

1 FLATHEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
2 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
3 Regular Board Meeting
4 Monday, October 24, 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, October 24, 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 Callie Langohr Lyle Mitchell
14 Mary Ruby Travis Steindorf Kelly Stimpson

15 Also present were President Jane Karas and Suzanne DeCamp, Clerk of the District.
16

17 **II. PUBLIC COMMENT - None**
18

19 **III. CONSENT ITEMS - ACTION**

- 20 **A.** Approval of the minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting on September 26,
21 2022.
22

23 Trustee Kelly Stimpson moved that the Board of Trustees approve ITEM A under
24 Section III, Consent Agenda - Action. Trustee Mary Ruby seconded the motion. The motion
25 carried unanimously with seven (7) "yes" votes.
26

27 **IV. MONTHLY REPORTS**

28 **A. Student Activities Report**

29 The Student Activities Report was presented by Nate Frizzell, Student
30 Government Senator, for the Board to review (see Attachment I).
31

32 **B. Faculty Activities Report**

33 The Faculty Activities Report was submitted to the Board and presented by Dr.
34 Christina Relyea, Professor, Natural Resources Director, Honors Program (see Attachment II).
35

36 **C. Executive Staff Activities Report**

37 The Board acknowledged the Executive Staff for their informative reports.
38

39 **V. COLLEGE ISSUES**

40 **A. Student Success: Writing Curriculum**

41 Conrad Rauscher, Associate Professor, English Chairperson, Humanities
42 Division, provided an overview of changes to the writing curriculum to better meet student
43 needs. Writing 101 has traditionally been designed for students who are going to transfer to one
44 of the four year universities and will be continuing on with academic course work. However,
45 approximately 50% of our students are trades and technical students and don't benefit from the
46 Writing 101 course. They have been taking Business Communications in place of Writing 101.

1 Business Communications is also a transfer course. FVCC has decided to adopt a new course
2 that other campuses around the state are using, Writing Workplace Communications (a Writing
3 104 class). This course will help FVCC create two tracks for students, a career and technical
4 writing track and a transfer writing track. Both are equal credit 100 level tracks.
5

6 **B. Board Policy, Chapter XII – Facilities Section 10-Design and Planning to**
7 **Section 70-No Camping – Second Reading**

8 President Karas summarized minor revisions to Board Policy, Chapter XII –
9 Facilities:

- 10 • Chapter XII – Facilities-Sec. 10-Design and Planning
- 11 • Chapter XII – Facilities-Sec. 20-Reserved
- 12 • Chapter XII – Facilities-Sec. 30-Use of College Facilities
- 13 • Chapter XII – Facilities-Sec. 40-Crisis Management Plan
- 14 • Chapter XII – Facilities-Sec. 50-Suspended Operations
- 15 • Chapter XII – Facilities-Sec. 60 Campus Crime and Security
- 16 • Chapter XII – Facilities-Sec. 70-No Camping

17
18 Trustee Kelly Stimpson moved that the Board of Trustees approve Board Policy,
19 Chapter XII – Facilities: Sections 10-70 (second reading as revised). Trustee Travis Steindorf
20 seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously with seven (7)
21 “yes votes.”

22
23 **C. Annual Snow and Ice Removal Contract**

24 President Karas stated that the college conducted a RFP for 625,000 square feet of
25 parking lots and roadways that we manage during the winter months. Two bids were received, a
26 committee compared the bids and scored them. It is recommended that the Board accept the lower
27 bid from APEX.

28 Trustee Travis Steindorf moved that the Board of Trustees approve APEX’s bid for
29 snow and ice removal. Trustee Patrick Gulick seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the
30 motion carried unanimously with seven (7) “yes” votes.

31
32 **D. Founders Hall Keyless Access System**

33 President Karas reported that the current keyless access system in Founders Hall is
34 archaic and the components are no longer being made to retain or replace the doors in the building.
35 It is recommended that the Board approve the installation of the ASSA Abloy Keyless Access
36 Control System, it is the same system as the Wachholz College Center. There is only one company,
37 Systems Northwest, certified to install the system in both buildings. These circumstances are
38 justification for an exemption from the routine procurement rules and the Board was asked to
39 approve the investment of \$169,899.

40 Trustee Patrick Gulick moved that the Board of Trustees approve moving forward
41 with the contract with Systems Northwest to install the ASSA Abloy Keyless Access Control System
42 in Founders Hall. Trustee Kelly Stimpson seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the
43 motion carried unanimously with seven (7) “yes” votes.

44
45 **E. Board of Trustees Event Calendar**

46 President Karas reviewed the Trustees event calendar. The College will be closed

1 on November 24th and 25th for Thanksgiving. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday,
2 November 28th. The December Board meeting will be a week early due to the holiday break.
3

4 **F. President's Report**

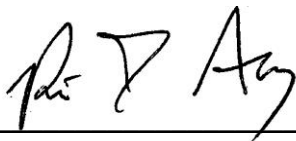
5 President Karas updated the Board on several items:

- 6 • Higher Education Research and Development Institute (HERDI) – President
7 Karas was invited to join the HERDI Board of Directors. HERDI provides an
8 opportunity for college presidents to meet with different technology vendors,
9 research institutes and companies to put programs together for community
10 colleges and to look at what is the best way to meet the needs of community
11 colleges.
- 12 • Wachholz College Center (WCC) – The WCC received its certificate of
13 occupancy last week. Employee tours were given on October 20th and 21st. Matt
14 Laughlin and his team have been working very hard getting ready for the first
15 events next week.
- 16 • Festival of Flavors – The Foundation has done a great job raising money for
17 scholarships with their Springfest, Summerfest and fall Festival of Flavors events.
18 The culmination, The Grand Wine Event, is next Saturday, November 5th in the
19 WCC.
- 20 • Legislative Lunch – A legislative lunch is being planned in early December. The
21 Board, will be invited to attend.
- 22 • Staff Update - Dr. Chris Clouse, Vice President, Academic and Student Affairs,
23 will be retiring at the end of this fiscal year. The job will be advertised in
24 December.

25
26 **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

27 With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

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Pete Akey, Chairperson of the Board

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Patrick Gulick, Secretary to the Board
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Student Activities Report**October 2022****Disability Support Club – Janet Blackaby**

DSS meets on Wednesdays at Noon each week. This club has been dormant for a couple of years and is in the process of rebuilding their membership. In an effort to rebuild attendance, they are starting a Dungeons and Dragons (D&D) gaming activity.

Simiinekem (Native American Student Association) - Destiny Otten

Weekly meetings are held on Fridays at 9 a.m. in the FVCC Student Lounge (LRC 102D). During the month of November, the club made arrangement to celebrate Native American Heritage Day on September 23. The day consisted of a showing of *Whale Rider*, free fry bread and Wojapi.

Genders and Sexualities Alliance (GSA)– Eko Epsilon

GSA meets weekly in the FVCC Student Lounge on Fridays at 3pm. This past month, the club focused on building their membership and planning semester activities. The first event planned is for National Coming Out Day on October 11th.

Firearms Enthusiasts Guild – Connor McCall

The Guild meets the first and third of every month at 6:30 pm in OT 122. There are approximately 25 students in the organization. The guild hosted a table at the Hamilton Gun Show promoting the Firearm Program and selling spare parts.

Student Government – John Weil

In September, Student Government members focused on recruitment and holding a fall election on September 28, 2022. Five candidates were successfully recruited and sworn in. Additional activities included re-organizing the members roles and responsibilities, brainstorming ideas to best gather the student voice, and creating an awareness for Student Government.

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship – Nikki MacMillan

The semester is off to a great start with two weekly bible studies with 10 students in attendance. Other activities for September included a BBQ, game night, and a hike with 10-15 students participating.

Music Club – Nate Frizzell

The Music Club (aka Audionauts) voted to change their name. The group meets twice a month and have been busy preparing for upcoming FVCC musical events and arrangements to attend the state Montana Music Educators Conference in Bozeman, MT.

Campus Rec & Wellness – Russell Kujala

During September, Campus Rec hosted multiple events on campus and participated in Week of Welcome activities. The most popular activity was volleyball on the Founder's Hall lawn. Over twenty students participated in the event. When the smoke conditions were bad, student enjoyed

1 a table tennis tournament in the student lounge. An outdoor basketball shooting competition
2 attracted twelve students. Other events held were a Bob Ross paint night and grocery bingo.
3 The student wellness team had their first big event in September, hosting a Fresh Check Day on
4 the 27th. The event focused on mental health awareness and suicide prevention. Eighty students
5 participated in activities and were provided information for on and off campus resources. Three
6 new team members are in the process of being trained to become peer educators. The group is
7 planning on hosting a Men's, Women's, and LGBTQ+ health day events for October and early
8 November.

9
10 **Student Engagement – Wendy Jeschke**

11 In addition to supporting the student organization in their club efforts, the Student Engagement
12 Office coordinated a Student Organization Orientation for all clubs and advisors. Also, a two-day
13 Student Leadership Retreat was held in September at Trinity Lutheran Camp on Flathead Lake.
14 Twelve students learned about personality and leadership styles, communications, effective
15 meetings, parliamentary procedure and event planning.

16
17 Additional activities for the month included a Constitution Day Celebration, Voter Registration
18 Day, Native American Heritage Day, and a Hispanic Heritage Month celebration. The attendance
19 at these events and others have increased over last year.

20
21 An Involvement Fair took place on campus with several local non-profits and student
22 organizations in attendance to encourage volunteerism and involvement. The following week,
23 several community involvement presentations were given in classes to promote on and off
24 campus volunteer opportunities.

25
26 The Food Pantry is now open additional hours with assistance from a student worker. The focus
27 has been on re-stocking, promoting the pantry, stocking snack baskets around campus, and
28 making a Hungry Student Cookbook more assessable to all students. The pantry received two
29 significant donations in September. A local couple donated \$1500 and All Saints' Episcopal
30 Church donated \$1325. The food pantry received 10 visits and distributed 142.1 lbs. of food.

Faculty Activities**October 2022****Math Faculty - Charles Katerba and Science & Engineering Faculty - Janice Alexander**

Charles Katerba and Janice Alexander were awarded an NSF S-STEM grant. This grant will provide \$750,000 over 6 years to provide low-income, high-talent STEM students at FVCC with scholarships for up to 3 years. The program will also create learning communities to foster the scholars' STEM identity, provide scholars with regular one-on-one STEM faculty mentorship, and encourage the scholars to attend regular wellness coaching events. The project aims to increase our STEM student success, measured through persistence, retention, and transfer, in order to better prepare our students for regional and national STEM careers.

Math Faculty - Laura Vandekop

Laura Vandekop was elected to the Flathead STEAM Alliance board. Flathead STEAM organizes the Expanding Your Horizons event on campus and serves as a central location for STEAM events in the valley.

From the Flathead STEAM Alliance website - "Local students and adults increasingly pursue learning and career opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM). A growing number of engaging and valuable opportunities in STEAM exist right here in Northwest Montana, and the STEAM Alliance connects these opportunities to various stakeholders in order to grow a thriving STEAM ecosystem."

Science & Engineering Faculty - David Long

David Long, chemistry faculty, and **FVCC engineering alumni William Pardis and Johnathan Pfeifer** will publish in the November issue of a scientific journal called "Sensors" a paper entitled "Measuring Protons with Photons: a Hand-held, Spectrophotometric pH Analyzer for Ocean Acidification Research, Community Science and Education". Pardis is currently working as an electrical engineer at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. After graduating from Cornell University, Pfeiffer was admitted this fall into the Chemical Oceanography PhD program at MIT.

Science & Engineering Faculty - Christina Relyea and Tim Eichner

Natural Resource faculty Christina Relyea and Tim Eichner are representing FVCC as members of the Flathead River Alliance. This is a partnership between local federal and state agencies, educational institutions, and community members with a mission to support and enhance the outstanding and remarkable water quality of the Three Forks of the Flathead River.

Christina Relyea floated the Middle Fork of the Flathead this summer with over 20 local members to discuss existing data and future data collection on water quality in the Flathead River system. Opportunities are being created that will allow FVCC students to become citizen scientists and contribute to these long-term Flathead River datasets.

1 **Fine Art Faculty - Nicole Sanford - Music Department Activities**

- 2
- 3 ● Monday, October 3 – the FVCC Vocal Jazz Ensemble and the FVCC Jazz Combo
 - 4 performed at a Foundation Festival of Flavors event at the KM Bar
 - 5 ● Tuesday, October 4 – **FVCC instructor Kyara Nelsen**, FVCC string instructor, and two
 - 6 of her violin students performed at a Foundation Festival of Flavors event at Eagle Bend
 - 7 Golf Course in Bigfork
 - 8 ● Thursday, November 3 – the FVCC Music Department is hosting a Middle School Choral
 - 9 Festival. The event already has 242 middle school students signed up for the all-day
 - 10 event. These students are coming from 9 different middle schools from around the area.
 - 11 It will feature guest clinician, Jennifer Stephens, from Flathead High School. This event
 - 12 will help with recruitment for the Music Department, as well as for the college
 - 13 ● Saturday, November 5 – FVCC Music Department piano transfer student, D’Andre
 - 14 Conant, will be performing at the Grand Wine Tasting held in the Wachholz College
 - 15 Center
 - 16 ● Monday, November 14 – the FVCC Music Department is hosting a High School Band
 - 17 Festival. The event will feature high school bands from Whitefish, Ronan, Bigfork, and
 - 18 Columbia Falls. This all-day event will feature a performance from **FVCC instructors**
 - 19 **Maxine Ramey (clarinet)**, **Eunhwa Park (piano)**, and guest oboist Dinah Weimer. It
 - 20 will also include guest clinicians Zach Cooper (brass) from the University of Montana,
 - 21 Jen Cooper (woodwinds) from the University of Montana, and Sam McKenzie
 - 22 (percussion) from Meadow Hill School. This event will help with recruitment for the
 - 23 Music Department, as well as for the college
 - 24

25 **Health Science Faculty - Karla Ryan**

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27 **Karla Ryan** ran a science camp for kids going into 6th grade. “This is the same group I have

28 worked with for the last several years. 8-10 kids attended each session. Because they are older

29 now, I brought them to campus 3 different days and ran some anatomy and physiology labs with

30 them. One day, we worked on general senses - touch, weight, vibration. Another time, we

31 worked on special senses - primarily eye and ear. And, they got to learn all things related to

32 lungs and breathing, including testing their lung capacity. Another mother, who happens to be a

33 vet, ran one session discussing ear mites and worms. She brought visuals.”

34

35 **Faculty Classroom Happenings -**

36

37 **Health Sciences Program Director - Surgical Technology - Robyn Hoggat -**

38

39 The surgical technology program had an open house on September 19th and 20th to celebrate

40 National Surgical Technologists Week and promote the profession. The classroom was set up

41 with instruments from each surgical specialty and the lab was set up for two procedures. Students

42 from the Introduction to Surgical Technology course presented posters describing the profession

43 and attributes of a surgical technologist. Second-year students performed a mock hernia repair

44 and spoke about a day in the life of a surgical technologist. There was a good attendance of

45 FVCC employees, A&P students, and two high school students. Student posters will be hung up

46 by BC-135 for the rest of the semester.

1 **Science & Engineering Faculty - Christina Relyea**

2
3 **Christina Relyea**, Natural Resources faculty, and **FVCC Recreation Management students**
4 worked on a shoreline project at Wayfarers State Park this month to prep the shoreline for a
5 future dynamic equilibrium beach to reduce erosion and loss of shoreline. Students learned about
6 dynamic equilibrium beaches which naturally dissipate the energy of incoming waves and reduce
7 soil erosion. They then went to work moving rocks and logs to stabilize the park shoreline and
8 reduce hazards for park recreationists. Our classroom is the outdoors!



31 (FVCC Recreation Management students)