

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES**

**Monday, September 28, 2020  
Virtual Zoom Webinar ID: 935 1577 4555**

**CALL TO ORDER**—Chair Chris M. Bott called the regular meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Trustees present: Douglas S. Bishop, Chris M. Bott, K. Ross Childs, Rachel A. Johnson, Jane T. McNabb, Kennard R. Weaver

Trustees absent: Michael Estes

Also present: President Nick Nissley, Patti Burgess, Vicki Cook, Marguerite Cotto, Mary Jo Elliott, Diana Fairbanks, Joy Goodchild, Holly Gorton, Tony Jenkins, John Lutchko, Lynne Moritz, Kyle Morrison, Todd Neibauer, Denny Nguyen, Susan Odgers, Stephen Siciliano, Rebecca Teahen, Hans Van Sumeren

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

**REPORTS**

**Program Focus—MTU & NMC Great Lakes Research Collaboration**—Hans Van Sumeren, Director of Great Lakes Water Studies Institute, reviewed the opportunities that will be available through our partnership under the new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Michigan Technological University and NMC for Great Lakes research. Van Sumeren summarized the history of the relationship over the past several years. The Board expressed excitement and support for the partnership.

**Faculty Report**—Encouraging Student Engagement in Online Chemistry—Mary Jo Elliott, Chemistry Instructor, provided a presentation reviewing the techniques, advantages, as well as challenges, with online learning of chemistry, including demonstrations in video lectures used, with at home lab instructions, and virtual student interaction. Elliott also provides tutorial services and instructor office hours for students.

**Enrollment Report**—Todd Neibauer, Vice President for Student Services and Technology, provided the enrollment report and noted that the fall enrollment decrease was substantially less than originally anticipated. 141 Futures for Frontliners program applications have been approved and hundreds more are registering. Neibauer also explained they are identifying students close to completion and reaching out to them to encourage them to return and obtain their degree through the Frontliners program. Degrees When Due has been successful and 72 degrees were awarded this summer to students who had qualified for a degree, but not applied in the past. In response to a question, Neibauer explained the guidelines and requirements of the Futures for Frontliners program funding for up to 4 years to complete an associate degree. Neibauer added that, with Futures for Frontliners and Reconnect funding, there are many opportunities for past students to return and earn their credentials.

**Financial Report**—Vicki Cook, Vice President of Finance and Administration, reviewed the financial report for the period ending August 31, 2020, and reported revenue was about \$350,000 ahead. NMC also received news that state appropriations will remain level. The FY20 audit will be reported to the Board at the October meeting. Cook included a memo on the 2022 Five Year Capital Outlay report outlining what will be included in the October Board meeting materials. No capital funding projects are being accepted this year by the state, but the Osterlin Library project is ready to

submit, if that changes. The Board expressed the desire to not use reserves if not necessary and begin restoring them, and Vicki confirmed reserves would not be used if not needed.

**Foundation Report**—Rebecca Teahen, Associate Vice President for Resource Development and Executive Director of Foundation, provided the Foundation Report, indicating progress to date was positive. \$180,000 was recently received from an alumnus as part of an estate gift, which was not included in the report provided. Teahen shared that the Foundation staff was moving to the University Center campus in the upcoming months. Teahen thanked Campaign Co-chairs Bruce Byl and Susie Janis for working hard to finish up campaign by end of calendar year. As a correction to the report included in the packet, Teahen noted the Foundation Finance & Audit Committee and Foundation Board will be meeting in October.

**PRMC Report**—Diana Fairbanks, Executive Director of Public Relations, Marketing, and Communications reported she was receiving positive feedback on extensive COVID communications. Fairbanks reviewed media coverage and highlighted NEXUS magazine, which came out a little later than planned due to COVID, but includes many positive NMC stories, many related to COVID response.

**Presidential Performance & Compensation Committee Report**—Committee Chair Chris Bott provided a report on the work of the Board Presidential Performance and Compensation Committee. The committee met on September 10 and confirmed dates for Nick's presidential evaluation, which Bott reviewed. The committee will begin meeting every other month with the next meeting in November.

**Building and Site Committee Report**—Committee Chair Ross Childs introduced the video tour of the new West Hall Innovation Center, which was viewed, and Ross shared how magnificent the building was. A small Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held on September 18 and some of the trustees were able to tour in person at that time and were very impressed. Childs noted the building was open and being used at most all hours.

**Legislative Issues Report**—President Nick Nissley referenced materials in the Board packet and drew attention to four good news items. State appropriation funding has been restored to a 0.3% increase, rather than a 15% decrease as budgeted. Senate Bill 1055 regarding community college Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degrees was introduced and has been taken up by committee and approved to move on to the full senate. The state budget also includes \$35 million for the Michigan Reconnect program. The Futures for Frontliners program has yielded 141 accepted applications with about 700 still pending. Students have until fall 2021 to register under this program. The Board thanked the Michigan Community College Association (MCCA) and NMC's legislative consultant, Gabe Schneider, for the positive legislative updates. There was significant discussion about the importance of the community college BSN, for which NMC was collaborating with other area partners to support.

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

## **UPDATES**

**President's Update**—President Nick Nissley reported there have been 3 positive student COVID cases with campus exposure and 1 employee presumed positive case, without campus exposure, to date. Nissley thanked frontline faculty and staff, as well as students, for the safety guidelines and compliance to those safety protocols in place. The Reimagining Fall Committee was now Reimagining Spring Committee, and mapping out a plan that will be very similar to the current fall hybrid model of course delivery. Nissley shared he had the good fortune to meet George Comden who was one of the first students attending NMC at its opening and credits NMC for leading to his success in life. Nissley shared a few upcoming highlights, including that students are invited to have coffee with the president on September 29. Discovery Center partnership initiatives are currently being explored by Hans Van Sumeren. A reimagined professional development October conference was being planned for October 13 where employees will work on one-day projects, called FedEx day, to develop new approaches to current processes for greater efficiency, or totally new initiatives. The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Team has formed and will lead employees through a 21-Day Challenge in collaboration with United Way. The International Affairs Forum season launched last week with the theme of “Finding Solutions to Global Crisis.”

**Board Chair Update**—Chair Chris Bott stated the Board would continue to use the virtual Zoom meeting format as long as it was the college protocol to meet safety guidelines. The Board will be receiving presidential evaluation materials on October 1 and are to return evaluations by October 12 to Holly Gorton. Bott also spoke to the community need to be able to provide a local option for nurses to acquire their BSN.

**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 August 24, 2020, regular meeting

### **ACTION ITEMS**

**Local Strategic Value Resolution**—On a motion by Janie McNabb, seconded by Rachel Johnson, the Board adopted the presented Local Strategic Value Resolution certifying that Northwestern Michigan College meets the best practice standards required by the appropriations law for fiscal year 2021. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**New Jobs Training Program Agreements**—On a motion by Janie McNabb, seconded by Kennard Weaver, the Board authorized administration to enter into training agreements under the terms of the New Jobs Training Program (NJTP) for the following companies:

1. RJG Inc.
2. Cherry Republic (amendment)
3. Britten Inc. (amendment)
4. RJG Inc. (amendment)

The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

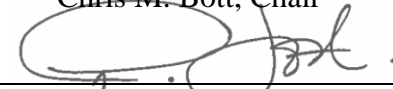
**REVIEW OF FOLLOW-UP REQUESTS**—Confirmed requests made by the Board that require administrative follow-up for information to be provided to the Board at a later date.

**ADJOURNMENT**—The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Recorded by Holly Gorton, Chief of Staff to the President and Board of Trustees.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ 

Chris M. Bott, Chair

ATTESTED \_\_\_\_\_ 

Rachel Johnson, Vice Chair