

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
Monday, November 20, 2023
Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center
Room 106/107

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 (at 5:47 pm)

Trustees absent:

Also present: President Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz, Troy Kierczynski, Lindsey Lipke, Kyle Morrison, Todd Neibauer, Jennifer Hricik, Stephen Siciliano, Hollie DeWalt, Molly Norville, Jason Slade, Marcus Bennett, Alex Walsh, Nick Roster, Glenn Wolff

REVIEW OF AGENDA—The agenda was accepted as presented.

STRATEGIC FOCUS

Mission & Values in Action: Multicultural Student Club—Alex Walsh, one of three advisors for the club provided his brief background. Formerly known as the International Students Club, the group restarted in Fall 2023 under the new name. Membership includes over 35 students from over 11 different countries and two Native American tribes, with multiple members born in the Grand Traverse area. The club encourages interactions between international and domestic students and seeks to facilitate opportunities for students from different backgrounds to get together and learn from one another. The group also collaborates with other clubs, such as Audio Tech. Chair Oblinger noted the group lifts up the college’s vision of being a global community where all learners unlock their full potential.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging—This strategy is on track with 2 objectives completed, 2 objectives currently classified as “green” / on-track, and 1 objective, related to student retention and enrollment, is lagging. Year 2 has transitioned the strategy from defining DEIB to a focus on implementing the Human Resources training module and surveys necessary to achieve the objectives related to belongingness, retention, and application to enrollment. President Nissley highlighted a recent collaboration between Visual Communications and Social Sciences to create posters bringing awareness to homelessness and socioeconomic diversity.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Faculty Report Microplastics in Boardman/Ottaway Watershed—Nick Roster, Biology Instructor, presented on the general biology course (Biology 115) project Coerspace Undergraduate Research Experience (CURE). In collaboration with SampleServe, a local company, the project has identified microplastics in the Boardman/Ottaway Watershed.

PUBLIC INPUT—There was no public input offered.

UPDATES

President's Update—President Nick Nissley highlighted Kristy McDonald's Thanks-for-Giving project with her Business Communications class, which provided 135 Thanksgiving meals to Hawk Owl families. Nissley also provided updates on meetings with Benzie County community members, state funding, and collaboration with Michigan Tech University. Two Campus Master Plan listening sessions are planned for December 13 and January 24. Along with other kudos and recognitions, Nissley reported the college is ranked #10 in the nation by the Institute for International Education in the category of community college study abroad participation.

Board Chair Update—Chair Laura Oblinger noted the joint meeting of the Board of Trustees and Foundation Board Executive Committees is upcoming on November 28. Oblinger recommended trustees consider 2024 committee assignments and program focus topics for the upcoming year. As it relates to the campus facilities master plan, Oblinger shared her impressions of the process and noted the most recent meeting brought forward initial suggestions regarding space utilization and housing opportunities.

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 October 23, 2023, regular meeting and closed sessions
- Minutes of the November 8, 2023, study session
- Financial Report—*Troy Kierczynski, Vice President of Finance and Administration*
- Sensitive Information Report—*Troy Kierczynski, Vice President of Finance and Administration*
- Enrollment Report—*Todd Neibauer, Vice President for Student Services and Technologies*
- 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*
- Presidential Performance and Compensation Committee Report—*Laura Oblinger, Committee Chair*
- Building and Site Committee Report—*Ken Warner, Committee Chair*

ACTION ITEMS

Resource Guidelines—On a motion by Doug Bishop, seconded by Chris Bott, the Board unanimously approved the NMC Resource Guidelines for 2024-2025 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Great Lakes Campus Paver Replacement—Rachel Johnson made a motion, seconded by Ken Warner, authorizing for administration to enter into a contract with Spence Brothers construction company in the amount of \$217,727, plus a 10% contingency of \$21,773, for a total authorization of \$239,500 to complete repair and remodel of the north courtyard of the Great Lakes Campus as presented. This project will be funded by Auxiliary (Hagerty Center) reserves. In response to questions, Kierczynski explained the single bid received and noted the need for paver replacement. The motion passed unanimously.

Core Network Switch Equipment Replacement—Doug Bishop made a motion, seconded by Rachel Johnson, authorizing administration to enter into a contract with People Driven Technologies for the replacement of the Cisco core network switch equipment in the amount of \$193,373.43. The funding source is the Technology Plant Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

Esports Management Certificate of Achievement—On a motion by Kennard Weaver, seconded by Doug Bishop, the Board unanimously approved the Esports Management Certificate of Achievement, effective Spring 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

NMC Foundation Board Member Appointment—Kennard Weaver made a motion, seconded by Rachel Johnson, approving the appointment of Mary Pelcher to the NMC Foundation Board, for a term of three fiscal years, commencing November 2023 and expiring June 20, 2026.

Board Policies—Ken Warner made a motion, seconded by Chris Bott, to adopt the following Board policies on a second-reading basis:

- Revised Policy D-400.00 External Partnerships
- Revised Policy D-500.02 Tobacco Free NMC
- Revised Policy D-300.00 Workforce
- Policy D-500.01 Use of Federal Funds (no revisions)


Closed Session—Ken Warner made a motion, seconded by Chris Bott, that the Board adjourn the open session and meet in closed session (pursuant to Subsection 8(1)(d) of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268) to consider the purchase or lease of property. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Yes—Chris Bott, Rachel Johnson, Ken Warner, Doug Bishop, Andy Robitshek, Kennard Weaver, and Laura Oblinger; No—none; and the Board went into closed session at 6:33 p.m.

Reconvene Regular Session—Kennard Weaver made a motion, seconded by Doug Bishop, to adjourn the closed session and reconvene the open session. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Yes— Kennard Weaver, Ken Warner, Doug Bishop, Andy Robitshek, Rachel Johnson, Chris Bott, Laura Oblinger; No—none; and the regular open session reconvened at 6:54 p.m.


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 6:55 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