
DCC Board of Trustees

Special Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: August 4, 2025

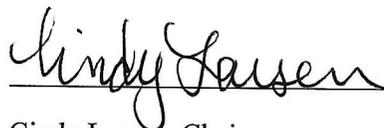
Meeting Location: DCC Board Room

Approval: FINAL

Recorded By: BreAnn Miller

Attendance for the August 4, 2025, Special Board of Trustee Meeting

Name	Title/Organization	Present
Cindy Larsen	Chair	Yes
Sarah Thorson	Vice Chair	Yes
Gloria Garceau-Glaser	Trustee	No
Brendan Heidner	Trustee	Yes
Jordan Ulrich	Trustee - Elect	Yes
Sandy Johnson	Trustee	Yes
Lesley Gibbs	Trustee	Yes
Chad Knudson	President of DCC	Yes
BreAnn Miller	Interim Dean of Academic Affairs /DCC ALO	No
Becky Smith	Dean of Finance	No
Dennis Harp	Dawson College Foundation	Yes
Joe Peterson	Athletic Director	Yes
Community Members		
Will Conley	Glendive Ranger-Review	Yes



 Cindy Larsen, Chair



 Sarah Thorson, Vice Chair

BOT Special Board Meeting

Meeting called to order by Chair Larsen at 5:30 pm.

Introductions were made around the room.

Fiscal Year Budget Overview

Dean Becky Smith presented the final draft of the FY 2026 budget, highlighting adjustments made since the last board meeting. Key points included a higher liability insurance quote from Hub, increased business department expenses – which include a wide-variety of big-ticket items – and a focus on cutting budgets where possible. The presentation detailed various revenue sources, including state appropriations, local support, institutional funds, and transfers from the Program Development Fund and oil and gas.

Smith briefly highlighted the breakout of revenue by source and explained the various mill levies, including the local appropriations, mandatory mill, retirement mill, permissive mill, and optional mill levies. She noted that the Toepke Center debt has been paid off, so there is no longer a debt service mill levy. Smith also touched on tuition revenue, explaining that it can vary due to factors like out-of-state versus in-state students, and she provided a best guess for a 10% increase.

On the expense side, the largest expense is salary and benefits, coming in at over \$4 million. Smith also noted that DCC needs to return \$709,906 in appropriations by October 15 due to enrollment shortfalls in AY23-24 and AY24-25.

Smith also reviewed academic, student success, and athletics budgets, and outlined institutional aid, including waivers and tuition benefits for employees and dependents. Trustees asked a variety of questions about expenses. The presentation ended with an emphasis on the need to manage the budget effectively given the constraints created by the large reversion.

President Knudson noted the budget process was thorough and detailed, mentioning that he and Smith had reviewed the budget line by line and item by item, comparing last year's actuals with current assumptions and expenses.

Trustee Brendan Heidner moved and Trustee Sarah Thorson seconded a motion to approve the budget. Chairwoman Cindy Larsen emphasized the importance of growing enrollment for sustainability, as the budget has been trimmed to its bare minimum. With no further discussion, it was approved unanimously.

Public comment was called, and there was none.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:05 pm