

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
Monday, July 26, 2021
West Hall Innovation Center, Room 106/107**

CALL TO ORDER—Chair Chris M. Bott called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Trustees present: Douglas S. Bishop, Michael Estes, Chris M. Bott, Rachel A. Johnson, Laura J. Oblinger, Kenneth E. Warner, Kennard R. Weaver

Trustees absent: None

Also present: President Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz, Jerry Achenbach, Bonnie Alfonso, Jim Bensley, Patti Burgess, Marguerite Cotto, Diana Fairbanks, Craig Hadley, Troy Kierczynski, Mark Liebling, Lindsey Lipke, Kyle Morrison, Todd Neibauer, Rebecca Teahen

REVIEW OF AGENDA—The agenda was accepted as presented.

REPORTS

Program Focus—Craig Hadley, Executive Director and Chief Curator of the Dennon Museum Center provided an update on the museum's path toward accreditation. The accreditation process requires core documents verification to occur prior to application. Hadley reviewed the numerous benefits of accreditation, which include a better likelihood of receiving grants, loans and exhibitions; stronger credentials for internships; and conferring a degree of trust and professionalism in the field. Museum accreditation also assists with the college's accreditation process. Hadley described internship and work-study opportunities, which have been paid and unpaid, and span a range of academic studies, including business and visual communications students.

Faculty Report—Jim Bensley, Director of International Services and Service Learning, presented on an interactive assignment for Introduction to Humanities students during the fall of 2020 at the height of COVID-19 restrictions. Bensley provided examples of portfolio assignments, which asked students to find examples of course terms, such as tenebrism and Victorian architecture, in their community. Some student examples came from class visits to the Dennon Museum Center, which required splitting the class in half and visiting over two days to comply with capacity restrictions due to the pandemic. Bensley emphasized the assignment got students physically moving and inspired their curiosity.

Enrollment Report—Todd Neibauer, Vice President for Student Services and Technology, provided the enrollment report and noted enrollment and housing comparisons to this time last year.

Financial Report—Troy Kierczynski, Interim Vice President of Finance and Administration, reviewed the financial report for the period ending June 30, 2021. Kierczynski noted FY21 ended on a positive note with summer revenue over budget by \$668,641.

Foundation Report—Rebecca Teahen, Associate Vice President for Resource Development and Executive Director of Foundation, reported FY21 concluded with raising almost \$11 million. While the Be What’s Possible campaign exceeded its goal by \$5 million, that also included the highest amount raised for unrestricted funds and the largest mailing at the end of the campaign, resulting in the most gifts from new alumni donors who had never given before. Campaign assessment is underway and a final report will be delivered at the next Foundation Board meeting on August 25, 2021.

PRMC Report—Diana Fairbanks, Executive Director of Public Relations, Marketing, and Communications, provided the June report and, in response to a question, discussed the college’s presence on current social media platforms.

Strategic Planning Report—President Nick Nissley provided the report for the month of July, in the absence of Stephen Siciliano and Vicki Cook. The Strategic Planning Steering Committee approved nine scan team topics on July 7. The nine scan teams are currently conducting research, which will inform the development of strategies and objectives. Scan team research will be presented to the Strategic Planning Steering Committee on August 17. Nissley reviewed several upcoming strategic planning events.

Executive Committee Report—Committee Chair Chris Bott referred to the minutes of the most recent Board Executive Committee included in the provided Board meeting materials.

MCCA Summer Conference Report—The 2021 annual conference of the Michigan Community College Association (MCCA) was held virtually over three half days. Chair Chris Bott reviewed his key takeaways from the conference speakers; commended Diana Fairbanks for her role moderating a panelist discussion regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion; and recognized Trustee Doug Bishop for his fifteen years of service. Chris Bott was also recognized at the conference for his 5 years of service as a trustee. Bott will serve as the Chair of the MCCA Executive Committee for 2021-2022.

Legislative Issues Report—President Nick Nissley highlighted three items from the written report included in the Board materials. Regarding the state budget process, while the House and Senate have opposing proposals for funding community colleges and universities, a 2% increase for community college budgets is expected. Nissley stated community college nursing baccalaureate degree conversations do continue. The MCCA strategy is to wait until after the state budget process is complete before re-engaging on the community college BSN issue. Lastly, NMC sent a letter to the Joint Capital Outlay Committee and northern Michigan legislators asking that they consider funding for the Osterlin Integrated Student Services Hub.

PUBLIC INPUT—There was no public input offered.

UPDATES

President's Update—President Nick Nissley shared updates on COVID-19 and reviewed highlights regarding his recent and upcoming meetings. On July 19, the college moved to stage 4 of the reopening plan, which Nissley stated means the college is essentially back to being fully operational. Nissley shared the planned incentives to increase vaccination rates amongst students ages 20-29. Nissley also recognized the work done by all employees and students, and especially highlighted Vicki Cook, Diana Fairbanks, Mark Liebling, and Todd Neibauer, who have persisted during the pandemic.

Nissley noted he recently met with Michigan State University President Samuel Stanley, State Representative John Roth, and Chairman of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians David Arroyo respectively. International Affairs Forum is undergoing its own strategic planning process which will likely aim to expand in hybrid format. On his upcoming schedule, Nissley is planning to meet with NMC's top 10 business partners in the community.

Board Chair Update—Chair Chris Bott discussed ideas to increase meeting efficiency and to allow for meeting time to be focused on special presentations. There was also discussion regarding livestream or hybrid format for future meetings. Policy A-104.00 Board of Trustees Video Recording of Meetings will be reviewed by the Board Policy Committee.

DISCUSSION

West Hall Innovation Center Naming Opportunity—Chair Chris Bott reviewed the development of West Hall, citing contributions from immediate past NMC President Timothy J. Nelson. Specifically, Bott highlighted Nelson's success in securing Capital Outlay funding for the renovation project. Bott sought input from all trustees on re-naming the facility after Nelson; each trustee expressed their support and noted Nelson's accomplishments most memorable to them.

On a motion by Chris Bott, seconded by Doug Bishop, the Board approved renaming and rededicating the West Hall Innovation Center as the Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center, pursuant to policy A-106.00 (Facilities). The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

CONSENT ITEMS—On a motion by Rachel Johnson, seconded by Laura Oblinger, the minutes of the June 28, 2021, regular meeting were approved by a unanimous vote without discussion.

ACTION ITEMS

Blanket Purchase Orders

On a motion by Ken Warner, seconded by Rachel Johnson, the Board authorized administration to create blanket purchase orders for each vendor identified on presented spreadsheet, with the exception of Laser Printer Tech, for the total of the estimated FY22 costs. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Purchase Orders Continued

On a motion by Laura Oblinger, seconded by Doug Bishop, the Board authorized administration to create a blanket purchase order for Laser Printer Tech for the estimated cost of \$35,000 for FY22.

The motion passed with a majority vote, with Chris Bott abstaining due to conflict of interest.

Lease of Tow Vessel

On a motion by Kennard Weaver, seconded by Ken Warner, the Board authorized administration to lease the tow vessel William C. Selvick for the summers of 2022, 2023, and 2024, with the terms presented in the proposal, not to exceed \$40,000 annually. Jerry Achenbach, Superintendent of the Great Lakes Maritime Academy, provided an update on the *State of Michigan*, which faced mechanical issues shortly after departing in May, before explaining the purpose of leasing tow vessels. Leasing vessels provides additional berths for GLMA cadets, with more flexibility, control and opportunities to give cadets sea time and credentials of value. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Dennos Strategic Plan

On a motion by Kennard Weaver, seconded by Doug Bishop, the Board approved the Dennos Museum Center mission statement, statement of permanence, and strategic plan. 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 7:11 p.m.

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

SIGNED Chris M. Bott
Chris M. Bott, Chair

ATTESTED Kenneth E. Warner
Kenneth E. Warner, Secretary