

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
Monday, January 23, 2023
NMC Hagerty Center, Room C**

CALL TO ORDER—Chair Rachel A. Johnson called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Trustees absent: Douglas S. Bishop

Also present: President Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz, Diana Fairbanks, Kyle Morrison, Todd Neibauer, Jennifer Hricik, Stephen Siciliano, Dan Gentry, Jason Slade, Marcus Bennett, Ann Rogers, Nancy Schulte

OATH OF OFFICE—The Oath of Office was recited by re-elected trustee Chris M. Bott for a term expiring on December 31, 2028.

OATH OF OFFICE—The Oath of Office was recited by re-elected trustee Andrew K. Robitshek for a term expiring on December 31, 2028.

REVIEW OF AGENDA—The agenda was accepted as presented.

ANNUAL MEETING BUSINESS

Reading of Notice and Proof of Service—The notice of the annual meeting was read with proof of service on January 17, 2023, attested to by Lynne Moritz, Executive Director of the President's Office and Board Operations.

Report of Secretary—Secretary Andy Robithsek reported the 2022 Northwestern Michigan College Board of Trustees Annual Meeting minutes were approved on January 24, 2022, and are available online at the [2022 Trustee Meeting Materials and Minutes website](#) along with all other regular meeting minutes.

Report of Treasurer—Treasurer Ken Warner reported the annual financial audit for Northwestern Michigan College for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, was accepted by the NMC Board of Trustees on October 24, 2022, and is available online at the NMC Audit Reports website (<https://www.nmc.edu/departments/finance-administration/audits/files/audit-nmc-2022.pdf>).

Verification of Residential Address and Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement—Trustees were asked to provide their current address where they registered to vote as a renewed verification for the calendar year 2023. Trustees were also provided with Conflict of Interest Disclosure statements for 2023 and asked to return the completed and signed statements to Lynne Moritz in the President's office by February 6, 2023.

Election of Officers—Nomination and election of Board officers were conducted nominations for each office of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer. Kennard Weaver nominated Laura Oblinger as Chair for 2023. Trustee Bott nominated Ken Warner for Vice Chair, Warner declined. The other officer roles for 2023 are as follows: Rachel Johnson as Vice-Chair (nominated by Ken Warner), Ken Warner as Treasurer (nominated by Rachel Johnson); and Andy Robitshek as

Secretary (nominated by Ken Warner). The slate of officers was unanimously approved by roll call vote taken of those trustees present in-person.

The remainder of the meeting was continued to be chaired by Laura Oblinger. Trustee Kennard Weaver acknowledged Johnson's leadership throughout the past year and noted trust in Oblinger's leadership for the upcoming year. Regular Board Meeting dates through June 2024 were reviewed and it was noted that trustees do prefer visiting other campuses as schedules allow.

STRATEGIC FOCUS: Institutional Distinction and Sustainability—Jason Slade, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives provided an update on the fifth strategy in the strategic plan, noting the report is robust due to the number of unique programs acknowledged in the objectives. Objectives include programs such as Aviation, Great Lakes Culinary Institute, Water Studies Institute, and Dennon Museum Center.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Program Focus: Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAS)—Tony Sauerbrey, UAS Program Manager, explained that the college currently offers an Associate of Applied Science in Engineering Technology with UAS Specialization and a Certificate of Achievement in Unmanned Aerial Systems. Sauerbrey described the benefits of moving this to a stand-alone certification and explained the change from “unmanned” to “uncrewed” originated in the industry (e.g., FAA). While the courses will initially stay the same, UAS will be a stand-alone degree without the “Engineering Technology” portion. The change is to make it easier for students to find, as often times students initially sign up under the wrong degree certificate program. As regulations and technology change, additional credentials will be needed for advanced operations and flexibility. Sauerbrey also explained the stand-alone degree will help align with high school and career and technical education centers.

Faculty Report: Competency-Based Education in Accounting—Steve Rice, Business Instructor, presented on ACC 121 as a competency-based course utilizing a baseball metaphor with preferred target dates with unlimited attempts at the material so students can earn digital badges through Accredible.

Building and Site Committee—Laura Oblinger, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes from two recent meetings of the Building and Site Committee. Oblinger stated an expansion and lease extension for Greenspire at the University Center is being carefully worked upon by college executive staff, led by Vice President of Finance and Administration Troy Kierczynski.

PUBLIC INPUT—Ann Rogers offered public input.

UPDATES

President's Update—President Nick Nissley reminded the Board of Trustees of two federal earmarks that will provide funding for the geothermal power plant project and the collaborative work of a freshwater research and innovation center. Nissley thanked everyone for participating in recent gatherings with legislators, which included hosting U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters at the Great Lakes Campus. Highlighting committee assignments in the Michigan Senate and House

of Representatives, Nissley noted Sen. Damoose will serve on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Universities and Community Colleges and Joint Capital Outlay, while Rep. Coffia will serve on the House Higher Education Policy Committee. Lastly, Nissley acknowledged the upcoming 72nd anniversary of Founders Day when the first financial campaign to assist in launching the college was initiated in 1951.

Board Chair Update—Chair Laura Oblinger addressed the Board to share her intention to lead with courage, compassion, and reminding each other of the common thread: the college.

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

- Minutes of the December 12, 2022, regular meeting
- 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*
- Fellows Nominating Committee—*Ken Warner, Committee Chair*
- Executive Committee—*Rachel Johnson, Committee Chair*

ACTION ITEMS

Appointment of Fellows—On a motion by Kennard Weaver, seconded by Rachel Johnson, Gene Jenneman and Marty, Brad, and DJ Oleson were appointed 2023 Fellows of Northwestern Michigan College with all honors and privileges pertaining thereto. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Search Firm for AVP Resource Development and Executive Director of the NMC Foundation—Kennard Weaver made a motion, seconded by Rachel Johnson, authorizing administration to enter into a contract up to \$45,000 with Aspen Leadership Group, executive search firm, for the Associate Vice President of Resource Development and Executive Director of the NMC Foundation position. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Splunk Security Log Management System—On a motion by Rachel Johnson, seconded by Andy Robitshek, the Board authorized administration to enter into a contract with August Schell Enterprises for the renewal of the Splunk software license at a cost of \$37,800.28. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

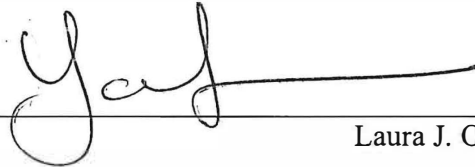
Evisions Enterprise Reporting System—Kennard Weaver made a motion, seconded by Chris Bott, authorizing administration to enter into contract with Evisions for Reporting Software at a cost of \$181,797.31 over three years, with the first-year licensing and implementation cost at \$80,667.00. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

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.

- **Denos Museum Center Program Focus**
- **Rotation of regular meeting locations**

ADJOURNMENT—The meeting adjourned at 7:00 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