

The 281st meeting of the Board of Trustees
Mount Wachusett Community College
Wednesday, May 14, 2025
North Cafe
Meeting Minutes

A. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairperson Freda called the meeting to order at 3:33 PM.

B. **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Claire Freda, Irene Hernandez, Rick Walton, Lawrence NFOR, Doug Petersen (arrived 3:47 PM), Patti Bergstrom, Denise Gosselin, Oren Cohen, Sharmese Gunn, and Beckett Caisse

Unable to attend: Tricia Pistone

Also, present from the College: President Vander Hooven, many members of the Leadership Team, and Executive Assistant Laurie Snoonian

Many others joined via live stream on Vimeo.

C. **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS OF THE DAY**

a. **AD 1334 – Approval to Confer Degrees** – Chairperson Freda asked for a motion to approve the conferring of degrees. Ms. Hernandez made a motion to approve and seconded by Mr. Cohen. All approved. Motion carried.

D. **NEW BUSINESS -**

a. Jim thanked Oren for being so helpful and for working closely with him over the past year. He acknowledged that it's a significant time commitment—not just for meetings, but also for supporting the entire student body especially when balanced with other life responsibilities. Jim invited our new student trustee to say a few words. Beckett began her journey at MWCC in the fall of 2022 as a Gateway student. She is actively involved in the community and has a strong passion for working with fellow students. Beckett is majoring in Professional Writing and is also pursuing a certificate in Human Services.

b. Jim wanted to let the board know that he will not be able to stay for the reception after commencement, as he has an evening flight to Washington DC. He will be meeting with legislators on Thursday to discuss the proposed cuts to TRIO, GEAR UP and CCAMPIS programs.

E. **ADJOURNMENT** – Chair Freda asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. NFOR and seconded by Mr. Cohen. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 3:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Snoonian