

**MINUTES**  
**Montana Board of Regents**  
**Helena College - UM**  
**Location: Student Center**

**March 5-6, 2015**

**Thursday, March 5**

Meeting Convened at 8:30am

Roll call indicated a quorum present. Regents present: Chair Paul Tuss, Regents Major Robinson, Jeff Krauss, Fran Albrecht, Martha Sheehy, Regent Johnstone and Student Regent Mariah Williams. 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 noted the excellent conversations that took place at the morning meeting with Hometown Helena. He informed attendees that more than 2,000 high school students are taking classes in high school for college credit now; this is twice as many dual credit students compared to two years ago. He also informed attendees that more than three-quarters of MUS graduates are employed in Montana one year after graduation. He stated that the MUS produced 300 more bachelor's degrees compared to the previous year and that over the past decade we have doubled the number of Montanans who are earning a two-year degree. He extended thanks to the faculty, staff, professionals and administrators across the system for their hard work which attribute to these great successes. Chair Tuss gave a brief overview of the topics to be discussed over the next few days including: the performance funding model, board policy discussion, and upcoming tuition policies for veterans, math pathways, the expansion of the comprehensive two-year college mission, and more. He extended thanks to Dean Bingham and Helena College-UM for hosting the meeting.

Dean Bingham welcomed all attendees. Chief Academic Officer of Helena College-UM, Denise Runge, presented an update on the online course work that is taking place on campus including strategies developed and adopted on campus.

Superintendent Juneau updated attendees on recent events at the Office of Public Instruction included the recently received \$450,000 contribution from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation to support the work of Graduation Matters Montana for another three years. She discussed the success of the program and improved graduation rate of 85.4%. She discussed the \$10 million dollar federal preschool grant they recently obtained and the portion reserved for postsecondary education. She noted the great work and partnership with OCHE, specifically data sharing related to FAFSA, to help students successfully complete the application process and provide a seamless transition from high school to secondary education. She discussed the no cost ACT test opportunity available to every public high school junior in Montana. She noted the success of College Application Week during which seniors in high school can apply to a two-year, four-year, or tribal college and have the application fee waved or differed. This year 126 high school and 26 colleges and universities participated; a total of 2,736 applications were submitted. She provided a brief legislative update, noting that the HB 27 – School Funding passed through the legislature. SB 12 – bill to provide funding for 19-year olds passed through the Senate and has moved to the House. OPI will present their budget to the House Appropriations on Friday of this week. She expressed her

concerns related to efforts to privatized public education, to roll back Montana Common Core State Standards and to take constitutional authority away from the Board of Public Education. She expressed her appreciation for the continued support from k-12, higher education and the business community.

Governor Bullock discussed this exciting time for education in Montana due to the work being done by Superintendent Juneau to increase high school graduation rates and promote student success throughout the K-12 system and the work of Commissioner Christian to increase performance and accountability in our institutions of higher learning, and make higher education more accessible to all Montanans. He noted that all of the education stakeholders are working together like never before to ensure that the full continuum of public education is delivering for students, parents and taxpayers. He shared highlights on prioritization of new legislation in support of Veterans tuition costs. He discussed the work of the Commissioner's Prior Learning Assessments Taskforce as innovative and exciting. He noted the efforts of each of the campuses in meeting the objectives and goals of Main Street Montana. He reiterated the importance that our state college and university system understand the needs of private industry and are ready to use innovative practice in training the workforce in an efficient manner. He provided an update related to the current legislative session, including updates related to the preliminary approval of continuing the tuition freeze to ensure that middle class Montana families aren't priced out of educational opportunities for their children. He noted the bipartisan consensus on the importance of research at our institutions of higher learning. He discussed continuing efforts related to infrastructure funding for deferred maintenance across the system. He discussed the upcoming senate confirmation hearing for Regents Johnstone, Sheehy, Albrecht and Williams. He extended thank to all attendees for serving as advocates for education throughout Montana.

#### ACT College Career Readiness Award Ceremony

Superintendent Juneau and Scott Montgomery, ACT Vice President for Policy and Government Relations informed attendees that this was the 3<sup>rd</sup> year ACT has sponsored this campaign and that currently 34 states are taking part. ACT's goal is to recognize and exemplary two-year college, high school and student in the participating states ACT bases the awards on several criteria: academic achievement, growth in achievement, serving low-income and minority populations, community engagement, overcoming adversity etc. This award is not based solely on the ACT score. State level winners will be in contention to be named as National Exemplars. Commissioner Christian discussed the great things being accomplished through this effort. Award presentation followed, Commissioner Christian presented Helena College-UM the Career Preparedness Award; Superintendent Juneau presented the College and Career Transition Award to Thompson Falls High School; Governor Bullock presented the College and Career Readiness Award to Zachary Felsman from Arlee High School.

#### Roll Call and Approval of Minutes

- January 6, 2015 Minutes

Regent Albrecht motioned for approval of January 6, 2015 meeting minutes; motion passed 7-0.

#### Campus Introductions

President Engstrom formally introduced Chancellor Weatherby for UM-Western. President Cruzado

noted the special ceremony taking place at the Capitol today in recognition of MSU graduate Maurice Hilleman, who saved the lives of millions by developing a wide array of vaccines. Chancellor Nook extended thanks and recognition to MSUB Provost Mark Pagano. Dean Wolff of Great Falls College-MSU announced of the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual research day event taking place on April 11<sup>th</sup> at Great Falls College-MSU.

## System Issues Reports and Action

- Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Christian extended thanks to Governor Bullock and Superintendent Juneau for their participation in the meeting and continued partnerships. Commissioner Christian made special note of appreciation in the area of student readiness and success. A Montana University System team led by Deputy Commissioner John Cech has just submitted to Oxford University a peer-reviewed paper for publication on the subject of college readiness innovation and preparing students for college math. This publication also includes names on the cover and hard work by Drs. William McCaw and John Matt of the University of Montana. Deputy Commissioner Cech and Digital Academy Executive Director Robert Currie attended an Oxford University Education Research Symposium in December where John led a presentation there on the EdReady program, exciting and innovative math readiness and placement tool that is being rolled out across Montana. He thanked State, community, K-12, and tribal colleges for pulling together to provide students better ways to be math prepared and effectively placed in college.

- Legislative Update

Commissioner Christian noted that Governor gave a good well rounded update of the Legislative activity. Since the Board last met, the entire system budget was presented to the legislative joint budget subcommittee. Between presentation and executive action, there was a full week before the House and Senate members of our subcommittee. The tone of our dialogue was strong on accountability. The subcommittee was impressed with our performance-based funding commitments, our accountability and transparency in fiscal management, and our ability to work together as a state to deliver on important state educational priorities. The subcommittee approved funding levels for higher education that, if coupled with a fully funded state employee pay plan, would situate the system effectively for a resident tuition freeze when the Board sets tuition rates for the next two years. The budget as it came out of subcommittee also includes the \$15-million research initiative and some additional funding for research and service agencies above (by \$2.6 million) the agency proposal in the executive budget. We also have an active long-range building program agenda that includes the regents' priority projects. Romney Hall at Montana State University, CLAPP Science building in Missoula, the engineering building in Butte and the library in Billings are all still in play. He noted that today and tomorrow the full House Appropriations Committee will be hearing presentations of the recommended budgets that came out of the subcommittee for House Bill 2, the general appropriations act. The state employee pay plan via House Bill 13, is not yet scheduled for a hearing. He reiterated the need to be able to successfully recruit and retain high quality faculty and staff across the system to ensure expert delivery of higher education. SB 29 did pass successfully in both the house and senate, this removes some restrictive waiver language created prior to the creation of the Board of Regents. He noted the link to tracking important pieces of legislation and progress of bills. He discussed SB 143 and that it had narrowly passed the senate and was on its way to the house. This is a bill that would allow open and concealed carry of guns on campus and that the MUS was working diligently to oppose its passing. Discussion followed.

- College Application Week Update

Zach Hawkins, Director of Gear UP, presented on the successful College Application Week that was conducted in November of 2014 across Montana. This effort started in 2005 in North Carolina with a handful of high schools, now in 2014 every state across the nation participates in some form of College Application Week. He noted that for lower income students, application fees can act as barrier to post-secondary education. This year 2,736 applications were completed by Montana students: 76% to four-year colleges, 16% to two-year campuses, 4% to private colleges and 4% to tribal colleges. The goal is to see every high school involved in this initiative. This year every MUS school, tribal and private institution participated in the event this year. Focus continues on ways to improve this initiative each year, one main area is to improve communications. 23% of student indicated that they would not have submitted an application without this program. This serves as a great example when different stakeholders in the college access community continue to work together. Discussion followed about the possibilities of full funding/waiving application fees. Zach confirmed that there are plans to track the data going forward by use of student identification numbers.

- Campus Reports (Linked to agenda)

Commissioner Christian noted that the campus reports were posted to the agenda for review as needed.

#### Presentation on Reauthorization – D. Longanecker

Mr. David Longanecker, President of WICHE Commission, presented on reauthorization at the federal role. He shared a brief history on the federal role in postsecondary education. He discussed the 10th amendment of the constitution and how it led to the education mantra that higher education is not necessarily a federal responsibility. Initially higher education was an elitist non-governmental system; however, in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century things changed, not by constitutional responsibility but by Federal interest and national need. He noted the impact of the Land – Grant Act of 1862 which was passed to address a national economic imperative. This began the movement toward a meritocratic system of higher education. Broad access became a public goal in the mind of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, again as an economic development opportunity. Efforts include the GI Bill and NDEA. The higher education act of 1965 went beyond the federal interest to a federal responsibility of providing equal opportunities to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness.

He discussed federal movement toward egalitarian policy and need based aid and the match by national movement which engaged the states. This was reflected via geographic access, making education “as free as possible”, via low tuition, need-based financial aid, with federal incentives and the community college movement. Initially the HEA had a clear goal, to provide financial access via grants and loans which worked fairly well. The first wave of reform – MISAA- the Middle income student assistance act formed with an espoused goal to expand opportunity to the middle class and the lack of evidence to support and strong evidence to oppose. The second wave of reform – Middle income at the expense of the most needy students, in the form of loan expansion and over Pell grants. The third wave of reform was program improvement via direct lending and improved accountability, basically the federal government turning to states for assistance which resulted in a mixed bag of results. The third wave of reform - part two, was focused more for the middle class through tuition tax credits. The Fourth wave of reform included increased Pell grants and the sense that more is better and never quite enough with deregulation fostering innovation. We are moving from the philosophy of access to focus on access to success. More focus is on ensuring that access remains affordable to students, states and all stakeholders.

In his opinion this is the movement of the new millennium. He described this current movement as that of a renaissance of sorts; the new agenda focuses on frugal essentialism. Under this new form access become access to success, need is redefined and reemphasized, resources are constrained and everyone has a stake in the game. The themes being discussed as smart federal policy include greater transparency. State and federal partnership worked before and could again, if done smartly. With regard to institutions, they are moving from incentives, for nothing, to skin in the game including sharing default risk on loans and sharing benefits of completions. He discussed the economical, ration risk of sharing with students, more ration cost sharing (IRC, redefine FTE as 15 credit hours, and provide completion bonuses to students. With regard to the federal government, they could be a better partner and show more coordination within Congress, especially between authorization, appropriations, and tax policy. All of this suggests that we may be entering a new federal engagement with higher education, which could be smarter with how our programs work or more regulatory. He shared graphs displaying substantial growth across other countries. He discussed the difference in college attainment, per state, between older and younger adults. In conclusion he has great hopes that the federal government will move forward with the reauthorization act. Discussion followed; Commissioner Christian reiterated that PELL has a huge impact on students and tuition. Chair Tuss discussed the federal completion agenda and its ties to individual states.

### **Administrative, Budget, and Audit Oversight Committee INFORMATION**

#### **a. Performance Funding Allocation Model Update**

Deputy Commissioner Tyler Trevor, Dr. Bob Mokwa and Dr. Tony Crawford presented an update from the MUS Steering Committee related to Performance Funding. Dr. Mokwa provided background information related to the overarching goal of increasing the percentage of the population in Montana with a higher education credential from 40%-60%. This goal translated into the development of a Performance Funding allocation model. He noted the two metrics within the Phase I model which included retention and completions. Following the approval of the short term model the committee developed the long-term or Phase II model. This included greater expansion of committee membership, broader engagement of the MUS community, developing an enhanced list of mission-specific metrics and creating a long-term allocation model. More recently this February, discussions continue regarding freezing tuition for resident students, consideration of the MUS budget request and designation of a portion of the state appropriation for performance funding. The committee researched best practices, established principles to guide metric selection and model development. He discussed model development and guiding principles, noting important attributes including: reward progress and improvement overall; avoiding competition between institutions; employing a mechanism for using residual funds; accounting for random fluctuations in data and avoiding all or nothing outcomes; accounting for underrepresented or at-risk populations; and reinforcing the importance of academic quality. He reiterated the high importance of quality related to the MUS Strategic Plan. All MUS institutions strive to provide a high quality learning experience, faculty are the gatekeepers of academic quality, track and report on quality assurance metrics and measure and evaluate results.

Dr. Crawford discussed the details of the allocation model. He noted the potential allocation for each campus that is appropriated based on 3-yr resident FTE average. That each sector has a unique set of metrics. Metrics are measured annually and compared to prior 3-yr average. Metric values are weighted and indexed to a standard scale of 1,000 points. Bonus point are awarded for under-represented groups such as: American Indians, Alaska natives, Veterans, Pell recipients and non-

traditional age students. He clarified that in order to receive the full PF allocation a campus must meet an established target. An overall score above 1,000 represents improvement while a score equal to 1,000 would represent no overall change from past performance and a score below 1,000 would represent regression. He noted a transitional-loss zone which accounts for random, nonsystematic fluctuations in the metrics. Campuses that fall below the target, but within the transitional-loss zone receive a portion of the eligible funding amount (Partial PF Allocation). He discussed the earn-back opportunity in year-two (if a campus falls short of its target in the first year of the biennium). The model will be assessed and revised, as necessary, each biennium. He summarized that the Montana performance funding model encourages progress and improvement at the institutional level. Progress is evaluated based outcome metrics, which vary depending on institution sector. Funding is based on improvement overall, not necessarily improvement on all metrics. Bonus points are awarded for under-represented, at-risk student populations. Partial funding is possible if the total score is below the target, but close. Institutions have a chance to earn-back lost funding in the second year of the biennium. Campuses will continue to engage, inform and communicate with stakeholders. The steering committee will gather input and finalize recommendations for the allocation model. Approval of the Regents will be requested at the May 2015 Board meeting. Discussion followed.

- b. Student Proposal to Revise BOR Policy 940.12.1 – Tuition and Fee Approval: Disclosure of Total Cost of Attendance; OCHE | [Attachment #1](#)

ASUM President Asa Hohman presented this proposed revision of BOR Policy 940.12.1 this was brought forward by representatives of MUS student governments. The proposed changes would allow increases in or new “student driven fees” to be considered by the Board of Regents annually. Present policy language indicates that approval of tuition and fees will take place once every two years; normally during the May meeting of odd numbered years. Discussion followed.

- c. Update – MSU-Billings Budget Planning

Chancellor Mark Nook provided an update related to MSU-Billing’s budget planning. He recapped the budget principles which include: minimize the impact on students and invest in their long-term success; work diligently within shared governance process and current contracts; involve and engage the entire campus community in balancing of budget; and ensure strategic reductions and reallocations are not unilateral or opportunistic. He recapped the internal planning assumptions which account for enrollment decline and reduced revenue related to tuition and state support, performance based funding, expenditure increase due to increase in enrollment reserve and base budget increases which amount to a revenue gap of \$4.7 million. He discussed the reductions made in five key areas including the Chancellor’s Office, Athletics, Provost/Academic Affairs, Administrative Affairs, Student Affairs and General. He discussed personnel cuts and efforts to be as humane as possible. These cuts includes contract faculty, contract administrative professional and classified staff for a total of 17 lay-offs. Discussion followed.

## **CONSENT**

- a. Authorization to Remodel Classrooms in Liberal Arts Building – University of Montana-Missoula; UM-Missoula [ITEM 166-1003-R0315](#) | [Attachment #1](#)

- b. Authorization to Execute Utility Easement between NorthWestern Corporation and the University of Montana-Missoula; UM-Missoula *ITEM 166-1026-R0315* | *Attachment #1*
- c. Authorization to Expend Student Computer Fee Funds: Student Classroom Technology Equipment Initiative – University of Montana-Missoula; UM-Missoula *ITEM 166-1028-R0315*
- d. Authorization to Expend Student Computer Fee Funds: Student Employment Allocation – University of Montana-Missoula; UM-Missoula *ITEM 166-1029-R0315*
- e. Authorization to Expend Student Fee Funds: Student Equipment Allocation- University of Montana-Missoula; UM-Missoula *ITEM 166-1030-R0315*
- f. Authorization to Expend Reverted Appropriations-University of Montana-Western; UM-Western *ITEM 166-1603-R0315* | *Attachment #1*
- g. Authorization to Expend Student Computer Fees – The University of Montana Western; UM-Western *ITEM 166-1604-R0315*
- h. Request for Approval of New investment line-up for the Montana Family Education Savings Program (MFESP) Investment Plan; OCHE *ITEM 166-101-R0315* | *Attachment #1*

### **ACTION**

- a. Authorization to Complete Research Space at 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Interdisciplinary Science Building (ISB) – University of Montana-Missoula; UM-Missoula *ITEM 166-1001-R0315* | *Attachment #1*

Vice President Mike Reid - UM presented the request for the University of Montana – Missoula to expend up to \$1,500,000 for the Completion of Research Space on the 3rd Floor of Interdisciplinary Science Building. The Interdisciplinary Science Building was designed to be a catalyst for stimulating high levels of research in the natural sciences on the Missoula campus. Due to limited funding, the initial construction included three and a half floors of shelled out space. As funding became available, the intent was that the unfinished floors would be completed to house faculty labs, offices, and core facilities for research within and between disciplines. Cost of the project is estimated at \$1.5 million and will be financed with an InterCap loan over 5 years. The Facilities and Administrative (F&A) revenue from the grant will support the annual debt service which is estimated at \$322,870 @ 2.5% or \$309,059 at the current 1.0% rate.

- b. Authorization to Enter into Lease for Bitterroot College – University of Montana-Missoula; UM-Missoula *ITEM 166-1002-R0315* | *Attachment #1* | *Attachment #2* | *Attachment #3*

Vice President Mike Reid - UM presented the request for the University of Montana to enter into a five-year lease with the Hamilton School District for use of the Westview School, located at 103 South 9th Street, Hamilton, MT, for relocation of Bitterroot College. The new lease provides for a maximum of \$500,000 in leasehold improvements to be paid for by the University of Montana. This cost will be in lieu of an annual market rent. The University will provide funding for the leasehold improvement in

the form of an internal loan. Over the expected lease term of 5 -7 years the loan will be re-paid with funds allocated for the existing lease payments. The University will be responsible for utilities/janitorial expenses which are included under current lease. Even with this additional expense the sq. ft. cost will be 30% to 40% less under Westview School lease. The new lease provides the University with an option to purchase the Westview School from the Hamilton School District should the opportunity arise during the lease term. Discussion followed.

- c. Authorization for Approval of Operating Agreement between Great Falls College-MSU and MSU Alumni Foundation; Great Falls College-MSU ITEM 166-2904-R0315 | Attachment #1

Dean Susan Wolff presented the request for Great Falls College-MSU for authorization to contract with the Montana State University Alumni Foundation for services described in the attached operating agreement.

- d. Authorization to Name the Northern Agricultural Research Center's Office Building; MSU-Bozeman ITEM 166-2009-R0315 | Attachment #1

Mr. Tracy Ellig of MSU presented the request for the Board of Regents to authorize MSU to name its office building at Northern Agricultural Research Center in honor of retired superintendent Gregg Carlson. Chair Tuss expressed his support for this item.

### **Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee**

#### **CONSENT**

- a. Honorary Doctorate; UM Missoula
- b. Honorary Doctorate; MT Tech of UM
- c. Honorary Doctorate; MSU Bozeman
- d. Level II Memorandum (from November submission)

#### **INFORMATION**

- a. AIMA Update

Brandi Foster, Director of American Indian Minority Achievement, provided an updated on the 16-member Council which has begun its efforts to address American Indian achievement within the Montana University System. After reviewing current data, existing policies, and relating campus perspectives, six areas have been identified as critical to improving the ways in which we serve our American Indian communities including: creating campus community for American Indian students; increasing the number of American Indian employees at every level; ensuring that staff, faculty and administration are culturally responsive in working with American Indian students; building relationships with tribal communities, including tribal colleges; fostering mentoring relationships for students as well as staff, faculty and administration; clarifying and prioritizing the MUS' responsibilities under Indian Education for All. Next steps will be fleshing out these topics by identifying best practices, opportunities for collaboration, existing challenges, and eventually, recommendations on how the MUS can, as a system, strive to provide a learning and working environment that will positively impact the experience of American Indians on our campuses.

- b. Tuition for Non-Resident Veterans

Ron Muffick, Director of Student Affairs, provided an update to the Board on PL 113-146 Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act 2014 (Section 702). This requires VA disapproval of programs of education if a school charges non-resident tuition and fees to all covered individuals who live in the state in which the public institution is located; the effective date is July 1, 2015. He discussed those that are covered under this act (Montgomery and Post-9/11 GI Bills Only) including: Veterans who enroll within three years of discharge after serving 90 days or more on active duty, spouses and children using transferred entitlement within three years of the transferor's discharge after serving 90 days or more on active duty, surviving spouses or children under the Fry Scholarship who enroll within three years of an active duty service member's death in the line of duty after serving 90 days or more. He clarified that once enrolled, individuals remain covered as long as they are continuously enrolled at the same school. He clarified that this does not guarantee or require in-state tuition and fee charges to all Ch 33 or Ch 30 recipients. The VA cannot compel a school to charge covered individuals the resident rates. The VA will disapprove the impacted programs if a school does not charge resident rates. In summary: qualifying individuals are basically Post 9/11 veterans or their dependents who physically reside in Montana. They would be exempt from additional residency requirements as it relates to tuition and fees – other than to physically reside in Montana. If the MUS does not comply, we would lose VA funding of approximately \$15 million. The changes from PL 113-146, Section 702 will cause a \$2.5 million reduction in Yellow Ribbon and tuition revenue annually. Next steps include finalizing policy language related to residency requirements with legal staff and submission of proposed policy language to Veterans Administration for approval and to the Board of Regents for approval at May meeting. Upon approval a system-wide implementation workgroup will be developed. Discussion followed.

#### c. Math Pathways Update

Professor Jim Hirstein – UM Math Faculty Member and Chair of Math Pathways provided an update related to Math Pathways Task Force. He reminded the board that this task force was appointed by the Commissioner of Higher Education to serve as a partner with the national organization, Complete College America. The work of the Task Force will contribute to the achievement of the Governor's goals to increase the percentage of Montanans with a higher education credential. Based on the college completion data that CCA has compiled, nationwide, they argue that student graduation rates need to improve in order to meet requirements for future jobs. CCA has determined that the current way mathematics is incorporated into a student's college education serves as an obstacle to college completion. From the task force's perspective, mathematics itself is not the problem. Issues with college completion related to mathematics may originate in one of the following: alignment of mathematical content with programs, placement and advising, and availability of appropriate pathways (secondary and post-secondary). The aim is to research these aspects of mathematics in higher education in Montana and propose recommendations that would contribute to a statewide solution. The Task Force has been charged by the Montana University System to develop system-wide guidelines that address the following goals: increase success rates in college mathematics courses that lead to graduation; improve the articulation between mathematics requirements and other academic programs; use data to support the system recommendations (placement and student support), and strengthen communication between secondary schools and colleges. The task force will investigate the following questions with respect to each of the goals: What is the essential problem to be solved; how do we know it is a problem; what is the evidence; what is the root cause of this problem? What additional information is needed; who are the key stakeholders interested in the solution of this problem and are there promising strategies to address the problem that should be investigated.

#### d. Notifications & Level I Approvals

Deputy Commissioner Moisey reiterated that this memorandum is intended to inform the board and attendees of the Notifications and Level I changes in academic programs that have been approved on an MUS campus or in the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education since the November 2014 Board of Regents meeting.

e. Level II Memorandum (for action in May)

Deputy Commissioner Moisey reiterated the process behind Level II items and reminded attendees that action on these items will be taken at the upcoming May Board of Regents meeting. This memorandum includes items from MSU-Bozeman, UM-Missoula, and UM-Western that have significant impact or higher cost to campuses.

Public Comment

None.

Meeting Recessed at 5:30pm.

**Friday, March 6**

The Board reconvened at 8:22am.

## **Two-Year Education and Community College Committee**

### **INFORMATION**

a. Montana Department of Labor and Industry/MUS Partnerships

Commissioner Pam Bucy gave an update on the efforts over the last two years on the successful partnership and collaboration between the MUS and MTDLI. Their joint focus has been on new ways to leverage partnership opportunities between the two agencies with special focus on two-year education, workforce development and apprenticeships. She updated the Board on the collaboration that has taken place with the US DOL TAACCCT grants; Montana was awarded \$52,364,300.00 for the 2011-2014 grant period. She shared several statistics related to grant awards in other states; noting that only California came in ahead of Montana. Discussion followed.

b. Draft Prior Learning Assessment Policy Recommendations

Sue Jones, Chancellor Nook and Dr. Lodmell provided an update and brief overview of the PLA task force and policy recommendations. The task force members continue to seek input from various groups including MUS faculty, MACRAO and CAOs. Over the past eight months, the PLA taskforce has deliberated on PLA policy and guideline considerations. In tandem, faculty and staff have been offered opportunities to take part in PLA-focused educational webinars and training. This hand-in-hand process provides for better understanding of PLA while formulating policy recommendations has truly helped create a solid baseline for assessing college-level learning that has occurred outside of the classroom for the MUS. Upon gathering more input the final policy draft and guidelines will be shared at the upcoming May meeting. This will create more common ground on PLA, across the system, and will also raise awareness and open doors to higher education credentials for Montana

adults. Chancellor Nook discussed the components and innovating thinking that went into this proposed policy. Discussion followed.

- c. Comprehensive Two-Year College Mission Expansion Update to the BOR: Bitterroot College UM; City College at MSUB; Gallatin College MSU; Great Falls College MSU; Helena College UM; Highlands College at MT Tech; Missoula College UM | Attachment #1

The Two-Year College Deans presented an update on the Comprehensive Two-Year Mission Expansion. Deputy Commissioner Cech provided a brief historical update on the progress to date since 2011. He discussed the five tenets that make up the building block of an American community college. These include university transfer, workforce development, developmental education, lifelong learning, and community development. John discussed several highlights from each of the seven colleges. He discussed workforce development and the focus on local responsiveness and campus responses from Highlands College, Bitterroot College, City College, Gallatin College, Great Falls College-MSU, Helena College-UM and Missoula College. Developmental and Remedial education was discussed and highlighted across the system. He further highlighted the mission expansion reports from each of the seven two-year colleges which were a part of the mission expansion effort. He acknowledged the work done by community colleges as well. Mr. Erik Rose gave a brief overview of how the two-year colleges are connecting with the Main Street Montana initiative. Discussion followed.

### **ACTION**

- a. Mission Review; Great Falls College MSU *ITEM 166-2902-R0315* | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3 | Attachment #4

Dean Susan Wolff, Great Falls College-MSU presented the request for approval of the Great Falls-MSU Mission Review. She noted that GFC-MSU will host a Year Seven Accreditation visit on April 20-22, 2015. Following the receipt of the results of that visit, the campus will engage in an update of its mission, vision and values. She discussed the mission statement which reads: to foster the success of our students and their communities through innovative, flexible learning opportunities for people of all ages, backgrounds, and aspirations resulting in self-fulfillment and competitiveness in an increasingly global society. She also discussed core themes which include: Workforce Development through applied programming our students successfully attain a credential leading to life sustaining careers. Transfer Preparation: Our students complete transfer programming and successfully transfer toward a four-year degree. Academic Preparation: We prepare individuals for success in college coursework through developmental (remedial) education and adult basic education. Community Development: As the community's college, we support social and economic development through outreach, lifelong learning, and active partnership.

### **Staff and Compensation Committee CONSENT**

#### Staff Items

- a. UM Staff; ITEM 166-1000-R0315
- b. MT Tech Staff; ITEM 166-1500-R0315
- c. MSU Northern Staff; ITEM 166-2800-R0315

- d. MSU Billings Staff; ITEM 166-2700-R0315
- e. UM Professor Emeritus – Woessner; ITEM 166-1024-R0315
- f. UM Professor Emeritus – Sommers-Flanagan; ITEM 166-1025-R0315
- g. MT Tech Professor Emeritus – Ziegler; ITEM 166-1505-R0315
- h. MSU Billings Professor Emeritus – Landis; ITEM 166-2706-R0315
- i. MSU Billings Professor Emeritus – Rietz; ITEM 166-2707-R0315
- j. MSU Northern Professor Emeritus – Hawkinson; ITEM 166-2801-R0315

## **INFORMATION**

- a. Update on State Legislative Bills or Actions Related to Employment Law

Deputy Commissioner McRae presented an update on employment related matters before the legislature. He gave an overview of several pieces of legislation, including a firearms-on-campus bill, the state employee pay bill, a retirement-system bill, and a nondiscrimination bill. All items are subject to further legislative action. The board will receive a final update after the legislative session.

## **Committee Reports & Action**

### **Administrative, Budget, and Audit Oversight Committee CONSENT**

- a. Authorization to Remodel Classrooms in Liberal Arts Building – University of Montana-Missoula; UM-Missoula ITEM 166-1003-R0315 | Attachment #1
- b. Authorization to Execute Utility Easement between NorthWestern Corporation and the University of Montana-Missoula; UM-Missoula ITEM 166-1026-R0315 | Attachment #1
- c. Authorization to Expend Student Computer Fee Funds: Student Classroom Technology Equipment Initiative – University of Montana-Missoula; UM-Missoula ITEM 166-1028-R0315
- d. Authorization to Expend Student Computer Fee Funds: Student Employment Allocation – University of Montana-Missoula; UM-Missoula ITEM 166-1029-R0315
- e. Authorization to Expend Student Fee Funds: Student Equipment Allocation-University of Montana-Missoula; UM-Missoula ITEM 166-1030-R0315
- f. Authorization to Expend Reverted Appropriations-University of Montana-Western; UM-Western ITEM 166-1603-R0315 | Attachment #1
- g. Authorization to Expend Student Computer Fees – The University of Montana Western; UM-Western ITEM 166-1604-R0315
- h. Request for Approval of New investment line-up for the Montana Family Education Savings Program (MFESP) Investment Plan; OCHE ITEM 166-101-R0315 | Attachment #1

Regent Robinson motioned for approval of consent items a.-h.; motion passed 7-0.

## **ACTION**

- a. Authorization to Complete Research Space at 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Interdisciplinary Science Building (ISB) – University of Montana-Missoula; UM-Missoula ITEM 166-1001-R0315 | Attachment #1

Motion for approval of action item a. 166-1001-R0315 was made by Regent Williams; motion passed 7-0.

- b. Authorization to Enter into Lease for Bitterroot College – University of Montana-Missoula; UM-Missoula ITEM 166-1002-R0315 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3

Motion for approval of action item b. 166-1002-R0315 was made by Regent Johnstone; motion passed 7-0.

- c. Authorization for Approval of Operating Agreement between Great Falls College-MSU and MSU Alumni Foundation; Great Falls College-MSU ITEM 166-2904-R0315 | Attachment #1

Motion for approval of action item c. 166-2940-R0315 was made by Regent Albrecht; motion passed 6-0 (Regent Krauss rescinding).

- d. Authorization to Name the Northern Agricultural Research Center's Office Building; MSU-Bozeman ITEM 166-2009-R0315 | Attachment #1

Motion for approval of action item d. 166-2009-R0315 was made by Regent Sheehy; motion passed 7-0.

## **Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee CONSENT**

- a. Honorary Doctorate; UM Missoula
- b. Honorary Doctorate; MT Tech of UM
- c. Honorary Doctorate; MSU Bozeman
- d. Level II Memorandum (from November submission)

Motion for approval of consent items a.-d. was made by Regent Albrecht; motion passed 7-0.

## **Two-Year Education and Community College Committee ACTION**

- a. Mission Review; Great Falls College MSU ITEM 166-2902-R0315 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3 | Attachment #4

Motion made by Regent Krauss; action item a. motion passed 7-0.

**Staff and Compensation Committee**

**CONSENT**

Staff Items

- a. UM Staff; ITEM 166-1000-R0315
- b. MT Tech Staff; ITEM 166-1500-R0315
- c. MSU Northern Staff; ITEM 166-2800-R0315
- d. MSU Billings Staff; ITEM 166-2700-R0315
- e. UM Professor Emeritus – Woessner; ITEM 166-1024-R0315
- f. UM Professor Emeritus – Sommers-Flanagan; ITEM 166-1025-R0315
- g. MT Tech Professor Emeritus – Ziegler; ITEM 166-1505-R0315
- h. MSU Billings Professor Emeritus – Landis; ITEM 166-2706-R0315
- i. MSU Billings Professor Emeritus – Rietz; ITEM 166-2707-R0315
- j. MSU Northern Professor Emeritus – Hawkinson; ITEM 166-2801-R0315

Motion made by Regent Sheehy consent items a-j; motion passed 7-0.

Student Appeals

- Student Appeal #1

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

Public Comment

Regent Williams spoke in regards to the new student regent application process associated with MAS and encouraged students to apply.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:20am

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)