

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
Monday, December 20, 2021
Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center, Room 106/107

CALL TO ORDER—Chair Chris M. Bott called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Bott noted two trustees attending remotely. Due to medical condition (quarantine) Trustee Doug Bishop can vote via remote participation, while Trustee Ken Warner can participate in discussion but not count toward a quorum or for voting purposes.

ROLL CALL

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

Trustees absent: Rachel A. Johnson

Trustees participating remotely: Kenneth E. Warner, remotely from Bainbridge Island, Washington; Douglas S. Bishop, remotely due to medical condition from Peninsula Township, Grand Traverse County, due to medical quarantine

Also present: President Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz, Marguerite Cotto, Diana Fairbanks, Craig Hadley, Troy Kierczynski, Mark Liebling, Lindsey Lipke, Kyle Morrison, Todd Neibauer, Rebecca Teahen, Jason Slade, Alexandra Smith, Glenn Wolff, Lisa Thomas, Patti Burgess, Nancy Schulte, Denny Nguyen, Chris Hanna, Jerry Dobek, Judy Chu, Brett Sinclair

REVIEW OF AGENDA—Board Chair Chris Bott amended Action Item Q, separating Policy C-102.00 Values to be recommended on a first-reading basis with the Inclusion value wording as recommended by the Strategic Planning Steering Committee.

SPECIAL REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Program Focus—*Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee*—Craig Hadley, Executive Director and Chief Curator, Dennon Museum Center, and Lisa Thomas, Dean of Students, provided an overview of the DEI Committee's work since it first was organized in 2020. Thomas highlighted analysis from the student benchmark data. Hadley presented a summary of findings related to NMC employees. President Nissley thanked Hadley and Thomas for the inordinate amount of time and energy they have put into leading the DEI Committee. Nissley also commended the committee's work for being grounded in data.

Faculty Report—*Dennon Museum Center NMC Faculty Show*—Alex Smith and Glenn Wolff, both instructors in the Humanities area, showcased artwork created by NMC Art Department Faculty that is currently on display at the museum. The exhibition of artwork by the NMC Art Department faculty is the first on this campus in over five years and presents a diverse range of traditional and contemporary media by faculty artists who work in dual capacity to educate, while also finding the time and ability to personally express through their chosen medium.

Enrollment Report—Todd Neibauer, Vice President for Student Services and Technology, provided updates on spring semester 2022 enrollment since the written report was generated for the Board packet. There was a question related to the declining demographics of high school graduates in Michigan and across the United States.

Financial Report—Troy Kierczynski, Vice President of Finance and Administration, reviewed the financial report for the period ending November 30, 2021.

Fellows Nominating Committee—Committee Chair Kennard Weaver noted the recommended honorees for the 2022 Fellows of NMC are illustrative of the broad support of the college.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS--The following written reports were provided in the packet of materials: PRMC, Foundation Report, Executive Committee.

PUBLIC INPUT—There was no public input offered.

UPDATES

President’s Update—President Nick Nissley [6:07] shared updates regarding COVID-19 cases on campus and state legislative issues.

Board Chair Update—Chair Chris Bott wished everyone happy holidays and time to recharge and relax. Bott also noted upcoming meetings and work in the new year.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Strategic Planning Report—Stephen Siciliano, Vice President for Educational Services and Vicki Cook, Special Assistant to the President reviewed the request made by the Board at the November 22 meeting for the SPSC to consider adding definitions for “diversity” and “equity” to the “Inclusion” value in Policy C-102.00 Values. The Committee reviewed the statement and unanimously agreed that the current statement was appropriate and we recommended that the Board accept the statement as first submitted. The DEI Team will take the two working definitions as a starting point to consider this work. Cook reviewed the report included in the Board materials, highlighting Strategy 3: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Each objective has a lead assigned to it, action plans for implementation, which will be reviewed in depth at a Study Session on January 19, 2022. Vice President of Student Services and Technologies addressed questions as to how “vulnerable” students and “barriers” are defined. As trustees indicated questions pertaining to the objectives, Board Chair Chris Bott requested questions be sent to Lynne Moritz in advance of the January Study Session to allow time for Strategy Champions and Objective Leads to prepare and provide thorough responses at the Study Session.

All unanimous votes recorded below refer to those trustees physically present and those attending remotely due to medical condition. Trustee Ken Warner participated remotely due to travel, and therefore did not count toward the quorum nor did he have the authority to vote on consent or action items.

CONSENT ITEMS—On a motion by Kennard Weaver, seconded by Laura Oblinger, the minutes of the regular meeting held on November 22, 2021, were approved by a unanimous vote as a group without discussion.

ACTION ITEMS

Board Policies

Q.1. On a motion by Kennard Weaver, seconded by Doug Bishop, the Board unanimously adopted the following Board Policies on a second-reading basis:

- Policy C-100.00 Mission
- Policy C-101.00 Vision
- Policy C-102.00 Values, with exception of “Inclusion” Value
- Policy A-104.00 Board of Trustees Video Recording of Meetings
- Policy D-504.05 Dennis Museum Center Collections Management Policy

Q.2. Laura Oblinger motioned to approve the “Inclusion” value of Policy C-102.00 Values on a first-reading basis. Chris Bott seconded the motion and it passed with a majority vote, with Doug Bishop opposed. Bott explained the “Inclusion” value will go to second-reading in January 2022.

New Jobs Training Agreements—On a motion by Doug Bishop, seconded by Kennard Weaver, the Board unanimously authorized administration to enter into training agreements under the Michigan New Job Training Program (MNJTP) for the following companies:

1. Britten Inc (amendment to existing agreement)
2. Elmer’s Crane & Dozer (amendment to existing agreement)
3. Century Inc. (amendment to existing agreement)
4. Strata Design (amendment to existing agreement)
5. Iron Fish (new agreement)

Resolutions of Appreciation—On a motion by Kennard Weaver, seconded by Laura Oblinger, the Board unanimously adopted resolutions of appreciation for Vicki Cook and Marguerite Cotto in recognition of their significant contributions to Northwestern Michigan College. Chair Chris Bott read the formal resolution for Cook, followed by Oblinger reading for Cotto’s resolution.

Appointment of Fellows—Kennard Weaver made a motion, seconded by Laura Oblinger, the Board appointed K. Ross Childs and Ann Rogers as Fellows of Northwestern Michigan College with all honors and privileges pertaining thereto. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Great Lakes Culinary Institute Certificates—On a motion by Laura Oblinger, seconded by Kennard Weaver, the Board approved Culinary Arts Level I certificate and Pastry Level 2 certificate, both effective Fall 2022. 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 7:02 p.m.

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

SIGNED Chris M. Bott
Chris M. Bott, Chair

ATTESTED Kenneth E. Warner
Kenneth E. Warner, Secretary