



Date: August 18, 2016

To: Board of Regents

From: Daniel J. Bingham, Ph.D.
Dean/CEO, Helena College University of Montana

Subject: Campus Report for September 14-15, 2016, Board of Regents Meeting

- Writing faculty member Ben Nickol has been invited by Carroll College Professor Kevin Stewart to participate in a panel of Helena authors to speak and answer questions about their own work and about living and writing in Helena as part of the Montana Book Festival. Among the goals of the panel, one is to showcase the literary scene that is growing and thriving in the capital city. Events include readings, author signings, panels, workshops, a youth festival, special events, vendor exhibits and a book fair.
- Helena College has 32 new veteran students inquiring about GI bill benefits for Fall 2016 semester.
- Virginia Reeves, adjunct faculty for WRIT 101 this fall, was selected for the Man Booker 2016 longlist. Her novel, *Work Like Any Other*, is one of the 13 chosen for this list. The short list of 6 will be decided on in September.
- Retail Services has successfully completed the remodel of the Helena College Bookstore and Cafeteria. The Coffee Counter has also been moved into the retail area to provide better service to the campus population. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.
- The Helena College FA Office disbursed just over \$6.1 million (excluding waivers) for the 2015-2016 academic year. Over 71% of students received financial aid, the average award per student was down 6% from prior academic year. At this point, over \$5 million has been accepted for 2016-2017 AY. Gearing up for the 2017-2018 FAFSA October 1 filing date with the goal to begin sending out awards by end of November.
- HC received \$45,000 of the Giantforte Manufacturing Scholarship that assisted 38 students with an average award of \$1,184.
- HC is developing a lecture series on topics of general interest to the community. Presenters will be HC faculty and staff, as well as other invited speakers.
- HC has been approved by the Townsend School Board to begin offering select HC courses (both credit and non-credit) on location in Townsend.
- HC faculty and students are leading a project to restore a beloved local landmark—a playground slide in the shape of a rocket. Generations of Helenans have played on the slide, which has fallen into disrepair in recent years. Welding faculty and students will return it to its former glory, while writing faculty and students will engage the greater Helena community in an oral history project about the slide—soliciting stories, photographs, etc. from community members.