

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES  
Monday, November 22, 2021  
NMC Hagerty Center, Room C**

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

**OATH OF OFFICE**—The Oath of Office was recited by new appointed trustee Andrew K. Robitshek for a term that expires following the Board of Trustees election in November 2022.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**Trustees absent:** None

**Also present:** President Nick Nissley, Patti Burgess, Vicki Cook, Marguerite Cotto, Tony Jenkins, Troy Kierczynski, Mark Liebling, Lynne Moritz, Kyle Morrison, Todd Neibauer, Stephen Siciliano, Jason Slade, Rebecca Teahen

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

A motion was made by Doug Bishop, to amend the agenda so as to consider action on Policy C-102.00 Values separate from the other policies included in Action Item T.

**SPECIAL REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**Faculty Report—Celebrating Neurodiversity**—Nancy Gray, Communications Instructor, presented on how NMC can welcome neurodivergent students. Gray first explained the genesis of the current Autistic Pride logo, defining ableism and neurodivergent. Gray also reviewed ways in which she incorporates Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in her classroom to remove barriers to learning. In response to a question, Gray stated she has seen neurodiverse students persist with the course at greater rates than before incorporating UDL in her classroom.

**Enrollment Report**—Todd Neibauer, Vice President for Student Services and Technology, provided the enrollment report and a brief overview of the enrollment cycle.

**Sensitive Information Report**—Troy Kierczynski, Vice President of Finance and Administration, provided the annual report which is required by the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003. During the past twelve months, there were no incidents of this type to report. The college continues to review procedures, provide employee training and conduct audits to protect any sensitive information stored on our systems. In response to a question regarding the frequency of attacks, Neibauer stated there are frequent attempts and described the various defense mechanisms in place.

**Financial Report**—Troy Kierczynski, Vice President of Finance and Administration, reviewed the financial report for the period ending October 31, 2021, which is a third of the way through the fiscal year.

**Presidential Performance & Compensation Committee Report**—Committee Chair Rachel Johnson referenced the committee minutes and memo included in the Board materials, emphasizing

the committee's request for proposals for consultant services pertaining to presidential performance assessment and recommendation to extend President Nissley's current contract.

**Policy Committee Report**--Doug Bishop provided the report for the November 15 meeting of the Board Policy Committee. After briefly reviewing updates to Policy A-104.00 Board of Trustees Video Recording of Meetings, which stipulates regular monthly meetings will be broadcast on the college's YouTube page, Bishop noted the amendment to the Dennis Museum Center Collections Management Policy at the request of the accreditation. Regarding the mission, vision, and values policies, which were recommended by the Strategic Planning Steering Committee to the Board Policy Committee, Bishop reviewed the committee meeting minutes and emphasized the question of defining "diversity" and "equity" within the "inclusion" value.

**EXECUTIVE REPORTS**--The following written reports were provided in the packet of materials: PRMC, Foundation Report, Board Executive Committee. Chair Chris Bott did draw attention to giving Tuesday on November 30, 2021, and encouraged visiting [nmc.edu/give](http://nmc.edu/give).

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

## UPDATES

**President's Update**—President Nick Nissley began his update with a COVID-19 case update and reviewed current mitigation measures such as masking, reducing large gatherings, and seeking vaccine clinics to be held by the county health department. Nissley also shared two stories about how the college is transforming lives and enriching our communities: Phi Theta Kappa students are mentoring 5th graders at Blair Elementary and Kristy McDonald's business class students are distributing Thanksgiving meals. Regarding the legislative update, Nissley noted that on Wednesday, November 10, State Representatives Damoose and Roth introduced House Bills 5556 & 5557, which would authorize community colleges to offer and confer baccalaureate of science in nursing degrees.

**Board Chair Update**—Chair Chris Bott shared from his experience of visiting Kristy McDonald's business class. Bott also provided an update on his work with the Michigan Community College Association (MCCA) in their search for a new president of the association, which will be Brandy Johnson. Bott also thanked everyone who contributed to fulfilling the trustee vacancy created by Michael Estes' resignation.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

**Strategic Planning Report**—Stephen Siciliano, Vice President for Educational Services, addressed the prior conversation regarding the "Inclusion" value in Policy C-102.00 Values to provide context for how the definitive statements were formed. In regard to the "Collaboration" amendments suggested by the Board Policy Committee, Siciliano explained the development of the statements also sought to include action verbs. Vicki Cook, Special Assistant to the President, reviewed the strategic planning timeline and highlighted that objectives are currently being reviewed. Cook also noted the college's shared governance councils are reviewing the resources needed to support the proposed objectives. It was requested for the full Board to receive the objectives well in advance of their approval of the strategies.

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

- Minutes of the October 25, 2021 regular and closed meetings
- Minutes of the November 15, 2021 special meeting

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**Board Policies**--On a motion by Doug Bishop, seconded by Laura Oblinger, the Board unanimously adopted the following Board policies on a first-reading basis as presented:

- Amended Policy C-100.00 Mission
- Amended Policy C-101.00 Vision
- Amended Policy A-104.00 Board of Trustees Video Recording of Meetings
- Amended Policy D-504.05 Dennon Museum Center Collections Management Policy

### **Policy C-102.00 Values**

Doug Bishop made a motion to have Policy C-102.00 Values reconsidered by the Strategic Planning Steering Committee to include definitions of the terms “diversity” and “equity,” Kennard Weaver seconded the motion.

After discussion, Doug Bishop withdrew his original motion, and motioned to approve Policy C-102.00 Values with the following edits:

1. Reorder the list of statements in Policy C-102.00 with “Learning” listed first.
2. Edit the “Collaboration” statement to read as follows: “Collaboration: We embrace co-creative solutions and celebrate the joy of working together, empowering each other and nurturing community partnerships for the benefit of our learners.”
3. Edit the “Inclusion” statement to provide greater definition, as follows: “Inclusion: We foster belonging and build organizational capacity that celebrates diverse individual backgrounds and thoughts, and promotes equal opportunity for success.”

Chris Bott seconded the motion. After the suggested edits were discussed, the following roll call vote was taken: Yes--Doug Bishop, Chris Bott; No--Rachel Johnson, Laura Oblinger, Andy Robtishek, Kennard Weaver; Abstain--Ken Warner. The motion did not pass.

Doug Bishop made a third motion to make the changes of moving “Learning” first and include the edits to “Collaboration” to the policy, and refer the “Inclusion” statement back to the Strategic Planning Steering Committee to reconsider providing definitions of “diversity” and “equity.” Rachel Johnson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**NMC Resource Guidelines**--Doug Bishop made a motion, seconded by Laura Oblinger, to approve the NMC Resource Guidelines for 2022-2023 as presented. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**Native American Grant Application** On a motion by Rachel Johnson, seconded by Kennard Weaver, the Board authorized administration to submit application for the 2% grant from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians video gaming revenue as presented. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**Presidential Contract--**On a motion by Ken Warner, seconded by Doug Bishop, the Board approved amendments to the president's contract as presented. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**REVIEW OF FOLLOW-UP REQUESTS**—The Board requested an overview of the college's grant identification and application process, as well as for the Strategic Planning Steering Committee to reconsider the "Inclusion" statement encompassed in Policy C-102.00 Values.


**ADJOURNMENT**—The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

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

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

  
Chris M. Bott, Chair

ATTESTED \_\_\_\_\_

  
Kenneth E. Warner, Secretary