

FLATHEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

AGENDA ITEM *3

III. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Board Meeting Minutes 4/28/2025
- B. Board Meeting Schedule FY26

BACKGROUND:

A copy of the minutes from the Regular Board meeting on 4/28/2025 and the Board meeting schedule for FY26 are attached for review by Board members prior to the meeting. All consent items, with no corrections, will be approved with one motion.

FLATHEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Board Meeting
Monday, April 28, 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, April 28, 2025.

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:

Patrick Gulick Callie Langohr Jamie Pickering
Travis Steindorf

Trustees Peter Akey and Mary Ruby were absent with prior Board approval. 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 March 17, 2025.

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

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

IV. MONTHLY REPORTS

A. Student Activities Report

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

1. Student Award

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

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. Dr. Ennist thanked the Board for the opportunity to share the reports these past two years while serving as Faculty Senate Vice President.

1. Faculty Awards

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

C. Executive Staff Activities Report

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

V. COLLEGE ISSUES

A. Student Success: Surveying Program

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

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

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

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

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

C. Finance and Audit Committee

1. Quarterly Budget Report Ending March 31, 2025

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

2. Tuition and Fee Consideration FY 26

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

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

Trustee Travis Steindorf moved that the Board of Trustees approve the recommended 3% tuition and fee increases as presented. Trustee Jamie Pickering seconded the

motion. President Karas distributed a graph showing the tuition increases for all Montana University System campuses and where FVCC falls. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

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

D. Board of Trustees' Events Calendar

President Karas reviewed the Trustees' events calendar.

E. President's Report

President Karas updated the Board on several items:

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

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairperson Stimpson announced that the Board would go into Executive Session to discuss the President's Annual Performance Evaluation. It was determined that the demand of individual privacy clearly exceeded the merits of public disclosure and therefore she would close the meeting. The meeting was closed at 4:19 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 4:29 p.m.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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Kelly Stimpson, JD, Chairperson of the Board

Travis Steindorf, Secretary to the Board