

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
Monday, May 20, 2024
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, Bill F. Marsh, 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, Diana Fairbanks, Troy Kierczynski, Lindsey Lipke, Kyle Morrison, Todd Neibauer, Stephen Siciliano, Jason Slade, Molly Norville, Alyssa Irani, Becca Richardson, Joelle Hannert, Dmitri Denune, Wayne Moody, Michael Lehnert, Alex Tank, Alex Bloye, Laura Matchett, Hollie DeWalt, Carly McCall, Susan Olcott, Kim Grabowski, Beth Balentine, and Kristin Rabe

REVIEW OF AGENDA—The agenda was accepted as presented.

STRATEGIC FOCUS

Mission & Values in Action—Dmitri Denune spoke about his experience as a student in the Automotive Technology program.

Program Focus: International Affairs Forum (IAF)—Alex Tank, IAF Communications & Production Coordinator, presented on the development of IAF over its 35 years. IAF’s mission is to advance the understanding of the world and its critical issues through education and public dialogue. Tank summarized the various events organized by IAF and noted Jack Segal and Karen Puschel Segal, who worked to expand its programming significantly, will be honored as NMC Fellows for 2024.

Strategy 3: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging—Jason Slade, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, and Dr. Marcus Bennett, Special Assistant to the President for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging shared an update on the third strategy of the strategic plan. This strategy is on track with 2 objectives completed, 2 objectives currently classified as “green”/ on-track, and 1 objective, related to student retention and enrollment, making moderate gains but still lagging. The HR training objective is drawing to a close with the last stage of implementation planned next year to align with our goal planning process. This will shift the focus for the coming year to the objectives centered around addressing barriers for our vulnerable students and NMC’s policies and procedures.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Faculty Report: Automotive Tech & Baja Competition—Wayne Moody, Program Coordinator for Automotive Technology, explained there are five different paths, or certificates, which students can pursue: Assoc. in Applied Tech Degree, Master Automotive Tech Certificate, Electrical and Drivability Certificate, Hybrid Technology Specialist Certificate, and Undercar Specialist Certificate. Moody explained many of the learning principles utilized in the program, as well as how

the course scheduling is designed to support students commuting from within the region. Moody also thanked the experienced instructors within the program. 47 students are currently in the program.

FY25 Budget—Troy Kierczynski, Vice President for Finance and Administration, reviewed budget considerations for the upcoming fiscal year. The FY25 budget will be presented for approval by the Board of Trustees at the regular meeting on June 24, 2024.

PUBLIC INPUT—There was public input offered by Joelle Hannert, Susan Olcott, Kim Grabowski, Beth Balentine, and Kristin Rabe.

UPDATES

President's Update—President Nick Nissley shared that the spring semester Police Academy students successfully completed all of their requirements, passed the final Licensing Exam today, and have 100% job placement. Nissley also provided updates on the Chief Advancement Officer search, Freshwater Research and Innovation Center (FRIC), AquaHacking Challenge, and Benzie annexation. Points of pride included that over 200 of our spring graduates celebrated at Commencement on May 4 at the Milliken Auditorium and Dennon Museum Center. For this academic year, 645 degrees or certificates are anticipated. Lastly, Nissley shared a thank you note written by 5th graders from Blair Elementary.

Board Chair Update—Chair Laura Oblinger reminded trustees of the upcoming Study Session pertaining to the facilities plan and FRIC before having Trustee Warner share his experience attending the AquaHacking Challenge.

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

- Minutes of the April 22, 2024, regular meeting
- Enrollment Report—*Todd Neibauer, Vice President for Student Services and Technologies*
- Financial Report—*Troy Kierczynski, Vice President of Finance and Administration*
- PRMC—*Diana Fairbanks, Associate Vice President of PRMC*
- Foundation Report—*Carly McCall, Director of Alumni Engagement*
- Audit Committee—*Kennard Weaver, Committee Chair*
- Building and Site Committee—*Ken Warner, Committee Chair*
- Executive Committee—*Laura Oblinger, Committee Chair*

ACTION ITEMS

Notice of Truth-in-Taxation Hearing—On a motion by Chris Bott, seconded by Doug Bishop, the Truth-in-Taxation Resolution was adopted unanimously as presented.

Digital LED Signage—Doug Bishop made a motion, seconded by Bill Marsh, administration was authorized to enter into a contract with Midwest Sign Company for the replacement of the Digital

LED signage at the Dennon Museum, Great Lakes Campus, and University Center Campus at the cost of \$83,820 funded by the Plant Fund reserves. The motion passed unanimously.

Housing Rates—On a motion by Ken Warner, seconded by Doug Bishop, Housing and Board Rates for the 2024-2025 fiscal year were adopted unanimously as presented.

Scholars Hall VAV Upgrade—Doug Bishop made a motion, seconded by Bill Marsh, administration was authorized to enter into a contract with Temperature Control, Inc. for \$43,750 to complete temperature control work in Scholars Hall. The motion passed unanimously.

Byrum Fisk—Kennard Weaver made a motion, seconded by Chris Bott, to recommend authorization for administration to enter into a contract with Byrum Fisk Advocacy Communications to provide educational communications services for an amount not to exceed \$60,500. The source of funds will be the Strategic Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

Extended Detection and Response IT Security Platform—On a motion by Doug Bishop, seconded by Ken Warner, it was recommended to authorize the administration to enter into a contract with Frontier Computer for the purchase of an Extended Detection and Response IT Security platform in the amount of \$50,688. This expense will be funded by the general fund. The motion passed unanimously.

Audio Tech and Visual Communications Computer Replacement—On a motion by Kennard Weaver, seconded by Chris Bott, it was recommended to authorize the administration to purchase replacement computers for the Audio Technology and Visual Communications (VCA) computer lab and faculty in the amount of \$37,791.00 from CDW. The motion passed unanimously.

Aircraft Purchase—Doug Bishop made a motion, seconded by Kennard Weaver, recommending authorization for the administration to enter into an aircraft purchase agreement with Piper Aircraft, Inc. for the purchase of a new 2025/26 Piper Seminole at an amount up to \$1,100,000 for delivery between Q4 2025 – Q1 2026. There was discussion regarding pricing demands. The motion passed unanimously.


Apartment Renovations—On a motion by Ken Warner, seconded by Chris Bott, recommend authorization for the administration to spend an aggregate amount not-to-exceed \$317,500 to perform interior upgrades/renovations for all unrenovated and any partially renovated units on the Front St. Flats property. In response to questions, Troy Kierczynski explained that security updates are within another project scope and how the project estimate was determined. The motion passed unanimously.

Tribal Council 2% Funds Application—Bill Marsh made a motion, seconded by Ken Warner, recommending authorization for administration to submit application for the 2% grant from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians video gaming revenue as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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 7:39 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