



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM  
Board of Regents

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**MINUTES**

**Montana Board of Regents Meeting  
Conference Call Minutes**

**Monday, September 22, 2008**

The board convened at 1:30 PM.

Roll call indicated a quorum.

**Regents Present:** Stephen Barrett, Chair, Clayton Christian, Vice Chair, Lynn Hamilton, and Janine Pease. Regents Lila Taylor, Todd Buchanan and Mitch Jessen were absent. Commissioner Sheila Stearns, ex officio, was also present.

**Others Present by Phone:** Cathy Swift, Mick Robinson, Lynette Brown, Kevin McRae, Sue Mohr, Bruce Marks, Frieda Houser, Mary Moe and Sylvia Moore of the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE); President Geoff Gamble, David Dooley, Craig Roloff, Wes Lynch, and Cathy Conover of Montana State University-Bozeman; Chancellor Ron Sexton and D'Ann Campbell of Montana State University-Billings; Chancellor Rolf Groseth of Montana State University-Northern; President George Dennison, Royce Engstrom, Arlene Walker-Andrews, Perry Brown, Vernon Grund, Teresa Branch, Bob Durringer, and Bill Muse of The University of Montana-Missoula; Chancellor Richard Storey of The University of Montana-Western; Chancellor Frank Gilmore of Montana Tech; President Stefani Hicswa of Miles Community College; President Jane Karas and Kathy Hughes of Flathead Community College; Dean Daniel Bingham of The University of Montana Helena College of Technology; Dean Joe Schaffer and Mary Ellen Baukol of Montana State University Great Falls College of Technology; and Evan Barrett of the Office of the Governor.

Regent Barrett, Chair, explained that the purpose of this meeting was to review the action items for the September 25-26, 2008 Board of Regents meeting and that there would be no action taken on any of the items during the conference call meeting.

- a. 6-Mill Levy Resolution ITEM 140-104-R0908 Attachment

Cathy Swift explained the resolution related to the impact of the 6-Mill Levy on the Montana University System, which was allowable. She clarified the resolution was not a call for the voters to approve the 6-Mill Levy.

- b. MUS Operating Budgets Summary ITEM 140-101-R0908

Mick Robinson, OCHE, clarified this summary was not for the upcoming legislative session, but covered budgets for fiscal year 2009.

- c. Family Education Savings Plan (FESP) ITEM 140-105-R0908

Cathy Swift, OCHE, clarified that OCHE was not ready for the regents to approve a partnership with the Utah program at this time and that this item was an update provided for the regents. This item requested approval to explore this option and to continue negotiations. She further explained the group was moving with due caution with this to assure both plans complied with federal, security and state laws. If OCHE determines this plan should go forward, they will come back to the board for approval at a later date.

- d. Increase Spending Authority – Native American Center; The University of Montana-Missoula ITEM 140-1002-R0908

President Dennison, UM-Missoula, explained that the cost of construction had increased substantially. UM had a substantial donor who wanted to see this project to fruition and that the donor had requested the bids for this project be open yet in 2008 and for construction be completed as soon as possible.

- e. Aerospace Minor MSU-Bozeman ITEM 140-2004-R0708 Attachment 1 Attachment 2

Provost David Dooley, MSU-Bozeman, said MSU had offered courses for the aerospace industry for many years. All the courses included in this program were already being offered, with faculty already in place.

- f. Amend the Mission and Vision Statements MSU-Billings ITEM 140-2701-R0708 Attachment 1 Attachment 2
- g. Community College Tuition Scholarship ITEM 140-110-R0908 Attachment 1 Attachment 2

Cathy Swift explained this scholarship was for students attending one of the two-year community colleges. Changes from the former version are that students must now meet a set of academic standards and that, previously, the scholarship was for every 25 students, but now the scholarship was one for every 50 students. Relinquishment language was included, but was not mandatory since not all students know for sure where they will be attending college. It was also made clear that the scholarship was now renewable.

Mick Robinson noted this item had resulted from two budget issues, one of which was the implementation of the Governor's Scholarship Program which could be used in two-year campuses; and the other issue was the downward movement in funding for the Honor Scholarships throughout the Montana University System (MUS) because of the cost of the scholarships and the waivers.

Bruce Marks explained there used to be 280 honors scholarships awarded. The Board of Regents had since approved 200 honors scholarships. This proposed change to the Community College Honor Scholarships was proportionate to the decline in the MUS Honors Scholarships awarded.

Regent Pease stated concern in the decline in awards for the two-year programs.

Mary Moe, OCHE, noted that the policy appeared to exclude COTs.

Regent Barrett asked Bruce Marks, Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program (MGSLP) to gather more information for the September 25-26 Board of Regents meeting on this topic.

Level II

- a. Masters Degree & Doctorate in Medicinal Chemistry UM-Missoula  
ITEM 140-1001-R0708 | Supporting Material ITEM 140-1001-R0708
- b. Minor in Mountain Studies UM-Missoula ITEM 140-1002-R0708 | Supporting Material  
ITEM 140-1002-R0708
- c. Approval of Proposal to Designate an Associate of Arts Degree in Substance Abuse  
Counseling FVCC ITEM 140-301-R0708

Commissioner Stearns introduced Deputy Commissioner Sylvia Moore.

The meeting adjourned at 2:08 PM.

**Posted on**

**Approved by the Board of Regents on**

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Sheila M. Stearns  
Commissioner of Higher Education  
and Secretary to the Board of Regents

Stephen M. Barrett  
Chair, Board of Regents