

1 FLATHEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
2 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
3 Special Board Meeting
4 Tuesday, May 4, 2021, 11:00 a.m.
5 Virtual-Zoom
6

7 A special Board meeting of the Flathead Valley Community College Board of Trustees
8 convened at 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 4, 2021, virtually via Zoom.
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10 **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

11 Chairperson Shannon Lund called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. The following Board
12 members were in attendance:
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14 Peter Akey	Kelly Stimpson	Patrick Gulick
15 Callie Langohr	Mark Holston	Tom McElwain

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17 Also present were President Jane Karas, Monica Settles, Clerk of the District, Beckie
18 Christiaens, Vice President, Administration and Finance and Vanessa Perez, Reporter, NBC
19 Montana.
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21 **II. PUBLIC COMMENT-None**
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23 **III. COLLEGE ISSUES**
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25 **A. Tuition and Fee Consideration for FY22**

26 President Karas noted that due to a decrease in state funding in the most recent
27 legislative session, President Karas is recommending an increase in tuition and fees for FY22.
28 Following the adjournment of the legislative session, FVCC received a decrease in state funding,
29 making FVCC the lowest funded higher education institution per resident FTE in the governor's
30 executive budget and HB2. FVCC needs to address this budget deficit with the least impact on
31 students while still providing them with a quality education and student support services that
32 students have come to expect from FVCC. Due to the decrease in funding, President Karas is
33 recommending an increase of \$8.50 per credit for in-district students, a \$10.00 per credit
34 increase for out-of-district students and an increase of \$15.00 per credit for out-of-state students.

35 In addition, President Karas is recommending an increase of \$2.00 per credit in fees across all
36 residency categories.

37 President Karas noted that the proposed increase was presented to students
38 through a student forum where 4 students attended. The college also sent emails to all students
39 announcing the recommendation and received one response in favor of and only one response
40 against the recommendation. Trustee Mark Holston moved that the Board approve the
41 recommended tuition rate increases of \$8.50 per credit for in-district students, \$10.00 per credit
42 for out-of-district students and \$15.00 per credit for out-of-state students along with the
43 recommended \$2.00 per credit increase in fees across all residency categories for a
44 recommended tuition rate of, \$147.50 per credit for in-district students; \$168.50 per credit for
45 out-of-district students; and \$238.50 per credit for out-of-state residents. Trustee Patrick Gulick
46 seconded the motion. Upon further discussion, Trustee Holston noted that none of the Trustees
47 likes increasing tuition but understands that it needs to happen. Trustee Holston also noted that
48 FVCC always finds a way to help those students who find the increase a hardship or barrier to

1 attending school. President Kars noted that the overall average increase in tuition and fees is
2 about 4.3%, which is 1% less than the ten-year average increase. Trustee Lyle Mitchell inquired
3 about how much of the budget deficit will be made up with the increase in tuition and fees.
4 President Karas noted that the increase will replace roughly 30% of the deficit. President Kars
5 noted that even a slight increase in tuition and fees can be a great challenge for many students
6 but the college will help any student attend college, whether it is through foundation scholarships
7 or gifts, or a pay plan set-up through the business office. With no further discussion, the motion
8 passed unanimously with seven (7) “yes” votes.
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10 **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

11 With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.
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14 ms



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17 Shannon Lund, Chairperson of the Board



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19 Kelly Stimpson, Secretary to the Board
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