

Allegany College of Maryland
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
May 11, 2026

Thomas Welcome Center
Iris Eustace Halmos Community Room

The Allegany College of Maryland Board of Trustees met on Monday, May 11, 2026, at 4:05 p.m. in the Thomas Welcome Center, Iris Eustace Halmos Community Room. Board members in attendance included: Ms. Jane Belt, Mr. Eugene Frazier, Mr. James Pyles, Ms. Linda Buckel, Ms. Michele Martz, Ms. Mirjhana Buck, and Mr. David Jones (President and Secretary/Treasurer).

Others in attendance included:

Elaine Bridges	Beth Little	Christina Kilduff
Melinda Duckworth	John Bone	Jami Reynolds
Miha Wood	Shannon Redman	Renee Conner
Kurt Hoffman	Scott Harrah	Courtney McKay
Dione Clark-Trub	Heather Kephart	Lori Spence

PUBLIC SESSION

Adopt the April 13, 2026, Minutes

Ms. Belt called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. in the Halmos Community Room. On a motion from Ms. Martz, seconded by Ms. Buck, the minutes were approved as presented.

Chair's Update

Ms. Belt welcomed those in attendance and encouraged the campus community to continue taking care of themselves and to put forth the extra effort during the remaining days of the spring semester. She provided updates on the upcoming commencement ceremonies and pinning events and confirmed Board members attendance at those events. Ms. Belt concluded her remarks by reviewing the calendar, highlighting college events scheduled throughout June.

President's Update

Mr. Jones provided a five-page College update, that included highlights and information on the following topics:

- Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Omicron Pi New Member Induction Ceremony
- Students recognized at the PTK All-Maryland Team Recognition Dinner
- Congratulations to the Chefs of Steel team for their support of the Western Maryland Food Bank
- Counselor Appreciation Luncheon 2026
- Humanities Grant: Transforming Community College Education through the Humanities
- Congratulations to the Medical Administrative Assistant Cohort

- Congressionally Directed Spending request from Congresswoman Delaney to support the ACM Safe and Accessible Sidewalk Project
- AlleganyGives donor campaign
- ACM Marketing & Public Relations Team EduAD Awards
- ACC/ACM Baseball Alumni Reunion
- Message from ACM Compliance Team
- Maryland State budget and legislative updates
- ACM communication initiatives
- Reader commentary on Building the Digital Divide and ACM's role in modernizing rural education

Mr. Jones reviewed each item and responded to questions from Board members regarding the College's ongoing initiatives, achievements, and legislative developments.

Board Reflections

Mr. Pyles shared that he attended the recent BCREf Changing Lives Through Scholarships Dinner Fundraiser. He noted that he was seated with one of the first students to graduate from the Bedford County campus and reflected on the strong community support for ACM and the important educational services the College provides throughout the region.

Approval of Graduates (Action Item)

Ms. Nightengale requested approval of 391 students achieving 500 degrees and certificates. She noted that the final review and verification is being conducted by the Admissions and Registration office. On a motion from Mr. Pyles, seconded by Ms. Buck, the Trustees approved the graduates as presented.

Board Education

Mr. Harrah provided an overview of the anticipated accreditation standards from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. He explained that the Fifteenth Edition of the standards is expected to be approved later this summer. Mr. Harrah further explained several of the changes expected for each chapter, including a more checklist-based approach. The College is scheduled to undergo accreditation in 2030-2031.

Gateway Center Elevator Modernization (Action Item)

Ms. Kilduff presented a request to modernize the aging elevator in the Gateway Center building. She recommended approval of Right Elevators as the contractor for the project, at a cost of \$84,750, with additional project expenses estimated at approximately \$20,000. On a motion from Mr. Frazier, seconded by Ms. Martz, the Trustees approved the request.

Tuition Waiver for ACM Credit Courses (Action Item)

Ms. Duckworth presented a proposed revision to Policy 03.05.008 that removes the requirement that employee coursework be job-related to qualify for a tuition waiver. Under the revised policy, eligible employees may use the tuition waiver benefit for most ACM credit courses regardless of whether the coursework is directly related to their current position. In addition, the revised policy clarifies presidential authority by stating that tuition waivers for selective

admissions programs are approved or denied at the sole discretion of the College President. On a motion from Mr. Pyles, seconded by Ms. Buck, the Trustees approved the policy change.

Fund Balance Re-Designation Request: Computer Replacements to Website Implementation & Training (Action Item)

Ms. Kilduff reviewed the fund balance process and reminded the Board of their prior approval of the website implementation and training project through Hannon Hill. She recommended redesignating \$137,250 from fund balance previously designated for student classroom and computer lab replacements to support the project, including a one-year website subscription, implementation fees, and training. On a motion from Ms. Martz, seconded by Ms. Buck, the Trustees approved the re-designation request.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion from Mr. Frazier, seconded by Mr. Pyles, the Board of Trustees convened to Executive Session at 4:52 p.m. The Board of Trustees will convene to Executive Session to discuss personnel items [Article § 3-305(b) (1)] covered under the Maryland Open Meetings Act. If necessary, action may be taken in the Public Session as a result of items discussed in the Executive Session.

Personnel Recommendations

Dr. Hoffman recommended the appointment of Daniele Sincell to the full-time Advanced Manufacturing Program Manager position.

Federal Mandates Compliance (Information Item)

Dr. Conner provided an update on the College's process for tracking and managing executive orders and other federal directives. She reviewed ongoing matters, highlighted significant federal actions, summarized significant ACM actions since the previous Board meeting, and outlined expectations moving forward. Dr. Conner noted that the College's leadership team continues to monitor the evolving legal landscape and collaborates closely with legal counsel and regulatory agencies to ensure compliance while fulfilling ACM's mission of educating and serving students. The Board expressed its continued support for this approach and reaffirmed its commitment to compliance with federal directives.

FY26 Budget Update and FY27 Budget Overview

Ms. Kilduff provided an informational update on the FY26 budget and an overview of the proposed FY27 budget, including key assumptions used in budget development, as well as identified risks and considerations.

She reported that the FY27 budget supports ACM's mission to deliver accessible, high-quality education while preserving long-term financial stability. This balanced budget reflects stable enrollment assumptions, projected state funding increases, level funding from Allegany County, and targeted investments in the ACM Strategic Plan priorities of Access, Retention, and Workforce Development. It positions the College to meet current operational needs while advancing key strategic priorities.

Health Insurance Update

Ms. Duckworth provided a detailed overview of FY27 benefit changes.

At 5:23 p.m., on a motion from Ms. Buck, seconded by Mr. Pyles, the Board of Trustees moved out of Executive Session and back into Public Session.

On a motion from Mr. Pyles, seconded by Ms. Buckel, the Trustees approved the personnel recommendation.

With no further business to discuss, on a motion from Mr. Pyles, seconded by Ms. Buck, the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane A. Belt
Chair, Board of Trustees

David R. Jones
Secretary/Treasurer