Wenz were a tremendous help in  
25 making these days a success. Nursing Instructor Pam Klein and Paramedicine Director James  
26 LaPierre opened their doors to show the students their labs and talk to them about what they do.  
27