

1 FLATHEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
2 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
3 Regular Board Meeting
4 Monday, November 27, 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, November 27, 2023.
9

10 **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

11 Chairperson Kelly Stimpson called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. The following
12 Board members were in attendance:

13 Peter Akey Callie Langohr Lyle Mitchell
14 Jamie Pickering Mary Ruby Travis Steindorf

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
21 October 23, 2023.**

22 Trustee Pete Akey moved that the Board of Trustees approve ITEM A under
23 Section III, Consent Agenda. Trustee Travis Steindorf seconded the motion. The motion carried
24 unanimously.
25

26 **IV. MONTHLY REPORTS**

27 **A. Student Activities Report**

28 Weston Gronley, Student Body President, presented the student activities report.
29 Student Government sponsored a free Thanksgiving lunch for all students last week. In addition,
30 they donated \$2,000 to the FVCC Student Pantry. The pantry gave away 20 Thanksgiving
31 dinners.
32

33 **B. Faculty Activities Report**

34 The Faculty Activities Report was submitted to the Board and presented by the
35 Faculty Senate Vice President, Dr. Jessica Ennist, Associate Professor, Chemistry.
36

37 **C. Executive Staff Activities Report**

38 The Board acknowledged the Executive Staff for their informative reports.
39

40 **V. COLLEGE ISSUES**

41 **A. Student Success: TLC (The Teaching and Learning Center)**

42 Dr. Eliza Sorte-Thomas, Director of Early Childhood, Associate Professor of Early
43 Childhood and K-12 Education and Social Science Division Chair and Dr. Katie Clark, Assistant
44 Professor, Communication provided an update on The Teaching and Learning Center (TLC).
45 There are eight committee members who make up the group, Eliza and Katie are the co-directors.
46 The TLC has been offering monthly professional development opportunities for faculty, providing

1 morale boosters for their colleagues, and collaborating with other departments on campus and the
2 community when opportunities present themselves rather than duplicating efforts. Their goal, as
3 they continue to move forward, is to be data informed and gather data that connects to the strategic
4 plan at FVCC.

5
6 **B. Financial Aid Year-End Report**

7 Crystal Morris, Director of Financial Aid, presented the Financial Aid Year-End
8 Report. She noted that the Department of Education is redoing the Free Application for Federal
9 Student Aid (FAFSA) forms. The forms are usually ready to be filled out the first part of
10 October, but with the revisions, she anticipates their release sometime in December.

11 In the past, the Financial Aid staff has visited area high schools and participated
12 in “FAFSA nights” assisting students in filling out their FAFSA forms. Even though the forms
13 aren’t ready yet, they still visited the school and helped the students set up their FSA (Federal
14 Student Aid) IDs so they are ready to complete the forms once they are released.

15
16 **C. Academic Program Proposals**

17 The curriculum committee met on October 14th and approved the deletion of the
18 Healthcare Core, CTS. The program hasn’t had any enrollment since it started in 2021.
19 However, President Karas had a meeting with the area high school superintendents prior to the
20 Board meeting. The discussion centered around ways to help high school students move
21 seamlessly into college and college classes. A pathway in healthcare could easily be
22 accomplished while the students are still in high school with the Healthcare Core, CTS. The
23 college team will be meeting with high school representatives in December. Chairperson
24 Stimpson tabled the agenda item until the option to explore with the high schools has been
25 discussed.

26
27 **D. Board Policy, Chapter VIII – Academic Affairs, Sections, 10, 20, 30, 35, 40,**
28 **50, 60, 70, 80 and 90 – Second Reading**

29 Chairperson Stimpson reviewed the minor revisions made in Board Policy,
30 Chapter VIII – Academic Affairs, Section 30 - Curriculum. There were no other changes
31 recommended.

- 32 • Chapter VIII – Academic Affairs-Section 10 – Academic Freedom
- 33 • Chapter VIII – Academic Affairs-Section 20 – Academic Integrity
- 34 • Chapter VIII – Academic Affairs-Section 30 – Curriculum
- 35 • Chapter VIII – Academic Affairs-Section 35 – Course Credits
- 36 • Chapter VIII – Academic Affairs-Section 40 – Program Review
- 37 • Chapter VIII – Academic Affairs-Section 50 – Grading Standards
- 38 • Chapter VIII – Academic Affairs-Section 60 – Faculty Qualifications
- 39 • Chapter VIII – Academic Affairs-Section 70 – Degrees and Certificates
- 40 • Chapter VIII – Academic Affairs-Section 80 – Advisory Committees for Career
41 and Technical Educational Programs
- 42 • Chapter VIII – Academic Affairs-Section 90 – Institutional Accreditation

43 Trustee Travis Steindorf moved that the Board of Trustees approve Board Policy, Chapter VIII –
44 Academic Affairs, Sections 10, 20, 30, 35, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, and 90 (second reading as revised).
45 Trustee Pete Akey seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried
46 unanimously.

1
2 **E. Board of Trustees’ Event Calendar**

3 President Karas reviewed the Trustees’ event calendar. The next Board meeting
4 is scheduled for December 18th, the meeting will be a week early due to the college being closed
5 for winter break, December 25th-January 2nd. The ACCT National Legislative Summit will take
6 place February 4th-7th in Washington, DC.
7

8 **F. President’s Report**

9 President Karas updated the Board on several items:

- 10 • The university system and the community colleges are going to be moving to a
11 learning management system called Canvas. The university system received
12 funding from the legislature to pay for the transition and annual fees for the next
13 five years. We will be transitioning over the next year and a half to the new
14 system.
- 15 • The university system discussed having one on-line college application for all
16 colleges at the November Board of Regents meeting. FVCC will be able to use
17 that application but will still maintain our own as well because the other one is
18 geared more towards high school students who are working with a guidance
19 counselor. We have many non-high school aged students so it is not the most
20 effective application for FVCC.
- 21 • President Karas is continuing to meet with the high school superintendents to
22 develop more pathways, starting with healthcare and looking at information
23 technology and also some trades programs. We are coordinating with the
24 different school districts to consistently provide the same opportunities for all of
25 the high schools starting in Flathead and Lincoln Counties.
- 26 • FVCC partnered with Highlands College on a grant proposal. President Karas
27 thanked Lisa Blank for putting together the proposal.
- 28 • The fall semester is nearing an end, there are two weeks of classes left followed
29 by finals week.
- 30 • Sarah Swanson, the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry for
31 the State of Montana, will be on campus December 19th. Frank Garner has been
32 helpful in coordinating the visit. We will show Commissioner Swanson our
33 workforce programs and discuss how we can better meet the state’s needs.
- 34 • President Karas will be meeting this week to talk about the different options for
35 the ag program and how to best meet the community’s needs. She will provide an
36 update to the Board at the December meeting.
- 37 • President Karas has been meeting with community members and faculty about the
38 entrepreneurship center.
- 39 • The annual student Honors Symposium is December 8th. If anyone is interested
40 in serving as a judge, please let Suzanne know by Friday, December 1st.
- 41 • The college is looking to move away from the old copper wire telephone line to a
42 new VOIP system. The change will make our phones more flexible and save the
43 college money. IT is hoping to do this later in the spring, President Karas will
44 provide more information once we decide on a service.

- The student information system has not been meeting our needs. We may be looking at an RFP for another system, President Karas will keep the Board informed.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

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Kelly Stimpson, JD, Chairperson of the Board

Travis Steindorf, Secretary to the Board