



MINUTES
Montana Board of Regents
Conference Call Meeting
April 27, 2012
10:00 AM

Roll call indicated a quorum present.

Regents Present:, Angela McLean, Chair, Todd Buchanan, Vice Chair, Paul Tuss, Pat Williams, and Joe Thiel all by phone. Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian, *ex officio*, participated by phone. Regents Jeff Krauss and Major Robinson were excused. Governor Brian Schweitzer, *ex officio*, was represented by the budget office, and Superintendent Denise Juneau *ex officio* was excused.

Sites represented by phone were: Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE), MSU-Bozeman, MSU-Billings, MSU-Northern, UM-Missoula, and UM-Western.

ACTION

Authorization to Lease Athletic Facilities to MSUN Foundation; MSU-Northern
ITEM 155-2801-C0412

Deputy Commissioner Mick Robinson noted this project requests approval to lease athletic facilities to the MSU-Northern Foundation for the purpose of construction improvements project and that the facility improvements are to be funded entirely by donations flowing through the MSU-Northern Foundation. Current statute allows for in-kind contributions to be blended into athletic construction projects which will allow the project to proceed more quickly. Mr. Robinson noted the project would follow all requirements pertaining to board approval and alignment with state government architecture processes.

Chancellor James Limbaugh, MSU-Northern, explained the campus is working on rebuilding the campus with focused efforts to improve the facilities. He added they are making a statement to students and the community that they are looking forward to a brighter future. Chancellor Limbaugh clarified this first phase is to replace the bleachers and floor.

Shauna Albrecht, executive director of MSU-Northern Foundation, spoke in support of the lease option and the renovation project.

MSU President Waded Cruzado stated full support of the project.

Regent Pat Williams raised the concern of athletic facilities raising funds to build facilities and the possible perception created that there is inequity in the campuses. He clarified his concern that other departments cannot raise the money for these facilities and urged the board to consider that in future actions.

Regent Paul Tuss moved approval of the item. Motion approved 6-0, with Regents



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Major Robinson and Jeff Krauss absent.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM.

Approved by the Board of Regents on

Date

Date

Clayton T. Christian
Commissioner of Higher Education
and Secretary to the Board of Regents

Angela McLean
Chair, Board of Regents