

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES  
Monday, May 22, 2023  
Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center  
Room 106/107  
1701 E. Front Street**

**CALL TO ORDER**—Chair Laura J. Oblinger called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Trustees present:** Laura J. Oblinger, Rachel A. Johnson, Kennard R. Weaver, Chris M. Bott, Douglas S. Bishop, Kenneth E. Warner, Andrew K. Robitshek

**Trustees absent:** None

**Also present:** President Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz, Ed Bailey, Lindsey Lipke, Jason Slade, Matt McDonough, Mark Liebling, Diana Fairbanks, Troy Kierczynski, Todd Neibauer, Marcus Bennett, Jeff Cobb, Brady Corcoran, Christal Frost Anderson, Tony Jenkins, Michael Anderson, Stephen Siciliano, Kyle Morrison, Jennifer Hricik, Glenn Wolff

**STRATEGIC FOCUS**

**Mission & Values in Action: Futures for Frontliners**—Christal Frost Anderson, alumna, returned to NMC in Spring 2021 under the Futures for Frontliners program to complete her degree.

**REVIEW OF AGENDA**—The agenda was accepted as presented.

**Strategic Initiatives Update: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**—Jason Slade, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives and Marcus Bennett, Special Assistant to the President, presented the purpose statement for diversity, equity and inclusion at the college and provided an update on the strategy. With the purpose statement finalized, Bennett and the DEIB Advisory Council will turn attention to developing a survey to assess and address barriers and other objectives within the strategy.

**REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**Program Focus: Freshwater Research & Innovation Center**—Matt McDonough, CEO, Discovery Center & Pier joined Jason Slade to provide background on the Freshwater Research and Innovation Hub project. NMC’s strategic plan includes an objective to position the Great Lakes Water Studies Institute (GLWSI) as the leading center for marine and geospatial programs and technical services. The Discovery Center & Pier’s strategic plan goals and other stated goals include redeveloping the pier and campus with strong, mission-aligned partners, and supporting efforts that build the local blue economy. Slade reviewed funding secured to date and the proposal to enter a joint venture agreement between NMC and the Discovery Center and Pier. McDonough elaborated on the history of Discovery Center & Pier and their mission “to connect people of all ages, needs, and abilities to the Great Lakes through recreation, education, science, history and stewardship.” An ad hoc committee of three NMC representatives and three Discovery Pier representatives will explore a joint venture agreement and business plan for the development of a freshwater innovation center. In response to a question, Slade described the timeline for the proposed project, noting the next funding requests from both the state and federal governments will not be determined until fall 2023. McDonough estimates groundbreaking could occur in two-and-a-half years.

**Faculty Report: Audio Technology Program**—Jeff Cobb, Director of Music Programs, and Brady Corcoran, Audio Technology Coordinator, presented on changes and growth within the program. Cobb noted an articulation agreement with Michigan Tech University and with Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District. Changes within the program include a greater emphasis on video and live performance. Audio Tech has seen a growth in enrollment, which Cobb attributed to the work of the PRMC department. Corcoran shared student projects such as Sound Bytes, which is in its second season, and emphasized how students participate in and run these events.

**FY24 Budget**—Vice President of Finance and Administration Troy Kierczynski provided an update on budget considerations for FY24, highlighting the economic trends and the state of higher education. Property tax revenue growth of \$1.1 million from FY23 allows and justifies a lower tuition increase for in-district students. A 3% change for in-district students and 6% change for all other residencies is proposed for the 2023-2024 academic year. Continued focus on the strategic plan yields improved revenue and expense targets for several programs and continued investment in marketing and advertising. Labor and inflation challenges remain, including difficulty hiring lower wage and specialty positions.

**PUBLIC INPUT**—There was no public input offered.

## UPDATES

**President's Update**—President Nick Nissley provided an update on the recent testimony to the Joint Capital Outlay Subcommittee and state budget, recognizing Troy Kierczynski's work to present a balanced budget.

**Board Chair Update**—Chair Laura Oblinger provided an update on the campus master planning process, including the committee and communication frequency structure.

**CONSENT ITEMS**—On a motion by Doug Bishop, seconded by Kennard Weaver, the following items were approved by a unanimous vote as a group without discussion:

- Minutes of the April 24, 2023, regular meeting and closed session
- Enrollment Report—Todd Neibauer, Vice President for Student Services and Technologies
- Financial Report—Troy Kierczynski, Vice President of Finance and Administration
- PRMC—Diana Fairbanks, Associate Vice President of Public Relations, Marketing, and Communications
- Foundation Report—Jennifer Hricik, Interim Associate Vice President for Resource Development and Executive Director of Foundation
- Executive Committee Minutes—Laura Oblinger, Chair
- Building & Site Committee Minutes—Ken Warner, Committee Chair

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Notice of Truth in Taxation Hearing**—On a motion by Rachel Johnson, seconded by Doug Bishop, the Truth-in-Taxation First Resolution was adopted as presented unanimously.

**Housing and Board Rates for FY24**—Ken Warner made a motion, seconded by Chris Bott, and the Board unanimously approved Housing and Board Rates for the 2023-2024 fiscal year as presented.

**University Center Upgrades**—Chris Bott made a motion, seconded by Ken Warner, the Board unanimously authorized the administration to enter into a contract with Miller-Davis Company in the amount of \$391,600, plus a 15% contingency of \$58,740, for a total authorization of \$450,340, to complete the required life safety upgrades to the existing south wing of the NMC University Center. In response to questions, Kierczynski explained the funding source and rationale for the project.

**Network Server Replacements**—Rachel Johnson made a motion, seconded by Doug Bishop, to authorize for administration to enter into a contract with Frontier Computer for the purchase of nine replacement network servers for \$91,809. It was noted the servers are new, not reconditioned. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

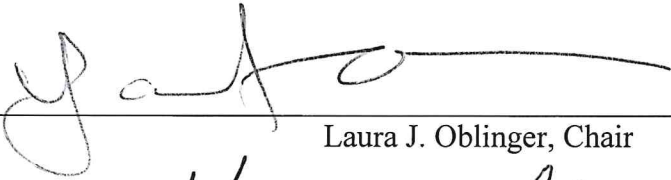
**Board Policies**—On a motion by Chris Bott, seconded by Doug Bishop, the Board adopted of the following Board policies on a second-reading basis with a unanimous vote:


- A-106.01 Naming Opportunities
- C-103.00 Purposes

**REVIEW OF FOLLOW-UP REQUESTS**—Confirmed requests made by the Board that require administrative follow-up for information to be provided to the Board at a later date.

**ADJOURNMENT**—The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Recorded by Lynne Moritz, Executive Director of the President’s Office and Board Operations.

SIGNED  \_\_\_\_\_  
 Laura J. Oblinger, Chair

ATTESTED  \_\_\_\_\_  
 Andrew K. Robitshek, Secretary