

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES  
Monday, April 28, 2025  
Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center, Room 106/107**

**CALL TO ORDER**—Chair Laura J. Oblinger called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**Trustees absent:** None

**Also present:** President Nick Nissley, Molly Norville, Diana Fairbanks, Craig Hadley, Troy Kierczynski, Lindsey Lipke, Todd Neibauer, Stephen Siciliano, Dino Hernandez, Jason Slade, Marcus Bennett, Diane Wildfong, Caroline Schaefer-Hills, Jennifer Yapple, Ruby Bardenhagen, Kyle Morrison, Ken Peress, Lindsey Dickinson, Patrick Quinlan, Andrew Farron, Becca Richardson, Christa Abdul-Karim

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

**STRATEGIC FOCUS**

**Mission & Values**—Diane Wildfong presented her story on visiting Iceland with the Extended Education program.

**Strategic Initiatives Update: Student Success & Engagement**—Jason Slade, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, and Todd Neibauer, Vice President for Student Services and Technologies, provided an update on the second strategy in the current strategic plan focused on student engagement and success. There was discussion regarding the importance of community partnerships and dual enrollment.

**REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**Student Success & the Class of 2025**—Todd Neibauer, Vice President for Student Services and Technologies provided an update on student success and the graduating class of 2025.

**Faculty Report**—Caroline Schaefer-Hills, Humanities instructor, along with a student, shared final presentations from her visual communications studio class. Chair Oblinger emphasized experiential learning that is incorporated into the project, as students work with community organizations as their client.

**PUBLIC INPUT**—There was public input offered by Andrew Farron.

**UPDATES**

**President's Update**—President Nick Nissley thanked the trustees for their service to the college, noting the busy end of the semester. Nissley offered a special thank you to Chair Oblinger for participating in advocacy day at MCCA Capitol Day and her generosity with her time and commitment to leading the Board. Nissley also highlighted that summer enrollment is up 4.3% and the Foundation has already reached its fundraising goal. The Taste of Success fundraising event for the culinary program was held on April 25 and was very successful.

Recent Executive Orders are impacting grant funding negatively, while the “Restoring America’s Maritime Dominance” order and SHIPS Act may provide funding opportunities for GLMA and the Freshwater Research and Innovation Center. The renaming of the University Center Campus will be discussed by the Board’s Building & Site Committee as the university partners are relocating to the Front Street Campus this summer. Lastly, Nissley noted that 565 degrees will be awarded at Commencement this Saturday, which is 565 transformed lives.

**Board Chair Update**—Chair Laura Oblinger reflected on the year and the student focus that makes her work on the Board worthwhile. Oblinger thanked President Nissley for going the extra mile for students by connecting with them on a regular basis, as well as giving them his time at various student events.

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

Minutes of the March 17, 2025, Regular Meeting

Minutes of the April 23, 2025 Study 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 PRMC*

Foundation Report—*Dino Hernandez, Vice President, Advancement*

Audit Committee Report—*Kennard Weaver, Committee Chair*

Executive Committee Report—*Laura Oblinger, Committee Chair*

Building & Site Committee Report—*Kennard Weaver, Committee Chair*

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**Housing and Meal Plan Rates**—On a motion by Pamela Horne, seconded by Mark Keely, the Board approved Housing and Board Rates for the 2025-2026 fiscal year as presented. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**Contracted Security Services**—On a motion by Pamela Horne, seconded by Kennard Weaver, the Board authorized the administration to enter into a three-year contract with STT, Inc. for campus security services at all campuses for the three (3) years beginning August 1, 2025, at an estimated three year total cost of \$2,199,847 based on 26,700 annual staffing hours per year. It was noted that bringing security services in house will be considered for the future. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**Campaign Feasibility Study Contract**—On a motion by Andrew Robitshek, seconded by Mark Keely, the Board authorized the administration to enter into a contract with The Winkler Group for campaign feasibility study services beginning May 1, 2025, and completing in August 2025, for a total cost of \$60,000.00. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**Geothermal Project**- On a motion by Kennard Weaver, seconded by Chris Bott, the Board authorized administration to enter into a single prime contract with The Christman Company in the amount of \$1,240,540 for technical audit and design services for the proposed geothermal exchange system. The source of funding is a Department of Energy grant and Plant Fund Reserves.

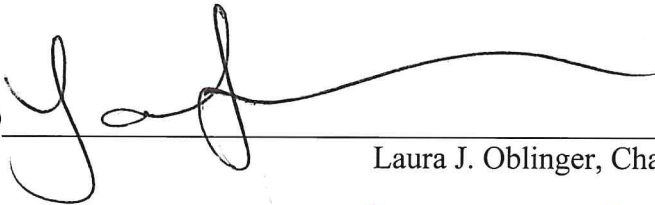
**MACC Project Experience Grant Application**—On a motion by Kennard Weaver, seconded by Mark Keely, the Board authorized the Dennon Museum Center at Northwestern Michigan College to apply for MACC grant funding up to the award ceiling of approximately \$45,000 in the project experience support category for FY26. The grant organization requires Board of Trustees approval to ensure continuity.

**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 6:54 p.m.

Recorded by Molly Norville, Office Manager, President's Office.

SIGNED



Laura J. Oblinger, Chair

ATTESTED



Chris M. Bott, Secretary