



Academic and Student Affairs Committee
Of the
Montana Board of Regents
Conference Call Meeting
February 13, 2009
3:00 – 4:00 PM

Conference Call Meeting:

Meeting participants: Regent Hamilton, Regent Pease, Regent Jessen, Sylvia Moore (OCHE), Tom Gibson (OCHE), Jane Karas (FVCC), Dick Storey (UMW), David Dooley (MSU), Heidi Pasek (MSUGF), Judy Hay (MSUGF), Royce Engstrom (UM), Perry Brown (UM), Arlene Walker-Andrews (UM),

If you have questions about this meeting, please contact [Sarah Elkins](#) at the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) at (406) 444-0314.

Meeting Notes

Discussion: Level II procedure and level II requests to be approved or denied by full Board at March meeting, [Level I & II Guidelines](#)

Sylvia discussed the process of level II items and said that the process appears to be working, based on the questions and concerns addressed about level II items on the memorandum from the January Board of Regents meeting. She suggested scheduling a regular meeting of the Academic & Student Affairs Committee approximately two weeks before a Board meeting during which action on level II items is expected. Regents Pease and Hamilton agreed and asked that the designation of Level II Memorandum on the agenda be clarified– that the document is addressed to Chief Academic Officers for review. Regent Hamilton added that a regular meeting of the ASA Committee prior to the regular board meeting would allow the smaller committee to identify items of interest to bring for discussion to the ‘committee-as-a-whole’ meeting. It was also agreed that Chief Academic Officers would not be required to participate in this ASA Committee meeting and that any questions would be sent for response to the appropriate campus.

In the future, the Regents would like to see the following when presenting level II items: New costs expected; where/if a program is offered at another MUS campus, and if so, can the program resources be shared to cut costs; what changes are happening to a program to warrant a name-change, i.e. Graphic Arts to Graphic Design; enrollment projections.

- MSU Bozeman, MS in Health Sciences: David Dooley said that he is prepared to address the questions asked about this degree at the board meeting in March.
- MSU Bozeman, MS & PhD in American Studies: Royce Engstrom has written a letter of support for these program requests, based on the clear differences in focus between the UM & MSU degrees. Again, David Dooley is prepared to address additional information including enrollment predictions and costs, at the board meeting in March.



- UM Missoula, 2+2 Engineering Degree Program: UM & Tech will bring a slightly modified level II request to the March meeting, to include plans for MSU to participate as well. Regent Hamilton asked if the number of credits required for that degree is higher than allowed, and if so, is this program exempted through [Policy 301.11 - Undergraduate Degree Requirements](#)? Arlene Walker-Andrews confirmed that the program is exempt from the 120 credit limitation. The writing exam normally necessary to graduate from UM will not be required by students participating in the program.

Regent Pease asked if there was an engineering program at UM, Arlene Walker-Andrews said that UM offers some engineering courses but they are geared toward physics majors. She suggested that potential program participants are students who wish to live in Missoula to complete their first two years, and those who may start as physics students but realize their interest is more in engineering.

- UM Missoula, Minor in Climate Change Studies: No questions, no discussion
- UM Missoula, Masters in Special Education: This item was tabled pending further discussion between the Deans of Education at MSU Billings and UM.
- UM Missoula College of Technology: A.A.S. in Engineering Technology: This program was approved under probationary status using a level I request in January, 2007. There are currently 119 students on the advisory list, 80 in the program, and four will most likely graduate in May. It is a four semester program and all of the energy tech-specific courses are available online.

Discussion: Academic Program Plan

1. Current policy procedure, [BOR Policy 303.10](#)
2. Current campus Academic Program Plans:
<http://mus.edu/asa/academicplans/academicprogramplans.asp>

Regent Hamilton commented that having current academic program plans online is helpful during the program review process. She noted concern in regard to the program reviews of graduate programs. Perry Brown from UM responded that graduate programs go through a similar, regular review process to the undergraduate programs. He offered to provide a report showing enrollment and student progress statistics in graduate programs. He looks closely at peer groups in the regions for enrollment predictions when planning for future programs.

Information: Web site updates

Sylvia suggested the committee visit the new MUS Research web page released this week. The MUS Science and Technology Committee (MUSSTAC) recently approved the MUS Research Plan published on the site.

<http://mus.edu/research/default.asp>



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Posted on

Approved by the Board of Regents on

Date

Date

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

Stephen Barrett
Chair, Board of Regents