

FLATHEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Regular Board Meeting  
Monday, March 17, 2025, 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 17, 2025.

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

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

Peter Akey	Patrick Gulick	Jamie Pickering
Travis Steindorf	Kelly Stimpson	

Trustee Mary Ruby was absent. Also present were President Jane Karas and Suzanne DeCamp, Clerk of the District.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT – None**

**III. CONSENT ITEMS – ACTION**

**A. Approval of the minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting on February 24, 2025.**

Trustee Peter Akey 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 submitted to the Board by John Weil, Student Government Vice President. Work is continuing on the creation of a “Soaring Eagle” award for a professor that the students feel goes above and beyond with their students, John will give an update at a future meeting. The Interclub Council (made up of one member from each club) is looking at distributing funding allocations to the student organizations, all monetary decisions are approved by 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: College Services**

Dr. Lorelle Davies, Vice President/Chief Financial Officer provided an update on College Services including: the Bookstore, Eagle’s Nest Cafeteria, Common Grounds Coffee Shop, Business Office, and Facilities and Maintenance.

## **B. Academic Program Proposals**

Bryan Brophy Baermann, Vice President, Academic and Student Affairs and Lisa Blank, Executive Director, Workforce Development presented the Board with four Academic Program Proposals for FY26. During its December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Curriculum Committee voted to recommend the following changes:

1. Agriculture and Food Systems AAS - Deletion
2. Nondestructive Testing CAS – Deletion
3. Welding and Inspection Technology AAS – Deletion
4. Web Technology AAS name change to Web Development and Design AAS

The first three programs have been in moratorium for the maximum of three years and the fourth is a name change to better reflect the content of the program as it has evolved in the technology industry.

Trustee Patrick Gulick moved that the Board of Trustees approve the Academic Program proposal recommendations as submitted. Trustee Jamie Pickering seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **C. Naming Entrepreneurship Center**

At the January 27, 2025 meeting, the Board directed President Karas to establish a committee, per Board Policy XII, College Facilities, Section 10: Naming of Campus Buildings, to bring recommendations in naming the Entrepreneurship Center, to the President and Trustees. The committee members met and recommended a name to the President. The name chosen defines what happens in the building and recognizes Paul Wachholz for his donation. The committee and President Karas both recommend the name the Wachholz Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Trustee Travis Steindorf moved that the Board of Trustees approve the naming recommendation of the Wachholz Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Trustee Jamie Pickering seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **D. Board Policy, Chapter VII, Students, Section 60 - First Reading**

President Karas reviewed Board Policy Chapter VII, Students, Section 60 – First Reading. There were several website links that needed to be updated and the hazing definition was revised to better define hazing on campus.

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

Trustee Kelly Stimpson moved that the Board of Trustees approve Board Policy, Chapter VII, Students, Section 60 as revised (first reading). Trustee Peter Akey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **E. Board of Trustees' Events Calendar**

President Karas reviewed the Trustees' events calendar. The Foundation's Spring Festival of Flavors Kentucky Derby themed event will take place on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in AT-139, tickets are still available. The next Board meeting will be on April 28<sup>th</sup>, the May Board meeting will be a week early, May 19<sup>th</sup>, due to the Memorial Day holiday. Commencement will be held on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Wachholz College Center, Trustees will line-up at 5:30 p.m.

**F. President's Report**

President Karas updated the Board on several items:

- New Student Information System (SIS) and Customer Relations Management (CRM) System – President Karas thanked Kent Rogers, Executive Director, Information Technology and his staff, as well as other employees from Student Services, Academic Affairs and the Business Office for all of the work and extra time in the evenings and weekends that they put into implementing the new SIS and CRM systems.
- Legislative Update – President Karas reported that the three community colleges are working on strategies to try to restore the base budget allocations and how the reversion is calculated in the funding formula.
- Wachholz Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship – Work is continuing on the renovation, siding is being placed on the outside and the inside is coming along. President Karas will look into a Board tour at one of the next two meetings. The Strategic Plan for the programming for the center is in process.
- Strategic Response Team – President Karas appointed a Strategic Response Team due to the constant changes in policy and procedures, especially at the Federal level. The team is meeting on a regular basis and is putting together a list of frequently asked questions and documents available to everyone on campus.
- Donor and Scholarship Reception – The Foundation hosted the reception on March 5<sup>th</sup>. The reception was well attended and both donors and students shared heartfelt personal stories.
- Wachholz College Center – President Karas thanked the Foundation Board who voted to gift the College \$1M to help offset a portion of the remaining loan on the Wachholz College Center.

**G. Other**

As the Foundation Liaison, Vice Chairperson Langohr, reported that she recently attended the Foundation's Quarterly Board meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

**VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A. Emeritus Recommendation**

Vice Chairperson Langohr reported that no Emeritus applications were received.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

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Kelly Stimpson, JD, Chairperson of the Board

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Travis Steindorf, Secretary to the Board