

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
STUDY SESSION MINUTES
Wednesday, May 22, 2024
Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center
Room 14 (Lower Level)**

CALL TO ORDER—Chair Laura J. Oblinger called the regular meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Trustees absent: None

Also present: President Nick Nissley, Ryan Archer, Brandon List, Troy Kierczynski, Hollie DeWalt, Carly McCall, Marcus Bennett, Lynne Moritz, Jason Slade, Diana Fairbanks, Todd Neibauer, Molly Norville, Stephen Siciliano, Susan Olcott, Barbara Overdier, Beth Balentine

REVIEW OF AGENDA—The agenda was accepted as presented.

PUBLIC INPUT—There was no public input offered.

DISCUSSION

Campus Facilities Master Plan—Chair Laura Oblinger discussed the objectives and agenda of the study session before President Nissley provided additional context regarding the facilities master planning process. Nissley emphasized that the planning document is a courageous, visionary plan that upholds fiscal stewardship, revitalization and vibrancy, and looks to the future. The focus for trustee discussion will be on the budget and timeline of the proposed actions included in the plan.

Brandon List, Manager of Landscape Architecture + Planning at Tower Pinkster, and Ryan Archer, Senior Design Architect + Planner, reviewed the draft document. Appendices include the utilization study data, survey responses, etc. Archer focused on space migration opportunities for the Front Street Campus.

It was requested that a high level summary of space utilization data be included in the final document. In an effort to establish common and responsible space allocations across NMC workspace, general guidance for managing office space utilization has been established and is included in the plan. To align office space use and overall campus utilization, as individual projects are programmed and designed, office space will be upgraded on a project-by-project basis to these new standards. Regarding housing capacity and needs, there are three recommended projects: new apartments built upon the current apartment site, which would also densify residency at this portion of the campus; replacement of East Hall; and an additional residence hall. There was discussion regarding the capacity of proposed residence halls.

Regarding managing property assets, it was suggested the Policy Committee discuss the appropriate parameters for the process and procedure should it be decided that any properties be offered to sell. Policy A-106.00 Items for Specific Board Approval does state that real estate acquisition or disposition is a matter for the Board to consider.

Prioritization of ongoing projects such as Aviation, geothermal, student housing, and Eastern Avenue property development was discussed.

***BREAK**--Attendees took a break between topics and the meeting resumed at 3:00 p.m.*

DISCUSSION

Freshwater Research and Innovation Center (FRIC)--Vice President for Strategic Initiatives Jason Slade provided an update on project developments, recognizing that some trustees have been involved more closely than others. The purpose of the study session topic was to identify any questions or concerns before seeking Board approval at the June regular meeting for President Nissley to enter into the Articles of Incorporation. There is also a need to contribute funding to the project, which trustees expressed support for.


The vision of FRIC is more than just a facility, it is a unique partnership formed around the idea of co-locating higher education, research & development, and business incubation in the emerging field of freshwater and marine technology. The result of this collaboration is that NMC will be unlike any other community college in Michigan, leveraging its unique programs and place to be at the forefront of the new blue economy and regional economic growth.

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.

- Send full FRIC Articles of Incorporation and By-laws to full Board, seeking assurance from Miller Canfield regarding reserved powers

ADJOURNMENT—The meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

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

SIGNED  _____
 Laura J. Oblinger, Chair

ATTESTED  _____
 Chris M. Bott, Secretary