



MINUTES

Montana Board of Regents

The University of Montana – Helena College of Technology
January 19-20, 2012

Thursday, January 19, 2012

The Board meeting convened at 12:30 PM, with Vice-Chairman Todd Buchanan presiding.

Roll call indicated a quorum present. Regents present: Todd Buchanan, Stephen Barrett, Joe Thiel, Major Robinson, Angela McLean and Paul Tuss. Commissioners of Higher Education Sheila Stearns and Clayton Christian *ex officios* were also present. Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau, *ex officio*, was represented by Dennis Parman and Governor Brian Schweitzer, *ex officio*, was excused.

Regent Stephen Barrett moved approval of the December 9 and December 22 conference calls minutes. Motion passed 6-0.

Comments by President Engstrom on UM and MT Tech Investigations

President Royce Engstrom spoke on the recent sexual assaults on the UM campus, the community forum held, timeline of events and steps taken by the campus. He stressed the seriousness within which the campus is addressing the situation and the full cooperation of the campus with law enforcement. President Engstrom noted the campus hired Diane Barz, retired Supreme Court judge, to conduct an independent investigation in addition to the internal investigation conducted by the campus. He assured the board the campus will take action based on evidence provided and noted the devastating effect on the lives of the victims.

The board spoke in support of President Engstrom's handling of the situation, the urgency in which he addressed the events, and the extra time and effort focused on this. The regents requested a follow-up report when the investigation has been completed; for campuses to each review their campus policies focused on sexual assault response and prevention; and for the development of a system-wide plan.

Public comment:

Jen Gursky, ASMUS, urged addressing this issue system-wide and encouraged full student participation in the process.

CONSENT

- a. Staff Item; OCHE - Commissioner *ITEM 154-100-R0112*
- b. Staff Item; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 154-2000-R0112*
- c. Staff Item; MSU-Great Falls COT *ITEM 154-2900-R0112*
- d. Staff Item; UM-Missoula *ITEM 154-1000-R0112*
- e. Easement Authorization; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 154-2301-R0112*
- f. Approval of University System/Employee Equity Interest/Business Participation, Policy 407: Humphries; UM-Missoula *ITEM 154-1012-*



- R0112*
- g. Professor Emeritus of Journalism: Carol Van Valkenburg; UM-Missoula *ITEM 154-1002-R0112*
 - h. Professor Emeritus of Soil and Water Quality: James W. Bauder; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 154-2006-0112*
 - i. Professor Emeritus of Soil Science: Clifford Montagne; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 154-2007-R0112*
 - j. Adoption of Policy 950.3, Bond Issue Tax Compliance Procedures; OCHE *ITEM 154-102-R0112*

Regent Buchanan addressed item a, the decision to recommend former Regent Clayton Christian as the new commissioner of higher education. He noted the search process and timeline involved in the decision. As the professional search consultant worked with the search committee to gather input on the qualifications for the commissioner, and attended listening sessions throughout the state, it became apparent that Clayton Christian met the criteria desired in a new commissioner. The search consultant noted consistencies in recommendations by the stakeholders, at which time she contacted Clayton Christian to recruit him as a candidate. Once Mr. Christian agreed to become a candidate, he resigned his position on the board and the search committee reviewed him as a potential candidate. Regent Buchanan noted integrity was maintained throughout the process.

Regent Barrett added that it would have been disingenuous and expensive to continue the search once the committee had identified Clayton Christian as a strong candidate.

Public Comment:

- Marvin Lansverk, faculty representative, spoke in support of Mr. Christian, while noting the uncertainty of the process and the lack of a national search.
- Jen Gursky, ASUM, urged student participation in searches and indicated support for Mr. Christian.
- Marco Ferro, MEA-MFT, spoke in support of Mr. Christian as the new commissioner of higher education.

Commissioner Stearns noted that national searches have been the exception, not the norm, for commissioners on a national basis. Campus CEO's spoke in support of Mr. Christian for this position and recognized the outstanding service by Commissioner Stearns.

Regent Barrett moved approval of consent agenda a-j. Motion approved 6-0.

Chancellor Donald Blackketter noted the situation on the MT Tech campus of a former employee making unauthorized grade changes for some students. Chancellor Blackketter, while protecting confidential information, provided background on how the infraction was discovered, assured the board that the campus has completed its investigation and is confident they have found all the changes that had been made. He is working with the academic standards committee and will hold an all-campus meeting to discuss academic standards. He noted that he had immediate communication with President Engstrom and the commissioner. Chancellor Blackketter said the integrity of the institution will not be compromised by the action of a few students.



The board expressed appreciation for the communication and actions taken.

ACTION

- a. New Stadium Lights; UM-Missoula *ITEM 154-1009-R0112*

President Engstrom noted this will be funded through an Intercap loan and will allow more flexibility in games and practice schedules. He assured the board that student fees will not be used for the payment of the loan.

- b. Energy Performance Contract; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 154-2005-R0112*

President Waded Cruzado noted this request is to fulfill obligations of an energy performance audit and has had strong student support. Terry Leist, interim vice president for finance, explained this request for authority is to execute 50 projects that were recommended by the energy audit and that will be funded by loans secured through the Board of Investments. Mr. Leist estimated energy savings of \$370,000 per year. He noted that no student fees or tuition will be used to fund the projects or be used for the repayment of the loan.

Regent Robinson moved approval of items a & b. Motion passed 6-0.

INFORMATION

- a. College!Now Update
- Draft Comprehensive Two-Year Mission Plans: MSU-Billings COT; MSU-Great Falls COT; UM-Helena COT; MT Tech COT; and UM-Missoula COT

Deputy Commissioner John Cech, OCHE, noted the comprehensive mission plans submitted by each of the two-year colleges of technology, with the expectation that the final plans are to be integrated into each campus's strategic plans. Dr. Cech is also working with the Gallatin College Program, Bitterroot College Program, MSU-Northern and UM-Western campuses on baseline analysis and on mission expansion. He noted significant community interest throughout the state, including tribal college participation.

- Update on December 15-16 Two-Year College Rebranding Summit Outcomes – Cech/Groseth

Dr. Cech noted large participation at the December summit and set the framework for the next steps.

- Update on Planning Inclusion for MSU Gallatin College Programs, UM Bitterroot College Program, and Two-Year Programs at MSU-Northern and UM-Western

- b. Bitterroot College Program

Provost Perry Brown, UM-Missoula, noted the expansion of course offerings at the



Bitterroot College Program in response to increased enrollment. Provost Brown said UM has developed a draft strategic plan for the Bitterroot College Program. Commissioner Stearns noted this program is a matter of keeping a promise made to the Bitterroot community.

c. Athletic Reports

Director of Planning and Budget, Frieda Houser, noted the summaries posted by campuses and by sport for 2011 and the budget for FY2012.

d. Family Education Savings Program (FESP) Initiatives; OCHE

Regent Buchanan noted this incentive initiative is part of the effort to enhance college affordability and accessibility in Montana. He urged support for this initiative, which has the recommendation of the FESP oversight committee.

e. Level I Memorandum

f. Level II Memorandum – for action at March BOR meeting

Deputy Commissioner Sylvia Moore noted that the Level I Memorandum is approved in the commissioner's office and that the Level II Memorandum is for action at the March BOR meeting.

g. BOR Policy 401 and 404 Research Reports; MSU-Bozeman and UM-Missoula

Deputy Commissioner Moore noted that Congress no longer allows federal earmarks, but campuses decided to report agency contracts. The Policy 404 report addresses the facilities and administration revenues and expenditures for the campuses.

Associate Commissioner Tyler Trevor referenced the role of research and development in the MUS Strategic Plan, with two objectives: to increase research and development and to increase technology licenses with Montana businesses. System initiatives include "Montana Science Serving Montana Citizens," which is a statewide plan to identify priorities in the allocation of resources to research enterprises; and EPSCoR, which is sponsored by grants from the National Science Foundation, to promote the development of science and technology infrastructure for the purpose of advancing economic growth.

Public Comment:

- Marvin Lansverk, faculty senate, noted pride in the research activities on the campuses.

h. Student Health Insurance Plan

Director of Benefits, Connie Welsh, OCHE, provided an update on the current (fully insured) student health insurance program. As of fall of 2011, the claims costs in that plan were exceeding the revenue. Because of this, there will need to be premium increases in the plan. Director Welsh said there has been a change in the profile of



students using the program. They also saw an increase of people between the ages of 30-40 years of age joining the plan, with some students taking one or two courses possibly to be included in the insurance coverage.

Regent Angela McLean requested follow-up discussions on this issue.

Election of Officers

Vice Chairman Buchanan noted the vacancy in the position of Board of Regents chair and stated he had decided not to be a candidate. Regent Barrett nominated Regent Angela McLean as chair of the Board. Motion passed 6-0. Regent Todd Buchanan will remain vice chair of the Board.

Public Comment:

Jen Gursky, ASUM, spoke in support of Regent McLean's nomination as chair of the board.

Regents' MUS Strategic Planning Discussion

a. Graduate Education - Strategic Plan Goal & Dashboard Indicator

Deputy Commissioner Moore noted the upcoming Higher Education Summit to be held on February 14 entitled: *Enthusiastically Engaging Our Campus Communities in an Era of Challenges* that will be held at the MSU-Bozeman campus.

Associate Commissioner Trevor noted the Graduate Education portion of the MUS Strategic Plan. The goal is to expand graduate education capacity and opportunities in order to increase the educational attainment of Montanans, to grow the research and development enterprise, and to maintain a strong concentration in degree attainment in science and math programs.

b. Graduate Education Update

Provost Perry Brown, UM, and Dr. Carl Fox, Dean of Graduate School, MSU-Bozeman, gave a presentation entitled Graduate Education National Perspectives. They noted the profile of today's graduate students and that the major barrier to graduate education is financially-related due to the lack of federal support for graduate education. The national emphasis is focused on careers and jobs following graduate education. Provost Brown and Dr. Fox noted the types of graduate programs at MSU and UM campuses.

Provost Brown and Dr. Fox highlighted Montana University Graduate Schools (MUGS), which is a result of a collaborative process including: collaborative recruiting, faculty participation across MUGS universities, collaborative graduate programs, access to courses across the MUS, single, common application and doctoral student internships. MUGS allows students to take individual courses from other campuses. They stressed that graduate assistantships are a key component of their education and are necessary in order to compete nationally with other programs.



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

The board commended the collaborative efforts of marketing graduate education in Montana as a system. Through collaboration, Montana can then compete with larger institutions across the country.

Public Comment:

- Asa Hohman, ASUM, spoke of concern of the cost associated with the mandatory health insurance benefits for students.

The board recessed at 5:00 PM.

Friday, January 20, 2012

The Board convened at 8:00 AM in the commissioner's office to meet in executive session for the purposes of individual privacy concerning:

- Honorary Degree; MSU-Bozeman
- Honorary Degree; MT Tech
- Confidential Title IX and Student Conduct Matters

Approved by the Board of Regents on

Date

Date

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

Angela McLean
Chair, Board of Regents