



**AGENDA**  
**Montana Board of Regents**  
**September 13-14, 2017**  
**Montana Tech**  
**MINUTES**

**Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**

8:15 AM

Roll call indicated a quorum present. Regents Present: Fran Albrecht, Chair; Bob Nystuen, Vice Chair; Paul Tuss; Bill Johnstone; Martha Sheehy; Casey Lozar; and Chase Greenfield were present. Ex officio members included: Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian; Ex officio Governor Bullock was represented by Ms. Siri Smillie and Ex officio Superintendent Arntzen was present

Comments by Chair Albrecht

Chair Albrecht welcomed all attendees to the meeting and extended thanks to Chancellor Blacketter and his staff for hosting the Board of Regents. She reviewed the agenda for the meeting, noting that the board will review and take action on proposed spending authority of more than \$1.5 billion in Fiscal Year 2018 operating budgets. Other items will focus on updates related to performance based funding, advisory council recommendations for American Indian and Minority Achievement, MSU and UM mission statement reviews, task force recommendations for suicide prevention, and a final report on the 2016/2017 Montana Research and Economic Development Initiative.

Welcome by Chancellor Blacketter

Chancellor Blacketter provided an update to the Board on the recent events and successes at MT Tech including: the completion and opening of the Natural Resource Research Center (NRRC) and groundbreaking on the Living Learning Center/Student Success Center. A workgroup focused on Institutional Realignment for Excellence, provided a presentation on their efforts to date which include their formal formation in March of 2017, bi-weekly meetings and campus listening sessions over the spring, followed by a designation by the BOR in May of 2017 for MT Tech to serve as a special focus given the percentage of student in engineering, science, technology and health programs. Presently this group is working on the relationship to the MUS strategic plan. Objectives moving forward include: to increase graduate degree production, maintaining a strong concentration in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields; to build on existing strong heritage in engineering, science and technology, and support a comprehensive set of majors that support natural resources; to increase research and development receipts and expenditures; increase technology licenses with Montana businesses to help align science education and research with pressing social and economic challenges; increase degrees and certificates awarded in high-demand occupational fields and increase job placement rates; improve articulation and



transferability among all 2-year and 4-year institutions, including community colleges and tribal colleges. They noted that the campus community remains highly engaged in this process. Discussion followed.

Remarks by Superintendent Arntzen (or Designee)

Superintendent of the Office of Public Instruction Elsie Arntzen spoke to the importance of partnerships and continuing to foster partnerships to help grow Montana. She spoke of the challenges to date, including delays with starting school due to the fire season, increased cases of asthma in elementary and middle school aged children and budget related challenges. She spoke to the importance of continuing to build bridges from K-12, to 2-year and 4-year institutions so that individuals can stay in Montana and receive an enriched education all the way through their pathway of life. She discussed her decision to exclude the Montana Digital Academy from any part of budget reductions as an effort to maintain equity to the rural areas of the state in addition to serving students. She described the state test results of Montana, currently in its third year of deployment under the Smarter Balance Initiative, as flatlined. She noted very little growth in reading as well as a downturn in math. She discussed the ACT test and expressed thanks to the GEAR Up grant which provides the funding to offer this test at no cost to all Montana high school students. She reported on Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), noting that all means all and are collectively trying to help students succeed. She reiterated the importance of efforts towards suicide awareness as well as ensuring that students who graduate are college and career ready.

Approval of Minutes

- May 25-26, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes
- July 18, 2017 Board Conference Call Minutes

A motion for the approval of the May 25-26, 2017 Board meeting minutes and the July 18, 2017 Board conference call minutes was made by Regent Sheehy. The motion passed; 7-0.

Commissioner's and System Report

Commissioner Christian spoke in agreement with the comments made by Superintendent Arntzen on efforts to help Montana students succeed through continued partnerships. He noted increased efforts to highlight successes across the MUS campuses as they host the Board meetings. A broader introduction and campus tour will help to provide more of an opportunity to take in campuses and the amazing work being done on them. He discussed the efforts related to the system structure; reminding attendees that the current system structure was created by a Commission in the early 90's. We are now taking a look at that structure to determine what's working and where we can improve. Mr. Joe Theil is providing assistance with this and is in the beginning stages of gathering information and data around what it is that we do and how it compares with other states; then develop a process around this. He expects that we will have a preliminary report to share in November.

He provided an update on the Presidential Search at the University of Montana. He noted the very collaborative, participatory process that is being used with great



participation from the members of the search advisory committee. He noted that the pool resulted in 99 applicants, both national and international. The search advisory committee diligently went through each applicant and discussed the qualifications and whether or not that applicant should move forward. Through this process the committee identified semi-finalists that they felt contained the attributes, experience and requirements as laid out in the position profile. The committee identified 13 semi-finalists and interviewed 12. From those interviews, through a deliberative process the advisory committee invited four highly capable, qualified, unique individuals to the campus for in-person interviews which will begin next week. He welcomed participation from the public at the in-person interviews through the open forums, email or verbal communications, and through designated surveys. Following the on-campus interviews the search advisory committee will convene again and makes its final recommendation to the Board of Regents for consideration. He reiterated the commitment to get this search right and do what is necessary to retain the best possible candidate for the University of Montana. Discussion followed. Commissioner Christian provided an update on the search for a Dean at Helena College-UM, noting that 56 applicants applied and the committee has vetted most of the candidates and through a deliberate and participatory process to identify those who should be called back for interviews. Through this process they have identified a list of twelve candidates that they will conduct skype or webinar interviews with. These will be conducted during the first few days of October in order to identify individuals to invite back to campus for on-site interviews towards the end of October. These visits would be followed by a nomination being made to the commissioner's office for consideration in early November.

He briefly discussed the restructure of the Commissioner's office, noting a few budgets components that are being worked through and addressed. The two positions discussed at the last board meeting and board retreat include a director of communications and a position geared towards institutional research. He shared a few thoughts on the budget including the feedback related to concerns about where the budget is going and how additional budget reductions may impact the MUS. In a meeting with the Governor's staff recently, he reiterated the impacts that additional cuts can and will have on education if we can't continue to fund public higher education in Montana. He clarified that the budget being presented today is what has been prepared based on adjustments made in May. He noted that under Montana law we are required to pass a budget by the 1<sup>st</sup> of October; he spoke in support of doing that, as it stands noting that the state has to go through a process as well to certify revenue projections and to provide more depth about what potential reductions might look like. Once these details are clearer, the board will reconvene with adjustments to the budget as and where necessary.

- Campus Reports (Linked to agenda)

Commissioner Christian noted that the campus reports are linked to the agenda.

- Other/Campus Introductions

Commissioner Christian extended thanks to Dr. Yarlott who is present and representing the Tribal Colleges from across Montana; he extended thanks to Scott Risser, the new faculty senate chair for joining these meetings as well; he acknowledges Ms. Helen



## MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

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Thigpen who is serving as the associate legal counsel at the OCHE office. Regent Sheehy recognized a former board member, Honorable Jack Peterson who recently passed.

### Budget, Administration and Finance Committee

#### CONSENT

- a. Request for authorization for the University of Montana Western and the UMW Foundation to enter into an Operating Agreement; UM-Western *ITEM 176-1601-R0917 | Attachment #1*
- b. Request for authorization to execute a lease with the Montana Department of Transportation; Montana Agricultural Experiment Station *ITEM 176-2301-R0917 | Attachment #1*
- c. Request for authorization to execute lease renewal for Safety & Risk Management operations; MSU Bozeman *ITEM 176-2015-R0917*

#### Staff

- d. Staff Item; UM-Missoula *ITEM 176-1000-R0917*

Regent Johnstone noted that he would recuse himself from voting on Item 176-1000-R0917.

- e. Staff Item; MSU-Northern *ITEM 176-2800-R0917*
- f. Staff Item; Great Falls College-MSU *ITEM 176-2900-R0917*

#### Emeriti Faculty:

- g. Samson; UM-Missoula *ITEM 176-1001-R0917*
- h. Muir; UM-Missoula *ITEM 176-1002-R0917*
- i. Glendening; UM-Missoula *ITEM 176-1003-R0917*
- j. Justman; UM-Missoula *ITEM 176-1004-R0917*
- k. Acton; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 176-2001-R0917*
- l. Tsuruta; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 176-2002-R0917*
- m. Kelting-Gibson; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 176-2003-R0917*
- n. Brester; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 176-2004-R0917*
- o. Sherwood; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 176-2005-R0917*
- p. Carucci; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 176-2006-R0917*
- q. Cherry; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 176-2007-R0917*
- r. Bader; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 176-2008-R0917*
- s. Knudsen; MT-Tech *ITEM 176-1501-R0917*

#### ACTION

#### Budget Presentation & Discussion



- a. FY 2018 Operating Budgets; OCHE *ITEM 176-101-R0917*
  - All Funds Summary
  - MUS Operating Budgets

Deputy Commissioner Tyler Trevor provided an overview of the FY18 operating budget for the Montana University System. He noted potential, additional cuts that may come forward in the form of a budget amendment, likely in October or November. He initially discussed the system level information and prepared brief summaries for individual campuses. He discussed the MUS All Funds Budget which totals at \$1.55 billion. He described the make-up of that budget including percentages within each section. He described the current unrestricted funds, the combination of tuition revenue and state appropriations, these funds are dedicated to education and general operations within the campuses and agencies of the system and account for 35% of the budget. He described current restricted as those funds from research, grants, financial aid, gifts, etc. and makes up 18% of the budget. Current designated funds consist of fees, indirect cost recovery, continuing education and athletics, this makes of 12% of the budget. He noted that auxiliary funds, accounting for 9% of the budget, include dorms, food services, bookstore etc. Plant funds, 13%, are related to campus building projects, and debt services. Community college funds make up 3%, of the budget; other categories include: loans and endowments, tribal college assistance, OCHE's general operating fund and OCHE itself. He discussed some of the changes to the budget over time including an increase to both current restricted and designated funds; he discussed the significant increase in plant funds and the projects at MT Tech and MSU associated with these funds. He discussed the decrease to the OCHE general fund and changes to OCHE associated with this past legislative session.

He provided a brief history noting the two different periods of state appropriations, the flat funding era (1992-2005) and the tuition freeze era (2006-2017) noting that the university system receives fewer state approps today than it did in 1992. Progress has been achieved toward gaining back funding levels of early 1990's, he noted the funding increase during the tuition freeze era of \$2,077 per FTE. He discussed tuition revenue noting that non-resident tuition revenue has steadily increased over the past 10 years. He discussed current unrestricted funds per student FTE over time noting that the percentage of state share has dropped from 76% to 38% over the past 25 years. Resident student revenue per resident was reviewed; the cost to educate resident students has remained relatively flat for 25 years. On a national comparison, Montana ranks nearly last in the amount of total funding per student. While funding levels have increased since 2005, state appropriations per student are 71% of the average. Discussion followed. Mr. Trevor discussed changes since the biennial budget recommendations in May. These include the FY17 Six-mill levy shortfall, a 0.5% cut to the general fund, pay plan voided and improved tuition revenue projections. Overall, statewide revenue triggers require MUS to reduce FY 18 budget. He discussed the FY18 Operating budget moving forward noting the 2.2% increase recommendation for the FY18 budget, \$4.7 million short of the goal. He detailed the budget hole noting that \$13.3 million of present law adjustment increases needed were not funded, \$1.3 million for a pay plan went unfunded; tuition revenue will not completely cover this gap leaving a \$4.6 million deficit.



Mr. Trevor discussed system-level operating metrics noting the inclusion of revenue, expenditures, staffing, enrollment and waivers. He discussed the tuition revenue and budgeted increase for resident and non-resident students noting that the state percentage share drops to a 5 year low at 38%. State funds per Resident drops slightly from FY17, remains 22% higher than FY14. Overall Montana ranks at 39<sup>th</sup>, 71% of national average. He discussed system-level expenditures noting the 13% decrease in instruction over 4 years which comprises 54% of total expenditures. The percentage of instruction in addition to the academic support and student services is consistently over 75%; expenditures per student are budgeted to increase 2% over last year. He discussed system-level staffing noting that the student to faculty ratio is budgeted for 17 to 1; personal services percentage share is budgeted for 81%. System-level enrollment has dropped -1.25%, down 440 student FTE; the Fall 2017 YTD shows a -1.5% year to date for Fall 2017. The four-year campuses have experienced a -4.7% drop, down 1,750 student FTE since FY14. Regarding system-level waivers there has been an 11% budgeted increase, growth of \$149 per student FTE. Net revenue per student benchmark and net revenue subsidy benchmark both meet the required levels. Mr. Trevor then went through the details of each campus budget discussing the revenue, expenditures, staffing, enrollment, and waivers for each respective campus. Discussion followed.

### Facilities

- a. Request for approval for additional planning & design of residence hall construction; MSU Bozeman *ITEM 176-2009-R0917 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2*

Mr. Ron Muffick, Director of Operations & Administration / Student Affairs, presented this request, consistent with the provisions of MCA 18-2-102(2)(b), and MCA 20-25-302(6), to the Board of Regents of Higher Education to authorize Montana State University to proceed with programming and designing a residence hall facility at the MSU Bozeman campus. This authorization provides authority for planning, design, and contracting with a general contractor and construction managers for a total of \$750,000. Discussion followed.

- b. Request for approval to remodel Liberal Arts Building west classrooms, restrooms, and electrical upgrade; UM Missoula *ITEM 176-1005-R0917*

Mr. Ron Muffick, Director of Operations & Administration / Student Affairs, presented this request, in accordance with Board of Regents Policy 1003.7, to the Board of Regents of the Montana University System to authorize the University of Montana – Missoula to expend up to \$2,000,000 for the Remodel of Liberal Arts Basement. President Stearns spoke to the process followed. Dean Comer also spoke in support of the project. Discussion followed.

- c. Request for approval to name the Academic Hall of the Liberal Arts Building; UM Missoula *ITEM 176-1006-R0917 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3 | Attachment #4*



Mr. Ron Muffick, Director of Operations & Administration / Student Affairs, presented this request that the Board of Regents authorize the University of Montana (UM) to name the Academic Hall of the Liberal Arts Building the Dennis and Gretchen Eck Academic Hall, in recognition of the generosity of Dennis and Gretchen Eck.

### INFORMATION

#### a. Review and revision to contract employment policies

Deputy Commissioner for Planning & Analysis Kevin McRae noted that under the Board of Regents constitutional authority they supervise, coordinate, manage and control the University System. The Board has chosen to delegate the Commissioner of Higher Education, through several policies and practices, the authority to review and approve a number of employment arrangements primarily hires and conditions of employment contracts, etc. He noted that per BOR direction, there is interest in reviewing the associated policy and, if needed, work to revise and update it for the Board's approval. He noted that under the current policy the Board has delegated to the Commissioner and campuses the authority to hire and approve individual employment terms and conditions for almost all employees in the MUS. Mr. McRae explained that under the current policy employment contracts for the Commissioner, Commissioners' Staff employed on BOR Contracts, Presidents, Chancellors, Vice Presidents, Vice Chancellors, System Legal Counsel and Athletic Head coaches come before the Board for approval. Roughly 120 people. Direction was to look at some alternative policy language that would condense several policies down into a few main policies. The board had expressed interest in considering further delegation to the Commissioner but retain the authority to review and act on the highest levels of executive positions within the system. Discussion followed.

#### b. Budget, Administrative and Finance Workplan and Calendar

Regent Johnstone noted the purpose behind the calendar is to do a better job of understating what the committees responsibilities are on a biennial basis and help develop a proposed workplan to address key issues and initiatives. Deputy Commissioner Trevor noted the categories of the workplan include: Budget, fees, facilities/LRBP, and waivers/need-based aid. He noted a main theme among these topics is to address both the policy side and data side of each. He described, in general, each area. Discussion followed.

#### c. Audit Reports

1. Dawson Community College – June 30, 2016 and 2015
  - Unmodified (Clean) Opinion on Financial Statements; Significant Deficiency identified over financial reporting
  - Modified Opinion on Compliance over Major Federal Programs as a result of a Material Weakness noted with no questioned costs.
  - Pages 73-78 summarize the audit finding and includes the campus response.
2. Flathead Valley Community College



- Unmodified (Clean) Opinion on Financial Statements.
- Unmodified (Clean) Opinion on Compliance over Major Federal Programs; Significant Deficiency identified with no questioned costs
- Pages 73-75 summarize the audit finding and includes the campus response

3. Miles Community College

- Unmodified (Clean) Opinion on Financial Statements-No findings
- Unmodified (Clean) Opinion on Compliance over Major Federal Programs-No findings

Ms. Frieda Houser, Director of Budget and Accounting, provided an update to the Board related to the three community college audits. She discussed the clean opinion over financial statements for Dawson Community College; however, the auditors did notice a significant deficiency in their financial reporting. The second opinion was related to federal compliance and some significant issues that need to be addressed in the area of major Federal Programs; she noted that the campus agrees with the finding and has developed a plan to correct these issues. She noted that Flathead Valley Community College had clean opinions on their financial statements and major Federal Programs; there was finding related to their student financial aid program. The campus agreed with the finding and have a plan to address it. She noted that the Miles Community College Audit was clean with no opinions and no findings. Discussion followed.

Academic Research and Student Affairs Committee

**ACTION**

- a. Honorary Doctorate; MSU ITEM 176-2018-R0917

Regent Sheehy discussed the process behind the Honorary Doctorate Nomination, noting that it was initially discussed and reviewed by the Board during a previous executive session.

- b. Level II Executive Summary Supporting Documentation

Regent Sheehy spoke to the process related to these submissions. Each campus spoke to their respective requests which include: Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science, MSU-Bozeman; Re-establish Electrical Engineering PhD, MSU-Bozeman; Rename Academic Affairs-Division of General Studies, Great Falls College-MSU; and Authorization of Powerplant and Airframe C.A.S. degrees, Helena College – UM. Discussion followed.

**INFORMATION**

- a. Performance Based Funding

Mr. Erik Rose, Director of Workforce Initiatives and Information, provided an updated to the Board regarding performance based funding and undergraduate completion and retention. His presentation focused on Native American students, Pell recipients and



non-traditional students. He spoke briefly about two specific metrics: undergrad completion and retention; he noted that the undergraduate completion is the number of degrees, associate degree, awards, and certificates given at each institution. This is the total output of the institution. Retention is measured from Fall to Fall and includes all full-time, part-time first year students and new, full-time or part-time transfer students returning in the next academic year. He discussed the completion and retention per campus, noting that they vary for each quadrant and campus. For the MUS Total, he noted that we're generally trending up for retention and completions across the board. He discussed retention and completions at the Flagship level, Regional level, and Two-Year campuses. He also displayed information for each individual campus and highlighted their specific metrics. Discussion followed.

b. AIMA Recommendations

Ms. Angela McLean, Director of American Indian/Minority Achievement and K-12 Partnerships, gave a brief update to the board regarding AIMA draft recommendations which include:

- Establish an AIMA leader and point of contact at each campus
- Identify departmental primary points of contact
- Collect and share data across campus and within the MUS
- Provide a system-wide professional development curriculum for all faculty and staff
- Intensify efforts to include American Indian student understanding in interviews, contracts and performance evaluations of all faculty and staff

She noted that these recommendations have been vetted thoroughly with the MUS Chief Academic Officers and Student Affairs Officers. Next steps include gathering campus feedback and after evaluation, make a formal presentation of a mission statement and recommendations at the November Board meeting. Discussion followed.

c. Mission Statement Review; MSU

Deputy Commissioner Cech reminded the Board that per Policy 219, reviews of the campus mission statements are required every three years. Dr. Bob Mokwa Provost for MSU-Bozeman, shared the following mission statement: Montana State University, the state's land-grant institution, educates students, creates knowledge and art, and serves communities by integrating learning, discovery and engagement. He noted that the MSU-Bozeman mission statement embraces the historic, tripart land-grant and origin. Both the mission and strategic goals combine open access with an innovate approach for integrating learning, discovery and engagement. In this way MSU exemplifies the role of a land-grant research institution. The mission establishes the basis for prioritizing initiatives and for allocating resources to educate students, create art and engage with our communities. He discussed the outreach opportunities that are conducted in communities across the state through the extension offices and agricultural research centers. Dr. Mokwa noted that the university's mission statement was updated 6 years ago and was approved by the BOR in November 2011. He explained that in 2019 the campus will be revisiting the mission statement. They are now in the early stages of



reviewing the mission and goals and considering a process to develop the next plan.

d. Mission Statement Review; UM

Deputy Commissioner Cech reminded the Board that per Policy 219, reviews of the campus mission statements are required every three years. Dr. Edmonds, Provost for the University of Montana, presented the following mission statement: The University of Montana--Missoula pursues academic excellence as demonstrated by the quality of curriculum and instruction, student performance, and faculty professional accomplishments. The University accomplishes this mission, in part, by providing unique educational experiences through the integration of the liberal arts, graduate study, and professional training with international and interdisciplinary emphases. The University also educates competent and humane professionals and informed, ethical, and engaged citizens of local and global communities; and provides basic and applied research, technology transfer, cultural outreach, and service benefiting the local community, region, State, nation and the world. She noted the process that the current mission statement underwent including opportunities for multiple stakeholders to weigh in. She pointed out that academic excellence serves as the core of the mission; student performance is also critical to the success of the mission and the university. She also discussed the importance of faculty professional development and the integration of the liberal arts.

e. Implementation of Suicide Prevention Task Force  
Recommendations | Campus Reports

Mr. Ron Muffick, Director of Operations & Administration / Student Affairs, provided an update to the board, noting that in the spring of 2015 the BOR formed this taskforce, comprised of students, practitioners, administrators, faculty, and other staff assess suicide prevention efforts and mental health services throughout the Montana University System. These efforts have cumulated into 11 recommendations which were presented before the Board in September of 2016. He noted the implementation efforts for each recommendation by each campus. He noted the seriousness in which campuses undertook these efforts and the excellent job they have reacting and implementing the recommendations. He noted an increase in the number of students served within the last year, an increase in the number of counseling sessions overall, shorter wait times for students to get into a meeting with a counselor. Dr. Betsy Asserson of MSU-Bozeman spoke to the internal process used across MSU campuses to help implement these recommendations as a shared service. Discussion followed.

f. MREDI Final Report

Ms. Janelle Booth, MUS Research Director, provided the final report to the Board. She noted concise outcomes specific to each research project and an overall return on investment which included a total of \$57,567,717 additional funds received, \$46,412,849 grants still in progress; the formation of 12 Montana companies; 77 private sector partnerships, 18 patents, and formation of 353 jobs. She reminded attendees that MREDI allowed researchers to focus on Montana-specific issues. She highlighted that the Montana University System has made good on the 3:1 investment ratio for this project. Discussion followed.



g. Online Learning Report

Deputy Commissioner Cech noted this report comes forward each September as an update on the number of online programs across Montana. MSU-Billings is the largest provider for online programs in Montana. Over the last three years, the online programs at two-year campuses have decreased while undergraduate and graduate programs have increased as well. Discussion followed.

h. Accreditation Report

Deputy Commissioner Cech provided the annual accreditation report for the MUS. He noted that it provides a snapshot view for where each of the campuses are. All campuses are in good standing with the Northwest Commission for Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). Discussion followed.

i. ARSA Committee Update

The ARSA Committee members agreed to add the following updates to regular ARSA Committee agendas:

- Performance Based Funding for Underrepresented Report (information) in September
- Systemwide Program Prioritization Update (information) in November
- Student Success/Retention metrics (information)
- Student Lending/Default Rates overview (information) in March

j. Level I Memorandum (April, June, July)

Deputy Commissioner Cech discussed the process behind these approvals; noting that they include minor changes and are approved at the Commissioner's Office via direction of the board.

k. Intent to Plan Proposals (May, July)

Deputy Commissioner Cech noted the programs listed below are under development and have completed the necessary intent to plan documentation. Discussion followed.

**Programs Under Development** (Completed Intent to Plans)

**Submitted July 2017 – Expiration – March 2019**

**University of Montana Missoula**

**Montana Mountain Water Institute**



Submitted May 2017 – Expiration – January 2019

Montana State University

Center for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis

M.S. Dietetic Systems Leadership

Public Comment

Mr. Garrit Egnew, a student at MSU and Co-Chair of Science Policy Advocate Network, spoke in opposition to accepting a grant from the Koch Foundation.

Meeting Recessed at 5:15 PM

**Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**

Board Reconvened at 8:30 AM

What's Up Butte

Chancellor Blacketter introduced leaders from the Butte community to discuss the connections that exist between the community and MT Tech. Mr. Josh Vincent, co-founder for Water and Environmental Technologies (WET), noted that 35 of their 50 employees are MT Tech graduates; as employers he noted that graduates are very well prepared coming out of school and into the work environment. His company is proud of the fact that they can provide jobs for Montana residents. He described the relationship between WET and MT Tech as the catalyst to getting off the ground and that the support that campus professionals shared really helped; consequently, WET takes great pride in giving back to MT Tech. He also discussed how MT Tech has been key player in environmental issues in Montana and the unique nature of Tech as a school. Mr. Jay Doyle, President of St. James Healthcare, discussed the close partnership between St. James/Tech; they are one of the largest employers of MT Tech graduates from nursing – healthcare – radiology techs – IT, business office staff and more. He spoke to the changes in healthcare and the need to be ready to meet these changes; St. James has worked closely with nursing professors here on curriculum. He discussed their involvement with the development of the simulation lab for the nursing program and partnership on clinical trials for nursing students. He described several services that St. James provides to MT Tech including a Sports Medicine Program and athletic trainers that are available and assist during games, as well as management of the student health clinic on campus. Mr. Paul Baab, Public Relations Director for Northwestern Energy, spoke to the importance of MT Tech to the community and Northwestern Energy. He described MT Tech as the economic engine of the Butte community and noted the efforts they have made to help clean up the environment. He described the partnership with MT Tech as all-encompassing from the administrators, to staff, to graduates who go out do great things. He discussed the partnership of MT Tech and Northwestern Energy as a key stakeholder who helps direct and advise on future



infrastructure related projects, student internships, and research assistance. Discussion followed.

### Two-Year and Community College Committee

#### INFORMATION

##### a. Update on Math Pathways and Corequisite Implementation

Deputy Commissioner John Cech noted that Montana is being highlighted as one of few key states for its efforts to scale of Math Pathways and Corequisite Design. Mr. Erik Rose, Director of Workforce Initiatives and Information, highlighted where each campus currently was in their implementation efforts of corequisite writing and math and noted those campuses getting ready to launch pilot efforts this fall. Provost Hoar of MSU Billings discussed the CCA connection and the pairing with other institutions around the country who have also undergone implementation efforts, which was very helpful. Dr. Cech noted an upcoming summit in October that will be held in conjunction with Complete College America and will include the full team and broad representation from all campuses across the MUS. Provost Mokwa of MSU-Bozeman spoke to the overall thread to this process, starting with the math pathways which has led to corequisite initiative. He described future game changers which involve guided pathways and structured schedules for next steps. He also discussed the involvement of faculty in embracing these initiatives. The corequisite models were designed and built by faculty. Discussion followed.

##### b. Meeting State Worker Demand – Statewide Pipeline Report

Ms. Amy Watson, Economist with the Department of Labor, provided a presentation to the Board on meeting state worker demands. She reminded the board the overarching question was how well the MUS is doing at meeting the workforce needs of the state, both future and current. She discussed the initial pilot project and report that was conducted at the Missoula College. Through this pilot program and with direction from the Governor's office, efforts have been expanded and now include 16 public college and 2 private colleges to help evaluate the entire state. She noted key questions of these efforts include: how do graduates fair in the labor market; do colleges produce enough graduate in the right fields; and does the geographical distribution of graduates matter. The preliminary data shows that 75% of graduates work in Montana in the 5 years after graduation and that 69% find jobs within a year. Graduates work in every county in the state and work in their field of study. The report notes that graduates earn above median wages within three years of graduation. Higher wage earnings come from incumbent workers, workers in high-wage industries and more education. Additional findings show that 22% of high-demand jobs requiring a college degree cannot be filled by graduates from Montana College, mostly high-level healthcare jobs. She discussed the supply and demand by program as well as workforce outcomes by program. She noted that geographical distribution of graduates does matter and that graduates migrate following graduation and discussed the exportation and importation of graduates in different regions across the state. Discussion followed.



c. Rev Up Montana Final Grant Report

Deputy Commissioner Cech reminded attendees that this grant was for \$25 million and focused on improving student return-on-investment and reducing the skills-gap reported by employers. Dean Wolff of Great Fall College-MSU and Mr. Matt Springer, Director of the Rev Up Grant, provided an updated on the outcomes of this grant. Dean Wolff discussed how the project sought to unify the workforce development efforts of 13 public, community and tribal colleges and the state's Department of Labor and Industry (DLI), increase involvement of businesses in program design, and provide cross-agency wrap-around services to job-seekers. At the programmatic level, the project targeted programs in nine trades-oriented occupations in the manufacturing and energy industries, aiming to stimulate programmatic enhancements and fundamental changes in how those programs are offered to improve their value proposition to students. They provided an analysis of incremental change objectives associated with the grant which included: improvements to over 40 programs, investment of \$6 million in new equipment, significant improvements to the alignment of Department of Labor Job Service Centers with local colleges, implementation of innovation methods to advising students, and conducted a pilot on course sharing. She noted that they engaged double the number of students than expected through this grant, received fantastic feedback from employment partners, and helped get students into jobs. Mr. Springer discussed the many ways that this grant allowed for evaluation of incremental shifts and program outcomes, many of which were very positive and exceeded expectations. He noted that more information was also gained through various transformative efforts. Discussion followed.

Remarks by Governor Bullock (or Designee)

Ms. Siri Smillie, Governor Bullock's Education Policy Advisor, provided an update to the Board on behalf of the Governor's Office. She reiterated the importance of work-based learning experiences such as internships and apprenticeships and the corresponding importance of partnering with prospective employers. She extended thanks to President Cruzado for hosting the Governor at Gallatin College earlier this year for the Back to School Tour; she discussed the photonics program at Gallatin College served as a great example of the partnership between industry and MSU/Gallatin College in recognizing the need for highly-trained individuals for this burgeoning area and how best to meet that need. She noted that the Governor recently wrapped up his time serving as Chair of the Education Commission of States during which he focused on dual enrollment efforts. She noted the challenge that Governor Bullock and Commissioner Christian put to the campuses of growing dual enrollment by 1,000 students a year over the next three years; this challenge has been met successfully. She acknowledged the current budget situation within the state noting that that the economy is strong, revenues are down. She noted good things happening across the state including low unemployment and increasing wages, and the fact that Montana is leading the nation in manufacturing growth; however, revenue is not reflecting that growth. In combination with the active fire season, the budget is projected to be in a deficit. Without a special session, the Governor's only option is to trim spending to avoid this deficit. She noted the difficulties will likely require a special session to fully address as well as trimming the various agencies across the state.



Committee Reports/Action

- Budget, Audit and Enterprise Risk Committee

**CONSENT**

- a. Request for authorization for the University of Montana Western and the UMW Foundation to enter into an Operating Agreement; UM-Western *ITEM 176-1601-R0917 | Attachment #1*
- b. Request for authorization to execute a lease with the Montana Department of Transportation; Montana Agricultural Experiment Station *ITEM 176-2301-R0917 | Attachment #1*
- c. Request for authorization to execute lease renewal for Safety & Risk Management operations; MSU Bozeman *ITEM 176-2015-R0917*

A motion to approve consent items a. – c. was made by Regent Sheehy; motion passed 6-0, Regent Johnstone was excused.

**Staff**

- d. Staff Item; UM-Missoula *ITEM 176-1000-R0917*
- e. Staff Item; MSU-Northern *ITEM 176-2800-R0917*
- f. Staff Item; Great Falls College-MSU *ITEM 176-2900-R0917*

A motion to approve staff items d. – f. on the consent agenda was made by Regent Nystuen; motion passed 6-0, Regent Johnstone was excused and noted that he would have recused himself from voting on Item 176-1000-R0917.

**Emeriti Faculty:**

- g. Samson; UM-Missoula *ITEM 176-1001-R0917*
- h. Muir; UM-Missoula *ITEM 176-1002-R0917*
- i. Glendening; UM-Missoula *ITEM 176-1003-R0917*
- j. Justman; UM-Missoula *ITEM 176-1004-R0917*
- k. Acton; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 176-2001-R0917*
- l. Tsuruta; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 176-2002-R0917*
- m. Kelting-Gibson; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 176-2003-R0917*
- n. Brester; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 176-2004-R0917*
- o. Sherwood; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 176-2005-R0917*
- p. Carucci; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 176-2006-R0917*
- q. Cherry; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 176-2007-R0917*
- r. Bader; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 176-2008-R0917*
- s. Knudsen; MT-Tech *ITEM 176-1501-R0917*

A motion to approve emeriti faculty items g. – s. on the consent agenda was made by Regent Greenfield; motion passed 6-0, Regent Johnstone was excused.



## ACTION

### Budget Presentation & Discussion

- a. FY 2018 Operating Budgets; OCHE *ITEM 176-101-R0917*
  - All Funds Summary
  - MUS Operating Budgets

A motion to approve action item a. Item 176-101-R0917 was made by Regent Lozar; motion passed 6-0, Regent Johnstone was excused.

### Facilities

- a. Request for approval for additional planning & design of residence hall construction; MSU Bozeman *ITEM 176-2009-R0917 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2*

A motion to approve action item a. Item 176-2009-R0917 was made by Regent Greenfield; motion passed 6-0, Regent Johnstone was excused.

- b. Request for approval to remodel Liberal Arts Building west classrooms, restrooms, and electrical upgrade; UM Missoula *ITEM 176-1005-R0917*

A motion to approve action item b. Item 176-1005-R0917 was made by Regent Sheehy; motion passed 6-0, Regent Johnstone was excused.

- c. Request for approval to name the Academic Hall of the Liberal Arts Building; UM Missoula *ITEM 176-1006-R0917 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3 | Attachment #4*

A motion to approve action item c. Item 176-1006-R0917 was made by Regent Sheehy; motion passed 6-0, Regent Johnstone was excused.

- Academic Research and Student Affairs Committee

## ACTION

- a. Honorary Doctorate; MSU *ITEM 176-2018-R0917*

A motion to approve action item a. Item 176-2018-R0917 was made by Regent Nystuen; motion passed 6-0, Regent Johnstone was excused.

- b. Level II Executive Summary Supporting Documentation



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

A motion to approve action item b. Level II Memorandum was made by Regent Greenfield; motion passed 6-0, Regent Johnstone was excused.

Public Comment

Mr. Steve Kirchhoff spoke in opposition to the creation of a center for economic analysis at MSU-Bozeman, funded by the Koch Foundation.

Mr. Scott Risser, MT Tech Faculty Representative, extended thanks to the Board of Regents and Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education for their hard work.

Dr. David Yarlott, President of Little Big Horn College, extended thanks to the Board of Regents and Chancellor Blackketter for allowing the Tribal Colleges to be involved in this process. He spoke appreciatively about the increased relationships between Tribal Colleges, the MUS and OCHE.

Chair Albrecht convened an executive session. She determined that the matters of discussion relate to matters of individual privacy and that the demands of individual privacy outweigh the merits of public disclosure. Executive Session convened at 12:00 PM.

Executive Session *Mountain Con*

- Regents Professor Nomination #1 – MSU Bozeman
- Regents Professor Nomination #2 – MSU Bozeman
- Litigation Update
- Personnel Discussion

Meeting Adjourned at 2:10 PM.

Approved by the Board of Regents on

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fran Albrecht  
Chair, Board of Regents