

FLATHEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Board Meeting
Monday, March 18, 2024, 3:45 p.m.
Blake Hall 140

A regular meeting of the Flathead Valley Community College Board of Trustees convened at 3:45 p.m., Monday, March 18, 2024.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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

Peter Akey	Callie Langohr	Jamie Pickering
Mary Ruby	Travis Steindorf	

Trustee Lyle Mitchell was absent with prior approval. Also present was President Jane Karas.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

III. CONSENT ITEMS – ACTION

A. Approval of the minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting on February 26, 2024.

Trustee Mary Ruby moved that the Board of Trustees approve ITEM A under Section III, Consent Agenda. Trustee Travis Steindorf seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. MONTHLY REPORTS

A. Student Activities Report

The Student Activities Report was presented by Isaiah Wilson, Administrative Senator for the Student Government.

B. Faculty Activities Report

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

C. Executive Staff Activities Report

The Board acknowledged the Executive Staff for their informative reports.

V. COLLEGE ISSUES

A. Student Success: Honors Program

Conrad Rauscher, Associate Professor, English and Division Chair, Humanities gave an update on the Honors Program. Conrad and Dr. Marty Mullins, Adjunct Faculty, Social Science Division are co-directors of the Honors Program this year. There is an application process for students who are interested in participating in the Honors Program, they must provide an academic reference letter, answer an academic question regarding interdisciplinary studies, record a personal statement, via video, talking about their intentions and their learning styles, submit test scores and transcripts. Applications start being reviewed on April 15th and continue to be evaluated until the program is full. There are currently 25-30 students in each cohort,

FVCC would like to grow that number to 45. Students in the program receive a full tuition waiver for two semesters.

The Honors Program is a two-year program where students take interdisciplinary courses co-taught by two instructors incorporating two different fields of studies such as science/theater and literature/communications. The program culminates with the Honors Conference the week before finals where students submit their projects. Conrad invited Board members to be judges at the conference. It is a competition, students who win are given the opportunity to travel to the regional and national honors conferences.

FVCC has articulation agreements with the University of Montana and Montana State University, FVCC Honors Program students can transfer into their college's honor programs.

B. Board Policy, Chapter X – Communications and Marketing, Sections 10 and 20 – First Reading

President Karas presented Board Policy, Chapter X – Communications and Marketing, Sections 10 and 20. There were no changes recommended.

- Chapter X – Communications and Marketing, Section 10 – Public Information and Communications
- Chapter X – Communications and Marketing, Section 20 – Inspection and Copying of Public Records

Trustee Pete Akey moved that the Board of Trustees approve Board Policy, Chapter X – Communications and Marketing, Sections 10 and 20 (first reading). Trustee Mary Ruby seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

C. Board Policy, Chapter XI, Institutional Advancement and Development, Section 10 – First Reading

President Karas presented the name change made in Board Policy, Chapter XI, Institutional Advancement and Development, Section 10. There were no other changes recommended.

- Chapter XI – Institutional Advancement and Development, Section 10 – Fundraising and Solicitation Policy.

Trustee Travis Steindorf moved that the Board of Trustees approve Board Policy, Chapter XI, Institutional Advancement and Development, Section 10 (first reading as revised). Trustee Pete Akey seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

D. Board of Trustees Events Calendar

President Karas reviewed the Trustees events calendar. April 11th is the Foundation's Spring Festival of Flavors event. The next Board meeting is scheduled for April 22nd.

E. President's Report

President Karas updated the Board on several items:

- The Holocaust speaker at the Wachholz College Center was attended by more than 900 people.

- The Foundation hosted their annual Scholarship reception last week. Sokn Engineering hired 3 FVCC students who shared their experiences. Nursing student Brittany Melin spoke about her journey to becoming an FVCC nursing student.
- New Programs – FVCC is exploring Airplane and Power Frame program and looking for hangar space.
- A new Grant Writer has been hired and will start on April 1st.
- Lisa Blank has been talking with dental hygiene faculty at Great Falls College about their accredited Dental Hygiene Program. FVCC is exploring options to partner with them to create a Dental Hygiene Program.
- Entrepreneurship Center - We are considering the renovation of the Early Childhood Center building to house the Entrepreneurship Center. The architects are developing initial sketches. President Karas will share more information with the Board in the next few months.
- Board of Regents - The meeting was held last week in Dillon. The final speaker at the meeting was FVCC graduate, Emmett Jeschke. Emmett is a junior at the University of Montana Western, he spoke about his positive experiences at FVCC and how well prepared he was to transfer to UM-Western. He started at FVCC when he was in high school as a dual enrollment student.
- Vice President of Finance and Administration – A new VP of Finance and Administration has just been hired.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

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Kelly Stimpson, JD, Chairperson of the Board

Travis Steindorf, Secretary to the Board