



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education

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MINUTES
Montana Board of Regents Meeting

Thursday, January 10, 2008

Friday, January 11, 2008

Thursday, January 10

The meeting convened at 2:00 p.m.

Roll Call indicated a quorum present.

Regents Present: Lynn Hamilton Chair, Steve Barrett vice chair, Todd Buchanan, Clayton Christian, Kerra Melvin, Janine Pease, and Lila Taylor. Also present Commissioner Stearns *ex officio*.
Jan Lombardi education policy advisor present for Governor Schweitzer.

Members Absent: Brian Schweitzer *ex officio*, and Linda McCulloch *ex officio* both excused.

Motion by Regent Pease to approve minutes of November 2007 meeting approved unanimously.

ACTION

The staff appeal was moved to Executive Session.

CONSENT

ADMINISTRATIVE / BUDGET ITEMS

- a. Revise Policy 803.2, Optional Retirement Program. ITEM 138-101-R0108
- b. Grant Access Easement to Barnard Land and Livestock, LP on the Ft. Ellis Research Center; Montana Agricultural Experiment Station, Montana State University. ITEM 138-2003-R0108
Regent Barrett recused himself from voting on Item b.
- c. Approve Montana Rural Physician Incentive Program Applicants. ITEM 138-104-R0108

STAFF AND COMPENSATION

Staff Items

- a. UM-Missoula – Regents' Professor – Steve Running. ITEM 138-1000-R0108
- b. UM-Western. ITEM 138-1600-R0108
- c. MSU-Bozeman. ITEM 138-2000-R0108
- d. Professor Emeritus of Statistics: Kenneth J. Tiaht; MSU-Bozeman. ITEM 138-2001-R0108
- e. Professor Emeritus of Microbiology: Jim Cutler; MSU-Bozeman. ITEM 138-2002-R0108
- f. Professor Emeritus of Business: Roger Barber; MSU-Northern. ITEM 138-2801-R0108
- g. Associate Professor Emeritus of Computer Information System: Roger Stone; MSU-Northern. ITEM 138-2802-R0108

Labor Agreements/Other

- a. MSU-Northern Faculty. ITEM 138-102-R0108
- b. UM-Missoula College of Technology Faculty. ITEM 138-103-R0108

Motion by Regent Christian to approve all Consent items passed unanimously with Regent Barrett recused on Item b. of Administrative/Budget Items.

Budget Director Ewer addressed the Board on upcoming budget plans and commented on the variety of things state government does. He remarked on the historic relationship developed between the Board of Regents and the Governor's office to address affordability for Montana students, and to hammer out a budget to enable it. Affordability and access remain a challenge. Director Ewer indicated the revenues for the next biennium will probably remain strong but not as robust as what they experienced following the last biennium.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PLANNING and DISCUSSION

a. Enrollment Projections and Strategies

Associate Commissioner Trevor gave a presentation on enrollment trends in the Montana University System covering the past ten years and into the next ten years. The greatest part of enrollment throughout the state is made up of traditional, college age resident students. The two-year sector has grown faster than the rest of the system. A 7% to 10% decline in FTE over next ten years is anticipated due to loss of high schools graduates. Montana potentially will return to enrollment levels of 1996, based only on the drop in high school graduate numbers. Population in Montana will rise in the 50+ sector, but decline in the school age sector. The average age in Montana will rise to 39 over the next ten years. Strategies: Increase non-resident enrollment, dual enrollment, increase non-traditional enrollment - lowest in nation, grow graduate enrollment, leverage two-year and transfer to four-year campuses, increase access to resident students, focus on business opportunities, and increase participation of native students.

Regent Barrett indicated the loss of enrollment will not permit fewer classes or resources, so the cost will remain the same. Regent Pease indicated although the overall population in Montana will drop or remain stable, the opposite is true on the reservations, where the populations are growing 10% to 12%. Dean Moe commented that Montana is behind all the other states in adult education, and that is something the system can address.

WUE slots offer tuition breaks to non-resident students meeting WUE requirements. WUE students are charged 150% of resident tuition.

Both President Gamble and President Dennison explained their policies in regard to recruiting or limiting WUE students.

b. Two-Year Education: Strategic Planning Process

Associate Commissioner Trevor noted that there are 15 institutions in Montana offering two-year education. Only 21% of students are enrolled in two-year education which puts Montana near the bottom in the nation for those making best use of the two-year system. It is important that efforts be made to change the public perception that two-year education is not as valid or valuable as four-year education.

c. Campus Biennial Budget Initiatives – Preliminary

Associate Commissioner Robinson explained to the Board that these are all preliminary initiatives. With direction from the Board, budget initiatives will be brought back to the March meeting for further review, and to the May meeting for final approval.

The following initiatives were outlined for and discussed by the Board:

Regents Initiatives

- 2% Pool for Critical Salary Issues
- Doctoral Education and Research – Economic Development
- PBS Satellite Up linking Fund
- Targeted Financial Aid
- Disability Access and Services
- Network Bandwidth and Infrastructure – MUS Core - OTO
- Network Bandwidth and Infrastructure – Outreach Option - OTO
- Primary Care Workforce for Frontier/Rural Montana

Community College Initiatives

- Community College Retention Enhancement Initiative

The Board recessed at 4:45 p.m. for Executive Session.

The Board reconvened at 5:30 p.m.

Staff Appeal

Motion by Regent Barrett to request some or all of the record from determinations at the lower levels of appeal before making the decision to accept or decline the appeal approved unanimously.

The Board recessed at 5:35 p.m.

Friday, January 11

The Board reconvened 8:15 a.m.

Planning Meeting & Conversation continued.

Regent Pease was absent and excused this day.

Commissioner Stearns reviewed the publication *Good Policy, Good Practice* and provided copies to the Board to use as they review the Initiatives between now and the next meeting.

Initiative presentations were resumed:

MSU-Bozeman Initiatives

- Campus IT Staffing Initiative
- Faculty Lines in Key Areas Important to Montana
- Student Retention & Success
- Safety & Maintenance Staffing Resources
- Undergraduate Research
- Workforce Development**
 - Implement an industry-driven start-up model for short-term, certificate and two-year or less training and education programs, particularly in the construction, health care, local government, information technology, and small business management industries.
- Management Internal Control System

MSU-Billings Initiatives

- Effective Recruitment and Retention of Students
- Development of New Programs
- Program & Service Development for Adult Learners
- Program & Service Development for International & Non-Resident Students
- Development in Graduate Education & Research

MSU-Northern Initiatives

- Campus Enrollment and Retention
- Community and Tribal MSU-N Curriculum Delivery
- MSU-N/MSU College of Technology Great Falls Baccalaureate Completion

Great Falls College of Technology Initiatives

- High School Pathways
- Professional Development Funding for Faculty

MAES Initiatives

- Agricultural Field Equipment
- Research Support Personnel
- Research Faculty to Meet Emerging Demands

Extension Services Initiatives

- Agricultural Security and Emergency Preparedness
- Community Vitality, Economic Sustainability & Renewable Energy
- Healthy Communities/Healthy Living

Fire Services Training School Initiatives

- Community Emergency Services Training

UM-Missoula Initiatives

- Student Retention and Success
- MPACT Program
- Nonresident Recruitment
- Academic Enrichment
- Strategic Research Faculty
- Academic IT
- Montana Museum of Art and Culture
- BDCT Media (Broadcast Media)
- IT Directory
- IT Utilities
- CAS General Education
- Learning Communities
- Facilities Action
- Alumni Relations
- Communicative Sciences and Disorders
- Curricular Alignment with K12
- Research Faculty Startups

Montana Tech Initiatives

- Montana Academy of Math and Science**
- Student Retention and Success
- Implementation of Approved Honors Program
- Marketing
- Strategic Enrollment Management
- Faculty Positions
- Chair, National Students Awards Committee

UM Western Initiatives

- Enhancing Experience One
- Academic Preparedness (Student Retention and Success)

Helena College of Technology Initiatives

- Student Retention and Success
- Western Montana Protective Services
- Enhance Academic Offerings

Bureau of Mines Initiatives

- Montana Bureau of Mines & Geology Enhanced Research Capabilities

MT Forestry & Conservation Experiment Station (MFCES) Initiatives

- Climate Office
- Wildland Interface in Montana
- Applied Forest Management and Outreach Program

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Marco Ferro, MEA/MFT supported the 2% pool for the critical salary issues initiative.

The Board directed the campuses to begin refining the initiatives from the perspective of what can be done with what they have now. They should start with the present law base and include critical items, and then look at what is worthy of going beyond the base. There is no guarantee of additional funding.

Given time sensitivity, two initiatives were segregated from the above group for immediate action by the board.

Montana Tech Initiatives

- Montana Academy of Math and Science

This proposal would be available to high school students who can do well in math, English, and sciences. They would attend the Academy to finish their high school and earn two years of college credit which would transfer to any other campus. They would not receive a two year degree. Classes would be taught by college faculty, and the curriculum would be rigorous. The cost of building the residence hall would be paid through bonding which would be repaid from room costs revenues. Initially there would be 40 students. Work will need to be done to alleviate negative consequences for school

districts.

Motion by Regent Melvin to approve the concept for further development approved unanimously 6-0.

MSU-Bozeman Initiatives

- **Workforce Development**

Implement an industry-driven start-up model for short-term, certificate and two-year or less training and education programs, particularly in the construction, health care, local government, information technology, and small business management industries.

Chair Hamilton reminded the campus that this was mission drift, and that MSU-Bozeman had absolutely denied they would move into two-year education. It is outside any policy on two-year education in Bozeman.

President Gamble indicated this was in the very early stages and they would return in March with a clearer initiative.

Chair Hamilton indicated she heard Board consensus that MSU-Bozeman could return in March with a clearer initiative for more Board discussion.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Posted on

Approved by the Board of Regents on

February 6, 2008

(Date)

(Date)

Sherry Rosette
Board Secretary

Lynn Morrison-Hamilton
Board Chair

The next Board meeting will take place on March 6 and 6, 2008 in Dillon.