

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES  
Monday, March 18 2024  
NMC Hagerty Center, Room C**

The Board hosted Student Government Association (SGA) representatives in Room A of the Hagerty Center at 4:45 p.m. prior to the regular Board meeting.

**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, Andrew K. Robitshek (arrived at 5:48) , Chris M. Bott, Bill F. Marsh, Kennard R. Weaver

**Trustees absent:** Kenneth E. Warner

**Trustees participating remotely:** Douglas S. Bishop, from Bonita Springs, FL

**Also present:** President Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz, Diana Fairbanks, Troy Kierczynski, Hollie DeWalt, Molly Norville, Marcus Bennett, Lindsey Lipke, Kyle Morrison, Stephen Siciliano, Glenn Wolff, Kristy McDonald, Brandon Everest, Tracy Welch, Ali Thornton, Lisa Thomas, Laura Matchett, Sydney Richardson

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

**STRATEGIC FOCUS**

**Strategic Initiatives Update: Future Focused Education**—Jason Slade, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, and Todd Neibauer, Vice President for Student Services and Technologies, provided an update on the future-focused education strategy, which includes the Experiential Learning Institute.

**REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**Program Focus: Student Government Association**—SGA Members presented on the events and groups supported by Student Government Association (SGA) funding, such as the Welcome Week Glow Paddle and Propeller Club and Women on the Water groups. SGA members serve on shared governance councils of the college and, this year, each SGA officer has met with their counterpart at the collegiate level. Suggestion and comment boxes have seen increased utilization by students. In closing, SGA members shared aspects of NMC they hope to see continue going forward.

**Faculty Report: Experiential Learning Institute Update**—Kristy McDonald, Business Faculty, and Brandon Everest, Social Science Faculty, serve as Co-Directors of the Experiential Learning Institute. McDonald and Everest shared an update on Experiential Learning Opportunities (ELO). An ELO occurs completing the “full learning cycle” – which includes intentional design for experiencing, reflecting, thinking and acting. Strategy One, Objective Five of NMC Next aims for every credential-seeking student to engage in at least one ELO at NMC by September 2024. Curricular mapping identifies where experiential learning opportunities are occurring in existing courses and provides opportunities for students to engage in an ELO earlier in their academic career. McDonald and Everest also shared how they are working with faculty in various formats, such as “lunch and learn” and faculty-wide sessions to integrate ELOs more broadly across the college.

**FY25 Budget Process**—Troy Kierczynski, Vice President of Finance and Administration, summarized the current landscape for higher educational institutions before sharing the working budget for FY25. Budget projections for FY25 include assumptions of a 2% decline in contact hours, 2% increase in tuition and fees, as well as a 2% increase in state appropriations. Labor expenses account for 72% of expenses. Chair Oblinger previewed the next steps for the budgeting process before approval in June 2024.

**PUBLIC INPUT**—There was public input offered by Sydney Richardson.

## UPDATES

**President's Update**—President Nick Nissley shared that meetings regarding Benzie County annexation has shifted to discussing educational reinvestment of the millage funding. A Board of Trustees Study Session will occur on April 2 to review the work done to-date and consider next steps regarding annexation. Development of the Freshwater Research and Innovation Center (FRIC) is now focused on the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws. President Nissley shared the college's Public Relations, Marketing and Communications Departments recently received three awards from the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR).

**Board Chair Update**—Chair Laura Oblinger discussed the upcoming study sessions scheduled for the spring, including one focused on Benzie County annexation on April 2, 2024. A secondary study session is being planned for late May or early June to discuss the facilities master plan and Freshwater Research and Innovation Center.

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

- Minutes of the February 26, 2024, regular meeting
- Enrollment Report—*Todd Neibauer, Vice President for Student Services & Technologies*
- Financial Report—*Troy Kierczynski, Vice President of Finance and Administration*
- PRMC—*Diana Fairbanks, Assoc. V.P. of Public Relations, Marketing, & Communications*
- Foundation Report—*Carly McCall, Director of Alumni Engagement*
- Building and Site Committee—*Ken Warner, Committee Chair*
- Executive Committee—*Laura Oblinger, Chair*


## ACTION ITEMS

**New Jobs Training Program**—On a motion by Kennard Weaver, seconded by Bill Marsh, the Board authorized for administration to enter into agreements under the Michigan New Jobs Training Program (MNJTP) for the following CBS Solar, Shoreline Power Services, and RJG, Inc. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**REVIEW OF FOLLOW-UP REQUESTS**—Confirmed there no requests were 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 7:04 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