



MINUTES

Montana Board of Regents

Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education

Room 102A & B

January 6, 2015

Tuesday, January 6, 2015

- Meeting Convened at 10:00am

Roll call indicated a quorum present. Regents present: Chair Paul Tuss, Regents Major Robinson, Jeff Krauss, Fran Albrecht, Martha Sheehy, and Student Regent Mariah Williams; Regent Johnstone was excused. Ex Officio members present: Commissioner of Higher Education, Clayton Christian; Superintendent of Public Instruction, Denise Juneau and Governor Steve Bullock.

Chair Tuss welcomed all attendees. He thanked both Superintendent Juneau and Governor Bullock for their participation. He noted the work ahead at the Capitol, in the 64th Assembly of the Montana Legislature, during which fiscal and policy decisions will be made affecting the future of students, families and employers across Montana. He extended thanks to the Governor for his commitment to Montana students, families and employers as a high priority in the Executive Budget proposal. The goals of educational access, affordability and excellence are strongly represented in the proposal.

Governor Bullock thanked all attendees and noted his continued support and participation for higher education. He congratulated the system and superintendent on the many successful partnerships that have led to associated student success. He applauded the Board of Regents for their continued exemplary achievements in student performance and innovative opportunities to help Montana's education system be ready for the workforce needs. He noted the link between research and economic growth; the importance of continuing to make college affordable for all Montanans and discussed how raising tuition translates to a tax on students and working Montana families. He further discussed performance funding, efforts within Indian Country, stackable credentials. He closed by reiterating that these are long term investments that need to be made for the future.

Roll call, approval of minutes, and introductions

- November 20-21, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Regent Albrecht motioned for approval; of the November 20-21, 2014 minutes; motion passed 6-0. Regent Johnstone was excused from the meeting.

Office of Public Instruction Update

Superintendent Juneau thanked everyone for their work and continued partnerships. She recapped the OPI legislative agenda items and areas of promotion. She noted the importance of Graduation Matters and its inclusiveness that communities across the



state have made. She discussed raising the legal drop out age; to set an expectation at the state level that we expect all high school students to graduate. She discussed additional training opportunities and early edge opportunities. She recapped the highlights and successes of the College Application Week.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Christian thanked both the Governor and Superintendent Juneau for their work and strong partnerships. He recapped what would be reported to the Legislature and our progress over the past couple of years. He discussed the investment opportunities for state funding in higher education and the return on investment that would lead to deliverables for the state. He noted additional focus on HB 13, the state employee pay plan; HB 5, the state buildings and grounds infrastructure and maintenance bill; any other related long-range building legislation and a number of public employee retirement bills that affect faculty and staff. He noted his confidence in demonstrating the deliverables we agreed to during last session and noted the educational support from the legislature. Deputy Commissioner Trevor will inform the sub-committee that we are making progress across all fronts. He discussed positive progress being made with Ed-ready and the potential impact it has on our system, for developmental education and ultimately time-to-degree. Commissioner Christian also mentioned progress being made with stackable credentials, TAACCCT grant, and the research initiative, and its potential to create opportunities across the state.

- U-System Accountability – Metrics & Strategies

Deputy Commissioner Trevor presented on the U-System accountability. He gave background information recapping the 2013 session and SJ Resolution 13 which required the MUS to study college completion; specifically to adopt metrics, collect data, develop strategies and report back at the 64th session on the progress to date. He noted the inclusion of Complete College America, which led to game changer strategies; where the MUS implements aggressive strategies to improve time to degree and college completion. He discussed the progress and outcome metrics for all CCA-state level comparisons including outcome, progress and reporting. He discussed degree production, graduation rates, transfer rates, time to degree, credits to degree, enrollment in remediation and successes, retention rates, course completion, enrollment, and completion ratio. He shared the following strategies that are currently underway within the MUS including: Performance Funding; Developmental Education Reform; Full-time is Fifteen; Structured Schedules – Block Scheduling; Guided Pathways, Math Pathways, Advising; and Dual Enrollment. He further discussed the idea behind full-time enrollment is 15 credits. The three recommendations to help with 15 credits enrollment includes using banded tuition so any additional credits over 12 are free. Cap degree credit requirements and inform and incentivize students to attend full-time – 15 credits per semester. Both UM and MSU have programs in place to help encourage 15 credits for full time status. These are the types of programs that are considered best practices. President Engstrom gave a brief overview of the Four Bear Program. President Cruzado also discussed the MSU program – Freshmen 15, noting the idea here is a culture change. Discussion followed.



- Legislative Session Discussion
- Campus Reports

CONSENT

- a. Expend Student Equipment Fee Allocation; MSU-Billings *ITEM 166-2701-R0115*
- b. Professor Emeritus - Bartholomew; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 166-2001-R0115*
- c. Professor Emeritus – Tobias; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 166-2002-R0115*
- d. Professor Emeritus – Wolff; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 166-2003-R0115*
- e. MSU-Billings Staff; *ITEM 166-2700-R0115*
- f. MSU Grad Assistant Labor Agreement; OCHE *ITEM 166-102-R0115 | Attachment #1*

Regent Robinson motioned for approval of consent items a.-f. motion passed 6-0.

ACTION

- a. Policy 901.9 Revision – Campus Affiliated Foundations; OCHE *ITEM 166-101-R0115 | Attachment #1*

Commissioner Christian explained the request to change Policy 901.9 for permission to set up a 501(c)(3)MUS foundation which would allow donors to make gifts to a system wide foundation where gifts to an individual campus foundation is not practicable for fulfilling the donor's intentions. Both President Engstrom and President Cruzado indicated that their respective foundations have concerns. Nonetheless, President Engstrom supported the policy change and President Cruzado recommended a meeting be held with representatives from the foundations and Commissioner Christian to further discuss the possibility of a system foundation. Discussion followed. Additional language can be added to clarify that this foundation is subject to BOR approval. The Board asked that this item include the following language: under paragraph c, subsection C(9) : Any MUS foundation shall have public operating agreement, by-laws, and a conflict of interest policy approved by the BOR and comply with all Federal and State Laws regarding a 501(c) (3). And add the following the 4th paragraph in Section A: In addition, the MUS may establish, subject to approval of the Board of Regents pursuant to paragraph C.9. below, a foundation to accept gifts.

Regent Krauss made a motion to approve Action item a. Item 166-101 with proposed revised language; Motion approved 6-0.

- b. Operating Agreement between The University of Montana and The University of Montana Foundation; UM-Missoula *ITEM 166-1001-R0115 | Attachment #1*

President Engstrom spoke to the request for authorization from the Board and the University of Montana to enter into a new agreement with its affiliated foundation, The University of Montana Foundation. This new agreement replaces the existing agreement dated February 1, 2013.



Regent Albrecht motioned to approve action item b. Item 166-1001-R0115; motion passed 6-0.

INFORMATION

- a. Policy 401 and 404 Research Reports; MSU-affiliation and UM-affiliation | *Strategic Plan Goal | MSU 401-404 Report | UM 401 Report and UM 404 Report*

Deputy Commissioner Moisey reported annual aggregate numbers on research expenditures across the system.

Student Appeals

- Student Appeal #1

No motion was made; student appeal was denied and the Commissioner’s decision is upheld.

Public Comment

Rene Rejo Pera – VPR and MSU – expressed her thanks for BOR support of the research initiative.

Executive Session – *Separate Dial-in Provided*

- Honorary Doctorate – UM Missoula
- Honorary Doctorate – MT-Tech

Meeting Adjourned at 12:33pm

Approved by the Board of Regents on

Date

Date

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

Paul Tuss
Chair, Board of Regents

Other than the meeting starting time, times listed are approximate. In addition, agenda items may be rearranged unless an item is listed as having a “time certain.” Action may be taken on any item listed on the Board or Committee Agendas. Public comment is welcome on all items. The Board of Regents will make reasonable accommodations for known disabilities that may interfere with an individual's ability to participate. Persons requiring such accommodations should make their requests to the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education as soon as possible before the meeting to allow adequate time for special arrangements. You may call or write to: ADA Coordinator, P. O. Box 203201, Helena MT 59620-3201, 406-444-6570, 1-800-253-4091 (TDD)

