

1 FLATHEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
2 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
3 Regular Board Meeting
4 Monday, April 24, 2023, 3:45 p.m.
5 Blake Hall 140
6

7 A regular meeting of the Flathead Valley Community College Board of Trustees
8 convened at 3:45 p.m., Monday, April 24, 2023.
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.
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17 **II. PUBLIC COMMENT – None**
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19 **III. CONSENT ITEMS - ACTION**

20 **A. Approval of the minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting on March**
21 **20, 2023.**

22 **B. Approval of the minutes of the Special Conference Call meeting on March**
23 **31, 2023.**

24 Trustee Kelly Stimpson moved that the Board of Trustees approve ITEMS A and
25 B under Section III, Consent Agenda. Trustee Lyle Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion
26 carried unanimously with seven (7) "yes" votes.
27

28 **IV. MONTHLY REPORTS**

29 **A. Student Activities Report**

30 The Student Activities Report was presented by Robert Corbett, Freshman
31 Legislative Senator, for the Board to review (see Attachment I). The Student Government
32 recommended an increase of .75 cents/credit for this upcoming year to the student activity fee for
33 a total of \$3.00 They have discussed using the extra funds to help renovate the student lounge
34 with new furniture and designated areas for clubs. One of the main reasons they decided on the
35 increase was a \$10,000 commitment they made to Campus Groups, a new internal platform that
36 allows clubs to set up specific posts, like a social media site, but just for the college.
37

38 **B. Faculty Activities Report**

39 The Faculty Activities Report was submitted to the Board and presented by Dr.
40 Christina Relyea, Professor, Natural Resources Director, Honors Program (see Attachment II).
41

42 **C. Executive Staff Activities Report**

43 The Board acknowledged the Executive Staff for their informative reports.

1 **V. COLLEGE ISSUES**

2 **A. Student Success: Welding Student Experience**

3 Chris Sherman and Julie Arnold, FVCC welding instructors, updated the Board
4 on the welding program. There is approximately a 50% nationwide shortage of welders.

5 Focusing on the needs of the Flathead Valley, the instructors have been working
6 with Applied Materials and are trying to certify our shop for stainless steel welding. There are
7 numerous apprenticeship opportunities available through Applied Materials.

8 Three welding students shared their learning experiences and how they have
9 advanced their career opportunities as well as increased their knowledge learning and skill set to
10 help with everyday life.

11 **B. Finance and Audit Committee Report**

12 **1. Quarterly Finance Report – Quarter Ending March 31, 2023**

13 President Karas summarized the quarterly financial report that was discussed at
14 the Finance and Audit Committee prior to the Board meeting.

15 **2. Tuition and Fee Consideration for FY24**

16 At its April meeting, the Budget Committee recommended a 5% increase in
17 tuition in all resident categories (\$6.91/credit for in-district students, \$9.46/credit for out-of-
18 district students, and \$20.04/per credit for out-of-state students.) In addition, they recommended
19 a 2% increase in mandatory fees across the board, a \$1.00 increase for the health fee for students
20 taking six or more credits, adding \$1.00 per/credit for a parking lot maintenance fee and then
21 combining the building, grounds and parking lot fee into a combined infrastructure fee.

22 President Karas noted that two student forums were well advertised across the
23 campus, four students attended. In addition, the college sent e-mails to all students with the
24 proposed increases, no comments received were opposed to raising tuition and fees.

25 The student government proposed a .75 cent/credit student activity fee increase,
26 President Karas recommended just a .50 cent/credit fee increase due to raising other fees and
27 tuition. There is money in a technology fund that could help cover about half of the cost of the
28 Campus Groups program that the student government would like to purchase.

29 The change in tuition per credit for each resident category would be: in-district
30 \$138.20 to \$145.11; out-of-district \$189.20 to \$198.66; and out-of-state \$400.70 to \$420.74. For
31 any student who finds the increase in tuition and fees burdensome, the college should be able to
32 help the students with financial aid and scholarships. Trustee Patrick Gulick moved that the
33 Board of Trustees approve the recommended tuition and fee increases as presented. Trustee
34 Kelly Stimpson seconded the motion. Trustee Kelly Stimpson asked if the increase keeps our
35 tuition and fees in line with where we have been with the university system? President Karas
36 confirmed that it will keep us where we have been in relation to the university system. With no
37 further discussion, the motion carried unanimously with seven (7) “yes” votes.
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39 **C. Board of Trustees’ Event Calendar**

40 President Karas reviewed the Trustees’ event calendar. Commencement will take
41 place at the Wachholz College Center on Friday, May 12th at 6:00 p.m. The next Board meeting
42 is scheduled for May 22, 2023. The college will be closed on Monday, May 29th in observance
43 of Memorial Day.
44

1 **D. President’s Report**

2 President Karas updated the Board on several items:

- 3 • Legislative Update – The Senate passed HB2.
- 4 • Board Retreat – President Karas thanked the Board for attending the retreat on
- 5 Saturday, April 22nd.
- 6 • WCC – The entertainment schedule continues to move forward. Rhonda Vincent
- 7 and the Rage performed Saturday night, Tuesday night Gary Trudeau, the author
- 8 of Doonesbury, will be speaking, another National Geographic speaker will be
- 9 here on Thursday, and a number of upcoming events are already scheduled
- 10 through the spring and summer. Students have been using the gymnasium and
- 11 recently held a dance with about 40 people in attendance. The Fitness Center will
- 12 be opening later this summer with a soft opening.
- 13 • Employee Recognition Lunch – The lunch will be held on May 9th in the Stinson
- 14 Family Event Center. We will recognize our retiring employees and Don
- 15 Hickethier, emeritus faculty member.

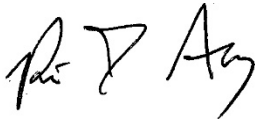
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17 **VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

18 Chairperson Akey announced that the Board would go into Executive Session to
19 discuss the President’s Annual Performance Evaluation. It was determined that the demand of
20 individual privacy clearly exceeded the merits of public disclosure and therefore he would close
21 the meeting. The meeting was closed at 4:17 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 4:36 p.m.

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23 **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

24 With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

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32 Peter J. Akey, Chairperson of the Board

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37 Patrick Gulick, Secretary to the Board

Student Activity Report

April 2023

The following reports were submitted to Student Government for the month of April.

Music Club - Hosted a karaoke event on March 24th from 6-9 p.m. and had 10 students in attendance. Preparing for their recitals and the end-of-the-semester music finals is taking top priority.

Gun Enthusiasts – The club received a good turnout for the tabling event at the gun show. Their weekly meeting time changed to the first Friday of the month at 2 p.m. They are coordinating with the trapshooting club to host meetings and range activities at their facilities.

Intervarsity Christian Fellowship – The leaders hosted a trip to the movies to view His Only Son. During spring break, they helped clean up the campus and hosted a bonfire. In April they distributed treat bags out to students at a recruitment tabling event, they gave away approximately 50 bags.

Mask and Hammer Club - Members served lunch at Senior Institute and gave a short performance. They are currently preparing for an upcoming show Anything Goes. An outside improv group attended one of their meetings to share ideas.

Simminekem – The group hosted a chili feed to help send off the Logger Sports team to the Oregon competition. A banner was created and signed by several students and staff. A grocery BINGO event held on March 22nd received six participants.

Logger Sports – The team continues to practice two nights a week for their upcoming competitions in Oregon and Missoula.

Student Government – They are reviewing their constitution and bylaws and hope to have them approved by the end of April. Other projects include the arrival of a new vending machine for the student lounge, recruitment and elections, and discussing increasing the student activity fee for 2023-24. They are partnering with the Student Engagement Office to host a concert in the new WCC Amphitheater in May.

Student Wellness Team members continue to meet each week and are planning several events for Sexual Assault Awareness month. In March, they hosted The Hookup by Catharsys Productions. This event focused on healthy relationships, consent, and how to intervene when necessary. On March 14th, a Come Eat with Us event took place in the new fitness center. Participants enjoyed a salad bar and fruit infused water. Topics covered tips on how to eat healthier and reduce sugar intake. Student Government officers were available to give students a tour of the Wachholz College Center.

TRIO – The mentors continue to host Jack Box games every Wednesday in the student lounge

1 along with a poker night, TRIO Tuesday pancake breakfast. They are planning a trip to the
2 University of Montana on April 21st.

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4 Student Engagement Office Report

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6 Intramural sports continued to grow this month. Currently, there are 66 students participating in
7 basketball and volleyball. Two new volleyball net systems were purchased to allow for more
8 players. Progress has been made in preparing the Fitness Center for a summer opening.

9

10 Activities in the student lounge included Therapy Dog Thursdays, grocery BINGO, Bob Ross
11 paint along, ping pong tournaments, gaming opportunities, and art and craft events.

12

13 An outing to the Cinemark Theatre took place during spring break for students in housing to see
14 the new Dungeons and Dragon movie . This “staycation” event included 10 individuals.

15 Students also enjoyed free pizza, beverages, and a round of pool before heading to the theatre.

16

17 A successful Red Cross Blood Drive took place on March 15th from 9:30–3:30. The event
18 collected 43 units of blood and 11 new donors.

Faculty Activity Report

April 2023

Humanities and Fine Art Faculty

- **Nicole Sanford**, Associate Professor, Music compiled the following activities from the music department. Students performed at Foundation events and many recitals from March 8th – April 11th. In addition, different groups performed/recruited at Whitefish, Columbia Falls and Glacier High Schools.

Math Faculty

- **Laura VanDeKop** and **Erin Wenner** attended a professional development webinar on 4/12 that focused on utilizing Desmos Activity Builder in a lecture setting to engage learners. Desmos is a free online graphing calculator program and they have produced free digital lessons that allow students to complete interactive online activities while instructors can monitor their progress in real-time.

Science & Engineering Faculty

- **James Goudy** attended the Flathead Valley Business Advisory Meeting on 3/27/23. He met with the CEO and Vice President of GL Solutions.
- The Natural Resource Conservation and Management program (**Tim Eichner & Dr. Christina Relyea**) is hosting a meeting of the Flathead Chapter of the Society of American Foresters on Thursday, April 20th, at 6:00 PM in Ross Hall 158 . This meeting will have guest speakers from the Bureau of Business and Economic Research talking about timber markets.

Social Sciences Faculty

- **Dr. Marty Manor Mullins** presented an original research paper as well as served as Discussant and Roundtable Participant at the annual Czech and Slovak Studies Workshop on March 31-April 1, this year at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. The annual workshop brings together faculty members and graduate students to exchange their experiences, research results and ideas.
- **Victoria Nytes** has been appointed to the iCivics Educator Network. The iCivics Educator Network was established over 10 years ago to amplify the iCivics mission through service within the civic education community. The Network is an absolutely crucial part of implementing Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's vision to ensure *every* student receives a high-quality civic education and becomes engaged in – and beyond – the classroom.
- **Victoria Nytes** has also been selected as an AP US History Reader. She will travel to Florida the first week of June to assist in the grading of thousands of US History essays. Students who do well on the test receive college credit for their work.