

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
STUDY SESSION MINUTES
Monday, March 10, 2025
Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center
Room 104/105**

CALL TO ORDER—Chair Laura J. Oblinger called the regular meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Trustees present: Laura J. Oblinger, Mark B. Keely, Kennard R. Weaver, Chris M. Bott,
Kenneth E. Warner, Pamela T. Horne

Trustees absent: Andrew K. Robitshek

Also present: President Nick Nissley, Troy Kierczynski, Todd Neibauer, Marcus Bennett,
Lynne Moritz, Jason Slade, Diana Fairbanks, Stephen Siciliano, Dino
Hernandez, Molly Norville, Noelle Wilde

REVIEW OF AGENDA—The agenda was accepted as presented.

PUBLIC INPUT—There was public input offered by Noelle Wilde.

DISCUSSION

Chair Oblinger reviewed the objectives of the meeting, reminding the group that the campus facilities master plan was approved in June 2024, and stating that seeking input on funding strategies for the next projects in the plan.

Funding Strategy for Campus Master Plan—President Nissley reviewed the projects agreed to in the campus master plan, which was approved by the Board of Trustees in June 2024. In reviewing progress to date, Nissley listed the purchase of the Front Street Flats, Aviation hangar expansion, and Freshwater Research & Innovation Center (FRIC) as examples of projects underway. Vice President of Finance and Administration Troy Kierczynski provided an update on the first five projects underway. There were questions regarding the total projected costs, to-date fundraising for the FRIC facility, and the potential for state and/or federal funding.


Board required reserves were discussed, with a need identified for a dedicated “new capital projects” fund. A plan to fund the geothermal energy and student services hub projects was discussed, with the Board suggesting that phases I and II of the geothermal project could occur simultaneously.. It was recommended to hire a legislative advocate to lobby for capital outlay or direct state funding.

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.

- Potential updates to policies addressing financial reserves
- Status of Fund for Transformation
- Scheduling next session to look at alternative financing options

ADJOURNMENT—The meeting adjourned at 4:39 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