



The University of Montana-Helena

COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

DATE: April 13, 2010

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: Daniel J. Bingham, PhD
Dean/CEO
UM-Helena College of Technology

RE: Campus Update Report for the May 2010 Board of Regents' Meeting

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- We are currently undergoing our 10-year NWCCU accreditation review site visit (April 12-14, 2010)
 - There are approximately 86 disabled students currently receiving accommodations at our institution. There are 89 students receiving veteran benefits at this time as well. The number of students being served in these categories has increased from last semester.
 - The COMPASS placements for math have been updated to place students into Probability and Linear Math, Math for the Liberal Arts and College Algebra with the same cutoff scores. Students will place into Trigonometry, Trig Review, and Statistics with another set of cutoff scores. Advisors can help students choose the proper math courses based on their academic programs.
 - UM Helena recently held the second informational workshop on MCIS (Montana Career Information System) on March 10th, 2010. This workshop was held in conjunction with SAF Outreach Manager Marti Johnson. On April 1, UM Helena held a Career Resume Workshop.
 - UM-Helena has seen a significant increase in students participating in orientation and advising for the spring semester. There were 315 students advised in the spring. Of those 315 students, 105 were advised through small group advising.
 - UM Helena has experienced an increase in continuing students (85% retention from fall to spring this year vs. 79% in 2009).
 - UM Helena adjunct faculty member Tiffany Hilton successfully completed her project "Modeling Student Success at the University of Montana-Helena College of Technology" for her graduate degree program at Colorado State University. Tiffany's research has provided the college with a statistical model for predicting student success defined as degree completion and/or transfer. The study of 2,907 students who attended the college between 2000 and 2008 also provides criteria to identify "at-risk" students. The study's conclusions will help the college to more efficiently focus academic and student support resources to increase student success.
 - The UM Helena Financial Aid office was pleased to announce that we had a 58% increase in those students completing their FAFSA's before the March 1 deadline.
 - Effective July 1, 2010, our student loans will be funded through Direct Loans/Department of Education.
 - Last year, UM Helena paid out 4.2 million dollars – as of the end of this January we have paid out 6.9 million dollars in financial aid.
 - UM Helena has seen enrollment numbers increase from 1100 last spring to 1400 this spring; Admissions received a record number of 373 applications for the spring semester.

- Barb McAlmond attended the National Conference for Marketing and Public Relations in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This conference is geared towards **marketing** communications and **public relations** professionals at two-year colleges.
- UM-Helena and MSU Great Falls will be joining the Montana University System Student Insurance Plan effective fall semester 2010. This means all MUS institutions will now be participating in the consortium which provides students access to affordable health insurance at a cost of \$796 per semester for continuous annual coverage. Membership in the consortium will require that all students enrolling in four or more credits maintain health insurance coverage. Students will have the option to buy or refuse coverage when they register for their courses each semester on MY UMH. Students who have their own major medical coverage can refuse the MUS Student Insurance Plan. High school students enrolled in dual credit courses will not be eligible for the MUS Student Insurance Plan. The plan is offered through Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana. A lunchtime information session sponsored by Student Senate and Blue Cross Blue Shield was held on Friday, February 26th in the lecture hall. Information regarding the new student insurance plan will be communicated to students via course schedules, student handbooks, catalogs, email bulletins, campus flat screens/reader boards and the college website.
- UM-Helena's 2010 Commencement will take place on Saturday, May 9th, 2010 at the Helena High School Gymnasium at 11 a.m. We are pleased to have Helena's own Mr. Dave Lewis, Montana State Legislator for Senate District 42 as our commencement speaker. Senator Lewis' Legislative service is extensive as he has served Montanans in the House of Representatives in 2001 and 2003. His State Senate service spans from 2005 to present. Following the graduation ceremony, there will be a reception for graduates, their families, and friends in the Student Center at UM-Helena Donaldson Campus.
- With the recent recognition granted to the Nursing Club, UM-Helena now has eight active recognized student organizations on campus. The Nursing Club joins Campus Christian Fellowship, Future Machinists of America, Fire and Rescue Club, and the Helena Builders Industry Association Student Chapter all of which were formed this academic year in addition to Phi Theta Kappa, Circle K and the Aviation Club which have been active for the past three years.
- Student Senate will wrap up the year sponsoring service activities including the annual UM-Helena Highway Clean Up Day on April 17th and the biannual Red Cross Blood Drive on April 21st. Senate will conclude the semester with a spring BBQ for the campus.
- Pharmacy Tech classes have started with 9 students enrolled
- As of April 13, 2010 Continuing Education(CE) has had 1065 students
- We are offering on-line Mental Health Direct Care Certification program
- Our Continuing Education department developed a new logo "U Learn"
- CE established partnerships with programs to assist in offering continuing education courses for Helena and the surrounding area; Helena Institute, Helena Public Schools
- CE is developing the ENCORE program for students 50+ for enrichment, workforce development, and academics