

1 FLATHEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
2 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
3 Regular Board Meeting
4 Monday, April 28, 2025, 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 28, 2025.
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 Patrick Gulick Callie Langohr Jamie Pickering
14 Travis Steindorf

15 Trustees Peter Akey and Mary Ruby were absent with prior Board approval. Also
16 present were President Jane Karas and Suzanne DeCamp, Clerk of the District.
17

18 **II. PUBLIC COMMENT – None**
19

20 **III. CONSENT ITEMS – ACTION**

21 **A. Approval of the minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting on March**
22 **17, 2025.**

23 **B. Approval of the minutes of the Special Zoom Board of Trustees meeting on**
24 **April 4, 2025.**

25 Trustee Travis Steindorf moved that the Board of Trustees approve ITEMS A and
26 B under Section III, Consent Agenda. Trustee Jamie Pickering seconded the motion. The
27 motion carried unanimously.
28

29 **IV. MONTHLY REPORTS**

30 **A. Student Activities Report**

31 The Student Activities Report was submitted to the Board by Colton Little,
32 Student Government Administrative Senator. Student Government is working on their
33 Constitution and Bylaws and will submit them to President Karas when they are complete.
34

35 **1. Student Award**

36 President Karas presented the Montana Student Volunteer Award
37 sponsored by the Governor's Office and Montana Campus Network for Civic engagement to
38 Colton Little. In addition to his on-campus involvement with Student Government, the Budget
39 Committee and Music Club, Colton volunteers off campus with the Flathead County
40 Transportation Advisory Committee, United Today, Stronger Tomorrow, and The Democracy
41 Project. Colton is a freshman currently seeking an Associates of Arts in Political Science.

42 **B. Faculty Activities Report**

43 The Faculty Activities Report was submitted to the Board and presented by the
44 Faculty Senate Vice President, Dr. Jessica Ennist, Associate Professor, Chemistry. Dr. Ennist
45 thanked the Board for the opportunity to share the reports these past two years while serving as
46 Faculty Senate Vice President.

1 **1. Faculty Awards**

2 President Karas presented the League for Innovation in the Community
3 College Excellence Awards to Dr. Katie Clarke, Assistant Professor, Communication and Dr.
4 Eliza Sorte-Thomas, Associate Professor, Education Division Chair, Social Science.
5

6 **C. Executive Staff Activities Report**

7 The Board acknowledged the Executive Staff for their informative reports and
8 expressed their appreciation for continuing to show how their activities align with FVCC goals.
9

10 **V. COLLEGE ISSUES**

11 **A. Student Success: Surveying Program**

12 Abbie Steffen, Program Director, Surveying provided an overview on FVCC's
13 reimagined Registered Land Surveying Program. In the fall of 2024 fifteen students across five
14 different locations enrolled in year one of the revamped online program, fourteen students will
15 move on to year two of their classes in the fall of 2025. A collection of adjuncts from across the
16 state who are professionals in the surveying field have been hired which has been key to
17 providing hands on lab experiences for the students.
18

19 **B. Board Policy, Chapter VII, Students, Section 60 - Second Reading**

20 Chairperson Stimpson reviewed Board Policy Chapter VII, Students, Section 60 –
21 Second Reading. Recommended changes approved at the March 17th Board meeting were noted
22 in blue, additional minor recommendations were noted in red.

- 23 • Chapter VII, Students, Section 60 – Code of Student Conduct and Student
24 Complaints

25 Trustee Patrick Gulick moved that the Board of Trustees approve Board Policy,
26 Chapter VII, Students, Section 60 as revised (second reading). Trustee Travis Steindorf
27 seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
28

29 **C. Finance and Audit Committee**

30 **1. Quarterly Budget Report Ending March 31, 2025**

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

33 **2. Tuition and Fee Consideration FY 26**

34 At its April meeting the Budget Committee discussed recommending a 2%
35 tuition increase. A student forum was held with approximately twenty-five students attending.
36 Students asked good questions and the need for the increase in tuition was explained. Based on
37 recent Legislative actions, President Karas recommended a 3% tuition increase (\$4.44/credit for
38 in-district students, \$6.08/credit for out-of-district students, and \$12.87/credit for out-of-state
39 students) for a recommended tuition of \$152.45 for in-district students, \$208.71 for out-of-
40 district students and \$442.02 for out-of-state students. President Karas reported that the college
41 should be able to help students who find the increase challenging.

42 The Budget Committee recommended to the President a \$2.50 increase to
43 the \$47.50 Health Center Fee, the new Health Center Fee would be \$50.00. The Health Center
44 Fee is a mandatory fee charged to students enrolled in six credits or more. President Karas
45 recommended the \$2.50 increase to the Health Center Fee.

1 Trustee Travis Steindorf moved that the Board of Trustees approve the
2 recommended 3% tuition and fee increases as presented. Trustee Jamie Pickering seconded the
3 motion. President Karas distributed a graph showing the tuition increases for all Montana
4 University System campuses and where FVCC falls. With no further discussion, the motion
5 carried unanimously.

6 The recommended increases will go to the Board of Regents for their final
7 review and approval at their May meeting.

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9 **D. Board of Trustees’ Events Calendar**

10 President Karas reviewed the Trustees’ events calendar.

11
12 **E. President’s Report**

13 President Karas updated the Board on several items:

- 14 • Legislative Session – Adjustments in the funding formula lowered our base
15 budget going forward. The language for how the reversion is calculated was also
16 changed, we won’t know until it is implemented in the next biennium how that
17 will impact us. The joint sub-committee on education met last week and added
18 the community college funding formula to the shared goals for the Montana
19 University System.
- 20 • New Finance System – President Karas thanked the Business Office and
21 Information Technology staff for smoothly transferring the finance system from
22 Anthology to the new platform.
- 23 • Budget Town Hall – Lorelle Davies will be hosting the meeting for all employees
24 on Friday explaining the budgeting process and will answer questions.
- 25 • Culinary Capstone Project – President Karas invited Board members to the final
26 days of the Root & Rye pop-up restaurant in the Arts and Technology building
27 Wednesday-Friday. The restaurant is the capstone project for seniors in the
28 Culinary Program.
- 29 • Entrepreneurship Center Building Tour – A tour of the building will take place
30 immediately following the May Board meeting.
- 31 • Wachholz College Center Art Show - President Karas encouraged Board
32 members to see the Inuit Art Show on display in the Wanda Hollensteiner Art
33 Gallery. The collection, on loan from the Bibler Foundation, features artwork that
34 Sam Bibler collected while he was working in the Arctic.
- 35 • Spring Festival of Flavors – President Karas thanked the Foundation staff and
36 volunteers for their hard work on the Spring Fest Kentucky Derby themed event
37 on April 3rd. The event netted over \$60,000 to support student scholarships.
- 38 • Lincoln County Commissioners Visit – President Karas, Bryan Brophy-
39 Baermann, and Lorelle Davies traveled to Lincoln County and met with the
40 County Commissioners a few weeks ago. There are issues with the roof on the
41 building of our Lincoln County Campus. FVCC does not own the building, it is
42 owned by the county and they are responsible for major repairs.

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44 **VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

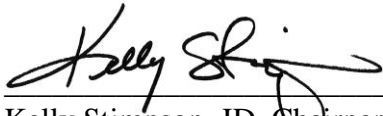
45 Chairperson Stimpson announced that the Board would go into Executive Session to
46 discuss the President’s Annual Performance Evaluation. It was determined that the demand of

1 individual privacy clearly exceeded the merits of public disclosure and therefore she would close
2 the meeting. The meeting was closed at 4:19 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 4:29 p.m.
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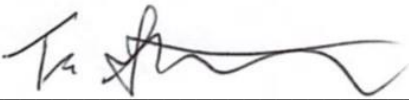
4 **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

5 With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.
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12 Kelly Stimpson, JD, Chairperson of the Board
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17 Travis Steindorf, Secretary to the Board