

1 FLATHEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
2 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
3 Regular Board Meeting
4 Monday, February 26, 2024, 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, February 26, 2024.
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 Jamie Pickering
14 Mary Ruby Travis Steindorf

15 Trustee Lyle Mitchell was absent with prior approval. Also present were President Jane Karas
16 and Suzanne DeCamp, Clerk of the District.
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18 **II. PUBLIC COMMENT – None**
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20 **III. CONSENT ITEMS – ACTION**

21 **A. Approval of the minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting on**
22 **January 22, 2024.**

23 Trustee Pete Akey moved that the Board of Trustees approve ITEM A under
24 Section III, Consent Agenda. Trustee Travis Steindorf seconded the motion. The motion carried
25 unanimously.
26

27 **IV. MONTHLY REPORTS**

28 **A. Student Activities Report**

29 The Student Activities Report was presented by Sarah Hazel, Student
30 Government Secretary.
31

32 **B. Faculty Activities Report**

33 The Faculty Activities Report was submitted to the Board and presented by the
34 Faculty Senate Vice President, Dr. Jessica Ennist, Associate Professor, Chemistry.
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: S-STEM Scholars**

41 Dr. Jessica Ennist provided an update on the National Science Foundation (NSF)
42 Scholarship in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) Grant. Around
43 27 applications were received and ten recipients were chosen for this first year, Fall 2023 and
44 Spring 2024. Two scholars, Michael Warner and Sylvie Johnson shared how the scholarship
45 funds are helping them focus on their studies and how beneficial the faculty mentors have been
46 helping prepare them for their transfer process to finish their degrees.

1 **B. Foundation Year-End Report**

2 Tagen Vine, Chief Development Officer, Foundation, reported on the fundraising
3 activity for calendar year 2023, including awarding \$1.7M to almost 700 students. In addition,
4 he presented the upcoming Foundation events for 2024.

5
6 **C. ACCT National Legislative Summit Update**

7 President Karas and Trustee Travis Steindorf attended the ACCT National
8 Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C. at the beginning of February. They attended the
9 Legislative Update Session where presenters spoke about the need for short-term Pell Grants so
10 that some of the short-term workforce programs like heavy equipment operator and commercial
11 driver’s license would be eligible.

12 President Karas and Trustee Steindorf were able to meet with Senators Jon Tester
13 and Steve Daines and Congressmen Matt Rosendale and Ryan Zinke. President Karas and
14 Trustee Steindorf discussed the short-term Pell Grant and new programs that FVCC is exploring
15 such as airframe and power program (airplane mechanic). There is a great need in the state and
16 in the country for airplane mechanics. The Senators’ staff members are going to research to see
17 if there is potential money to help fund the equipment and space for the program.

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19 **D. Board of Trustees Events Calendar**

20 President Karas reviewed the Trustees events calendar. The next Board meeting
21 is scheduled for March 18th, a week early due to spring break. The April Board meeting will be
22 on the 22nd. Commencement will be on May 10th, President Karas encourage everyone to attend.

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24 **E. President’s Report**

25 President Karas updated the Board on several items:

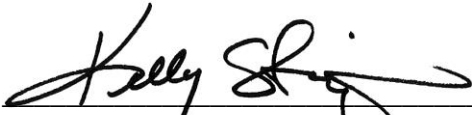
- 26 • Michele Purcell, Bryan Brophy-Baermann and President Karas attended the
27 Achieving the Dream (ATD) Conference last week. The speakers spoke about
28 diversity and equity and how to help keep students engaged. It is beneficial to
29 hear what other colleges are doing. ATD has been in existence for 20 years, this
30 is our fifth year with them. ATD has collected research data that shows small
31 movements can be made in the first four to five years, but it really takes up to ten
32 years to see change.
- 33 • President Karas provided an update on the Entrepreneurship Center. It appears
34 renovating the Early Childhood Center building will provide the best opportunity.
35 President Karas will be working with the architects to develop a floor plan and
36 will share that with the Board. She will share a plan in the next couple of months
37 for an RFP on bids. In addition, FVCC will be looking to hire a director for the
38 Entrepreneurship Center.
- 39 • President Karas has been meeting with the other two community colleges
40 planning for the next legislative session. They will hire the same lobbyist that
41 they used last session. The community colleges are beginning outreach to
42 legislators.
- 43 • President Karas thanked Kent Rogers and his Information Technology team for
44 their work in getting the first half of the new VOIP telephones installed.
- 45 • President Karas gave a demonstration of the new Board agenda that is on the
46 FVCC website. Anyone in the public will have access. The Board will still


1 receive the notice two days in advance that will include the link to the website
2 page. We will start using the new format for the April meeting.

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4 **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

5 With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

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12 Kelly Stimpson, JD, Chairperson of the Board

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16 Travis Steindorf, Secretary to the Board
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