

**Minutes of
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS
Montana State University-Billings
Lewis and Clark Room, Student Union Building
Wednesday, September 19, 2007
12:30 – 4:00 PM**

Regent Lynn Hamilton, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:37 p.m.

a. Roll Call.

All committee members were present: Chair Lynn Morrison-Hamilton, Dr. Janine Pease, Todd Buchanan, and Kerra Melvin.

b. Approval of the minutes from the May, 2007, meeting of the Committee.

The minutes were approved, as written.

1. Action Items

a. ITEM 136-103-R0907: Exception to Policy 301.12, Aviation Technology, UM-Helena College of Technology.

Deputy Commissioner Roger Barber stated that this exception request is to satisfy Federal Aviation Administration requirements, and has gone through the Two-Year Education Council prior to coming to committee. There was a consensus to move it forward for BOR approval.

b. ITEM 136-104-R0907: Compliance report on Policy 301.12, Undergraduate Degree requirements.

Deputy Commissioner Barber introduced this as a report to the BOR of institutions with programs still out of compliance with Policy 301.12. He recommends giving campuses until March 2008 to act, then, if they do not, automatically putting out-of-compliance programs into moratorium status until the program does come into compliance. He said that some campuses are well along and by March will be in good shape. He lauded Dean Jane Baker's work; she brought all but one of Montana Tech of The University of Montana College of Technology's programs to compliance in one year. Dean Baker, Montana Tech of The University of Montana College of Technology, reported that general education courses were the usual problem, that the program must go through a curriculum review process, and that it is not as difficult as it sounds, though longer programs may take more time. There was consensus to move the report and recommendation forward to the BOR.

c. ITEM 136-106-R0907: Recommendation on College Preparatory Program exemptions.

Deputy Commissioner Barber introduced this report, given to the BOR for the last 20 years, which has, in the last three years, included the 2004-2005 cohort group. Last year the BOR asked for a recommendation. Deputy Commissioner Barber said the data supports the value of the college prep program; and the OCHE recommendation is that the 5% exemption pool be eliminated as of Fall 2010. For the 4-year campuses, students would need a high school college prep program. The 15% Exemption, under the university system general admission policies, could still be used to admit students who have not completed college preparatory curriculum in high school. The recommendation generated a considerable amount of discussion about anticipated student response, high school preparation, and communication with the Office of Public Instruction. The report and recommendation will be presented to the full board by a vote of three in agreement and one opposed (to the recommendation.)

2. Level II Items

- d. **ITEM 136-2701-R0707: Minor in Health Communication, MSU-Billings.**
Dr. George White, Interim Provost & Academic Vice Chancellor, Montana State University-Billings, responded that every program must justify enrollment and graduation rates to BOR. This program addresses a workforce need. Regent Buchanan raised the issue that the MUS may be offering too much. He said, "I don't think we'll be the best at anything if we offer everything." Consensus to move forward to full board.
- e. **ITEM 136-2851-R0707: Certificates of Applied Science in Network Infrastructure and EMT – Intermediate 99, MSU-Great Falls College of Technology.**
Deputy Commissioner Barber said these programs are already in place; they are going through the process of changing from Certificate to Certificate of Applied Science. Consensus to move forward for approval of full board.
- f. **ITEM 136-1002-R0707: Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training, UM-Missoula.**
Dr. Royce Engstrom, Provost & Vice President, Academic Affairs, The University of Montana-Missoula, said that the accrediting agency for this major changed its rules so The University of Montana's Option is to be moved to Major status. This is the only accredited athletic training program in Montana and could be an option to regional students whose current programs in other states did not make the transition under the new accrediting guidelines. Process is underway to address the credit limit (one credit over). The 120 credits will include both pre-program and program requirements. Consensus to move to BOR.
- g. **ITEM 136-1003-R0707: Department of Educational Leadership and Department of Counselor Education, UM-Missoula.**
Deputy Commissioner Barber said this is an organizational change coming to BOR for approval. Consensus to move forward to BOR.
- h. **ITEM 136-1004-R0707: Montana Center for Work Physiology and Exercise Metabolism, UM-Missoula.**
Regent Melvin requested more information about this. Provost Engstrom replied there is defense department funding to address the needs of workers, such as firefighters and the military, in high stress conditions. The faculty and labs are already in place. The federal grant is dependent on first round results and it is expected to be sustained. Consensus to move forward to BOR.
- i. **ITEM 136-1503-R0707: The College of Letters, Sciences and Professional Studies, Montana Tech of UM-Missoula.**
This organization item received consensus to move forward to the full board after a brief discussion of the title.
- i. **ITEM 136-1901-R070: Certificates of Applied Science in Bookkeeping, Small Business Entrepreneurship Technology, Computer Assistant, Carpentry, Machine Tool Technology, Welding Technology, and Office Assistant, UM-Helena College of Technology.**
Deputy Commissioner Barber said these are all current Certificates moving to Certificate of Applied Science status. Consensus to move forward to the full board.
- k. **ITEM 136-301-R0707: Associate of Applied Science degree in Electrical Technology, Flathead Valley Community College.**
Deputy Commissioner Barber expressed concerns about this proposal centered around duplication of MUS institution programs. Kathy Hughes, Vice-President of Instruction, Flathead Valley Community College, replied that the program was in response to the Regents' Strategic Plan as well as to regional needs. She introduced Bill Roope, Director, Northwest Montana Regional Tech-Prep Consortium, who spoke to involving local business, secondary and post-secondary people and others in

developing a seamless education program. He said 53 Flathead Valley Community College students wanted to register for this program. He introduced three master electricians to speak further to the apprenticeship aspects of the program and to the need for more workers in this field: Dick Frisk, President/CEO of Frisk Electricians, Kalispell; Mark Bobb, Master Electrician, IBEW; and Bill Squires, formerly of Plum Creek, and now consulting. Mark Mackey, State of Montana Director of Apprenticeship & Training, also spoke, expressing agreement with Deputy Commissioner Barber on the issue of duplication, and also the desire to have the Kalispell program approved. He said of the 479 registered electricians in Montana today, 100 are in the Kalispell area which has a definite micro-economy demand for electricians. Vice-President Hughes addressed cost issues, noting that local taxpayers paid for the facility and have provided active support (business and industrial) for the foundation. Regent Pease suggested that perhaps the duplication concern is not in response to current needs and conditions. Deputy Commissioner Barber reminded the committee that the BOR is the gatekeeper for academic programs at community colleges and that at some point the duplication issue must be addressed. Regent Melvin said she thought the full board needed to hear this discussion. Chair Hamilton asked Vice President Hughes if the program could be funded without state support, or with super tuition. Super tuition would be a hardship for students with families, and Vice President Hughes would need to look at the budget again to determine the answer to the general funds question. Chair Hamilton said she would recommend approval of the program but will individually oppose it on concerns that it may lead to an oversupply. The discussion will move to the full board.

3. **INFORMATION**

a. **Update on student loan issues – Commissioner Stearns and OCHE staff**

Cathy Swift, OCHE Attorney, said that in June the Montana Attorney General sent out questions to campuses about practices regarding student loans. Pam Bucy, Deputy Attorney General, is expected to be at the BOR meeting September 20th to present conclusions and recommendations. No egregious or illegal activity has been found in Montana. Bruce Marks, Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program Director, announced that HR 2669 passed the United States Senate and House and is awaiting the President's signature. He said the good news is that there will be more Pell Grants and lower student interest rates. The bad news is that funding for guarantee agencies is dropping significantly and it will be tough to make ends meet. The current default rate is 2.8% in Montana, but it will be a challenge to keep it low with fewer resources. In response to Regent Buchanan's query of what kinds of changes we will see, Director Marks replied that it will involve a million dollar reduction in revenue for guarantee agencies, which will be significant for students.

b. **Preview of admissions/placement/remediation policies – Jan Clinard, OCHE**

Jan Clinard, Director of Academic Initiatives, announced that Miranda Qualls of Chinook had won a Student Assistance-funded \$500 scholarship for her essay for web writers. Director Clinard outlined three policies: writing placement; math proficiency, and remediation. She said the writing policy is really a consistent mechanism for placement purposes, and the 2 year campuses wanted to be included in this policy. The math policy is to update the 2003 version and set the more realistic target of a 21 ACT math score, rather than the too-low 18. Students with a score below 21 would be accepted provisionally and need to address the deficiency within 3 semesters or 32 credits. The remediation policy addresses the approximately one third of students directly out of Montana high schools who need remedial work in math, composition, or both prior to full acceptance to do college-level math and writing course work. She emphasized that all remedial courses should be numbered with a zero for

transparency. Students think that if they take a course beginning with “1” that it is college-level. She advocated moving remedial courses to the 2 year campuses. Sharon Carroll, Member of the Montana Board of Public Education, said that the first time the Board of Public Education saw these policies was last week, and that because of AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress,) most of the high school resources go to grades 9-10. Director Clinard replied that there are K-12 people on the committees contributing to these policies. Director Clinard said that when you have an 18 as an acceptable math score, the pressure is to tell the truth instead of letting students think that 18 is good enough. In response to K-12’s dual emphasis on work force readiness and college preparation, she said that “word force ready” and “college ready” are the same thing. Regent Pease said that there is a need to communicate formally with the K-12 people about college preparation. Jan Lombardi asked about a communications strategy to tell students what they need to hear. She said there has been no higher education representative at the public education meetings. She said the governor is looking to build bridges. Chair Hamilton said that people with suggestions or concerns should contact Director Clinard about the policy proposals.

c. Teacher education accreditation – MSU-Provost Dooley

Provost Dooley announced Montana State University’s recently-made decision to move from accreditation through NCATE (National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education) to TEAC (Teacher Education Accrediting Council). These are the two organizations that review teacher education programs. This does not replace review by the State of Montana. He expects the TEAC review spring, 2009, following the State of Montana review fall, 2008. He said TEAC represents a better fit for MSU than does NCATE. Eric Burke, MEA/MFT Public Policy Director, said that his organization considers this decision a big step backwards, and that as of last night the state Board of Public Education was not aware that this is happening. It is expected to have implications for the terms of definition for “highly qualified” teachers. He said TEAC was created by the Council for Independent Schools and is recognized by the Department of Education. He said his organization believes that NCATE upholds the highest standards. Chair Hamilton asked how many of the Montana teacher education programs are NCATE-approved. All five MUS programs are. She asked Provost Dooley how many in the national sector have moved from NCATE to TEAC? Provost Dooley said he did not have the list with him but that a number of very reputable schools have. He said that critical external peer review is a standard MSU feels will facilitate high quality outcomes. Chair Hamilton directed anyone wanting more information or having comments to speak with Deputy Commissioner Barber.

d. Indian Education for All: MSU-Bozeman’s recent grant – MSU-Provost Dooley

Provost Dooley spoke of two multi-million dollar grants addressing leadership in American Indian educators in Montana districts with high populations of American Indians. The cost of the education is waived for those accepting employment in high population American Indian areas; otherwise students pay for the course work. The motivation for the grants came from a meta-analysis of research supporting the idea that the quality of leadership is significant in impacting outcomes in schools.

e. Distance education initiatives from the OCHE/campus match program –

Tom Gibson, OCHE

(Postponed due to time constraints)

f. Update on nursing programs

1) Recent decisions by the State Board of Nursing.

2) Report on PN Nursing at Flathead Valley Community College.

1) Deputy Commissioner Barber said there have been two recent decisions regarding programs. The State Board of Nursing gave approval (with monitoring

provisions) to The University of Montana-Missoula College of Technology RN program. Based on State Board concerns, The University of Montana-Helena College of Technology decided to delay its RN program for one year. In both cases, the nursing board was concerned about the number and qualifications of nursing faculty, and the absence of a qualified nursing director. There is some concern about whether the State Board of Nursing has problems with the model curriculum even though they have approved Montana Tech's PN/RN programs, Great Falls' PN program, and Flathead Valley Community College's program, which are all based on that model curriculum. Montana State University-Billings is concerned about whether the Montana University System is going in the right direction with this model. (Billings has its program up for approval in November.) The PN Nursing at Flathead Valley Community College includes three courses that do not conform to the model nursing curriculum. When the Regents approved the program in January 2007, it asked Flathead Valley to return to the September 2007 Board meeting with changes. The changes were not made by the September 2007 deadline, however. Vice President Hughes said that they graduated their first group in August, and they had changed to an Associate's degree so they have 53 credits instead of 60. She said it is an academic decision that the faculty makes and is not an easy thing to change. The three courses in question are nutrition, college algebra, and intro to psychology. Chair Hamilton said that VP Hughes needs to figure out another way to address the issue (rather than discuss it here with psychology instructor) because it was agreed that this would be the deal going into the program. Deputy Commissioner Barber said that the model curriculum was to address exactly all these issues and he is concerned about being asked for one exception after another. Chair Hamilton asked VP Hughes to continue to work with Deputy Commissioner Barber to correct the problems.

4. CONSENT

Level I memorandum

No concerns were expressed about the memorandum. Motion carried to accept it.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cecelia Lescher, a student of Montana State University-Billings requested that the BOR support a major in Native American Studies at MSUB. She said Billings is within 3 hours of five of the Federally-recognized tribes and it is a convenient location for them to attend events. She said if the school is to recruit and retain Native American students, the Board should use its influence with OPI to recognize Native American Studies as a (teaching) minor, especially when it is the law of our state to have Native American Studies in the schools. She said a lot of students would like to see this at the bachelor level.

4:22 PM ADJOURN