

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
Monday, July 25, 2022
Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center, Room 106/107**

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, Douglas S. Bishop, Kenneth E. Warner, Andrew K. Robitshek

Trustees absent: None

Also present: President Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz, Jennifer Hricik, Jerry Dobek, Marcus Bennett, Jim Bensley, Jason Slade, Cathy Warner, Troy Kierczynski, Mark Liebling, Stephen Siciliano, Kyle Morrison, Eric Carlson, Alex Walsh, CJ Schneider

REVIEW OF AGENDA—The agenda was accepted as presented.

STRATEGIC FOCUS: Institutional Distinction and Sustainability—Jason Slade, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, and Troy Kierczynski, Vice President of Finance and Administration, presented on the college's distinctive programs that strengthen institutional sustainability and expand global connections for our learners and communities. Slade reviewed the diverse areas of the college that are addressed in this fifth strategy of the NMC Next strategic plan. There was a question pertaining to state funding that would accelerate the multi-phase Aviation expansion plan.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Program Focus: International Affairs Forum—Jim Bensley, Director of International Affairs Forum (IAF) and International Services & Service Learning, provided an overview of his multiple roles at NMC. Bensley focused on developments of the IAF since early 2020, including having virtual or hybrid programming and an increased on-line presence. IAF partnerships in the area include the National Writers Series and the Traverse City Film Festival. The 29th season of IAF begins in September 2022 and will include topics such as autocracy vs. democracy, immigration, India, press freedom and human rights, and Mideast peace. There was discussion regarding efforts to increase membership and expand the offerings to regions outside of the Grand Traverse area. Bensley highlighted key areas of the IAF's recently developed strategic plan.

Faculty Report: Be the Change You Want to See: Developing Critical Thinking & Problem Solving in Core Courses—Cathy Warner, Communications Instructor, described the change project she incorporates into her core English courses to build academic writing and research skills, as well as leadership development and critical thinking skills. The written elements of the change project include rhetorical analysis, research, narrative, argument, and proposals.

Building and Site Committee Report—Laura Oblinger, Committee Chair, discussed the request for proposals that has been issued for a market analysis and feasibility study on potential use for land the college owns on Eastern Avenue. The committee is working with college administration to review what facilities and land assets can be utilized to create a diverse revenue stream for NMC that is both ongoing and self-supporting. In response to a question regarding the origins of the idea,

Oblinger cited the objective to solve a problem in community, connect with strategic plan, and create new revenue streams for the college

PUBLIC INPUT—There was no public input offered.

UPDATES

President's Update—Addressing legislative developments, President Nick Nissley noted the state approved the FY23 budget, noting NMC received a 2.6% increase. Nissley highlighted there was specific language that this year the monies will be distributed utilizing the existing funding formula. However, the governor is asking MCCA, community colleges and the legislature come together to develop a new funding formula by December 15, 2022. While we are happy with the existing formula, Nissley is glad colleges are asked to be involved in the development of a new funding formula. There was no capital outlay or special funding included in the state budget, but we expect a supplemental funding bill this fall.

The “BSN compromise” was included in the State's budget and is intended to create seamless opportunities for nurses with associate degrees to complete their Bachelor of Science in nursing (BSN) on community college campuses. The program is designed so that community colleges will partner with a four-year college or university and develop a BSN completion program (with input from local employers and local workforce development agencies). Community colleges (NMC included) will be eligible for a \$2 million grant (one-time funding) for administering the program. MCCA is convening a meeting of northern Michigan colleges to discuss the details of how to apply and utilize the grant funding.

Nissley noted the Board will receive an update on collective bargaining agreements during the closed session later in the agenda. The following are among points of pride shared by Nissley: Jerry Dobek's coordination of two Webb Telescope events earlier this month; nursing program licensure exam pass rates; international aviation students from 15 countries are here this summer after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. Lastly, Nissley acknowledged Jennifer Hricik has begun her role as the Interim Executive Director of Resource Development and the NMC Foundation.

There was discussion regarding the parameters of the BSN compromise funding. It was stated that if the goal is to increase the number of BSN nurses in our community, it is hoped that the college and/or state will be able to track if the BSN compromise efforts achieve that goal.

Board Chair Update—Chair Rachel Johnson drew the Board's attention to the tuition restraint language included in the state budget. Johnson also thanked trustees in advance for their participation at the MCCA Summer Conference held later this week at the Grand Traverse Resort.

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

- Minutes of the June 27, 2022, regular meeting and closed session
- Enrollment Report—*Todd Neibauer, Vice President for Student Services and Technologies*
- Financial Report—*Troy Kierczynski, Vice President of Finance and Administration*
- PRMC Report—*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*

ACTION ITEMS

Board Policies—On a motion by Chris Bott, seconded by Doug Bishop, the Board approved the following policies on a second-reading basis. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Policy A-102.00 Governing Style

Policy A-102.01 Conflict of Interest

Policy A-105.00 Consent Agenda Items

Closed Session—Kennard Weaver made a motion, seconded by Doug Bishop, that the Board convene in closed session as permitted by Section 8(c) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268, to discuss strategy connected with the negotiation of collective bargaining agreements between the College and the Michigan Education Association. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Yes—Chris Bott, Laura Oblinger, Ken Warner, Andy Robitshek, Kennard Weaver, Rachel Johnson; No—none; and the Board went into closed session at 6:53 p.m.

Reconvene Regular Meeting—On a motion by Laura Oblinger, seconded by Ken Warner, the closed session was adjourned and the open session was reconvened at 7:28 p.m. with the following roll call vote: Yes—Kennard Weaver, Ken Warner, Doug Bishop, Andy Robitshek, Laura Oblinger, Chris Bott, Rachel Johnson; No—none.

Amended Agenda—Chris Bott made a motion, seconded by Laura or Doug, to amend the agenda to consider contracts with the faculty and faculty chair associations, pursuant to Policy A-106.00 Items for Special Board Approval (Human Resources). The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Faculty Association Collective Bargaining Agreement—On a motion by Chris Bott, seconded by Laura Oblinger, the Board authorized administration to enter into an agreement by and between the Northwestern Michigan College Faculty Association, MEA-NEA, and Northwestern Michigan College effective August 1, 2022, through July 31, 2025. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Faculty Chair Collective Bargaining Agreement—Ken Warner made a motion, seconded by Doug Bishop, to authorize administration to enter into an agreement by and between the Northwestern Michigan College Faculty Chair Association, MEA-NEA, and Northwestern Michigan College effective August 1, 2022, through July 31, 2025. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Rachel Johnson shared the following statement:

We are pleased that after a collaborative, solution-oriented, multiple month process, NMC has reached a new 36-month contract with the NMC Faculty Association. This contract replaces the contract that expires at the end of this month. The contract includes salary increases in year one that range from 5% to 8.7% depending on where the faculty member is in their tenure on the step process. Years two and three will provide faculty with salary increases ranging from 2% to 5.7%, again depending on where they are in the steps.

In addition, we collectively revised the faculty load provisions in order to increase the number of courses we are able to offer in multiple formats such as online, hybrid, and livestream, which is directly tied to our strategic priorities and the duration of our current

strategic plan. Faculty who prep courses in multiple formats during the next 3 years could see an increase in their overload pay ranging from 1-3.6% with this new provision.

Overall, this contract, combined with our generous benefits package, will enable us to attract and retain top tier talent and to deliver on our promise to our students.

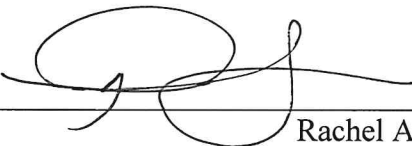
The world we operate in has changed considerably since we last negotiated a contract in 2019. This new agreement allows NMC to make the necessary investments in our people to deliver on our strategic initiatives for the benefit of our students, while also maintain good fiscal stewardship of the college for our community.


Thank you to everyone who worked to finalize this agreement.

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 7:33 p.m.

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

SIGNED  _____
Rachel A. Johnson, Chair

ATTESTED  _____
Andrew K. Robitshek, Secretary