



**MINUTES**  
**Montana Board of Regents**  
**May 25-26, 2017**  
**Great Fall College-MSU**

**Wednesday, May 24, 2017**

The meeting convened at 5:05 PM.

Roll call indicated a quorum present.

Regents Present: Paul Tuss, Chair; Fran Albrecht, Vice Chair; Bill Johnstone; Martha Sheehy; Casey Lozar; Bob Nystuen, and Levi Birky were present. Ex officio members included: Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian; Ex officio Governor Bullock was excused and Ex officio Superintendent Arntzen was present

**5:01 PM**

Executive Session

- Honorary Doctorate – MSU Bozeman
- Annual Evaluations

**Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup>**

Meeting Reconvened at 8:17am

Comments by Chair Paul Tuss

Chair Tuss welcomed all attendees and extended thanks to Dean Wolff and Great Falls College-MSU for hosting the meeting. He spoke to activities across the system including the celebration of spring commencement. He reviewed the agenda for the meeting, noting topics of discussion which include a policy clarifying institutional mission parameters for college and universities across the system. The board will also consider biennial budget recommendations that begin to blend institutional mission considerations into the tuition and state funding structure starting next year.

Welcome by Dean Wolff

Dean Wolff welcome all attendees. Mr. Russ Motschenbacher, GFC-MSU Nursing Program Director, gave an update on the success of the TAACCCT IV Grant and provided a presentation on the WebEx system and how it allows students in different areas of the state to take classes, online, simultaneously using this technology. Students spoke to the benefits of the program and the flexibility it allows for work and family life while allowing them to gain their degrees through this distance education option.

Comments from Superintendent's Office

Superintendent of the Office of Public Instruction, Elsie Arntzen, spoke to her commitment to continued partnerships with K-12 Education. Provided a few updates from OPI. She spoke to the legislative impact the session had on K-12 which had both



pros and cons. She mentioned the passage of HB 191 and corresponding cut of \$6.7 million from the system. She noted the special education funding increase of \$1.4 million as well as the changes to program 6 and program 9; noting that these increases were offset by eliminating general fund Reimbursement Block Grants and the Natural Resource Development payment resulting in a \$124 million reduction in state aid to schools. She spoke to the need for leadership now and going forward to help ensure students have a bright future. She provided an update related to the federal plan, ESSA. She stated that they are updating the state plan based on new federal requirements and feedback related to school finance reporting, homeless students, English language learners, long-term goals and college and career readiness. Small workgroups of OPI Staff and education stakeholders are focusing on specific sections. She extended thanks and appreciation for the continued, effective partnerships with OPI and the MUS.

### Approval of Minutes

- March 9-10, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes

Regent Nystuen made a motion to approve the March 9-10, 2017 Board meeting minutes. Motion passed (7-0).

- May 4, 2017 Board Conference Call Minutes

Regent Albrecht made a motion to approve the May 4, 2017 Board conference call minutes. Motion passed (7-0).

### Commissioner's and System Report

Commissioner Christian spoke to the continued successful partnerships with OPI and throughout the system. He spoke to the success of internal academic program review process that has been established and effective at Great Falls College-MSU. The primary goals are to enhance the alignment of the College's academic programs with the College's own core indicators and core themes, community needs and MUS initiatives.

- 2017 Legislative Session Overview

Deputy Commissioner Trevor provided an updated on the 2017 legislative session including: HB 2 – general approps and corresponding program breakdowns for program 1: OCHE Admin, Program 2: Student Assistance; he mentioned the increased cost of slots for WWAMI and the successful securing of funding to continue them. He stated Undergraduate financial aid programs did not receive base increases. This will also allow some new slots for Mental Health in Graduate Medical Education. Commissioner Christian discussed the impact the reduction associated with Program 2 can have. Early projections with the 5% reduction showed us removing 32 of the 30 slots within the program. He noted these programs are incredibly important for Montana. Deputy Commissioner Trevor spoke to Program 4: community colleges, Program 9: Appropriations Distribution, Program 10: Research and Service Agencies. He spoke to the \$8 million cut to the budget via House Bill 2 over the next biennium. He spoke to the state employee pay plan (SB 294), noting that the state provided 70% to help cover cost of pay plan. Discussion followed. Commissioner Christian noted that campuses with a



flat or slightly increased budget compared to the 17 Base, without present law adjustments will still see need reductions at those campuses. Deputy Commissioner Trevor noted that \$4.7 million is based on resident student share of enrollment, rather than traditional state share of current unrestricted funds. Discussion followed. He discussed the OTO funding related programs and noted the building projects/deferred maintenance that was included in HB 5. He touched on other legislative bills that relate to the MUS such as SB 85- 6 Mill Levy. Discussion followed.

- FY17 Enrollment Report

Deputy Commissioner Trevor displayed an enhanced analysis tool, developed internally for reporting enrollment. He reviewed the interactive interface tool. He reminded attendees that enrollment is calculated by adding Summer and Fall enrollment figures and annualize spring to produce the fiscal year FTE. Discussion followed. Commissioner Christian discussed the enrollment changes on a national level. He noted that the nation is experiencing a decline in enrollment and expect it to continue with a decrease in high school graduates. He extended congratulations to MSU-Bozeman and President Cruzado on their great work on admissions; he noted that they are an outlier compared to what we see across the nation. He shared some data, provided by WICHE, noting that the overall projection of high school graduates is on a downhill slide and is expected to continue. He spoke to the demographic breakdown, noting that the number of minorities are where the increases are and often those groups need more assistance, need-based aid, etc. for completion. He discussed the projections for the West and noted that most of the declines are from California and Alaska. Montana ranks in the moderate increase bracket but still overall in the lower half. He noted that at conferences across the nation, conversations are being had about how to increase recruitment of non-resident students. Comparatively, Montana is relatively flat, but the competition for these students will continue. He spoke to the need to be practical and budget practically to maintain our institutions. We must continue to focus on program prioritization for program management. Shared services must also be at the forefront if we want to continue to serve students. He noted that the needs across the country haven't changed, we still need a higher percentage of adults with some form of postsecondary education. He spoke to goal in Montana of increasing that percentage from 40 to 60%. He spoke to job creation and the percentage of those jobs that require some postsecondary education. We need to work closely to serve the needs of the local economy and work to ensure programs being offered also serve the economy. We need to think about completion and retention, only place to find students now is to increase our own retention of current students. Discussion followed.

- OCHE Organizational Structure

Commissioner Christian noted that changes are being made at the OCHE office. He noted the combination of the Deputy Commissioner of ARSA with the Two-Year sector, which is working well. He informed the board the position for Deputy Commissioner for Finance has been eliminated with the duties being absorbed by others. Mr. Chuck Jensen has a new job, much of the finance role has been reassigned to Deputy Commissioner Trevor. Mr. Ron Muffick is taking on LRPB and facility related projects while Deputy Commissioner McRae and Chief Legal Counsel Viv Hammill are taking on



some of the responsibilities associated with Benefits, 529 Plan, etc. He noted the realignment of the Benefits Manager, as Connie Welsh has retired and the new, expanded role will be filled by Mary Lachenbruch in our office. He stated that we are trying to lead by being more efficient, combine services in our structure, etc.

- Campus Reports (Linked to agenda)

Reports are linked to the agenda and highlights of the work across the system.

- Other/Campus Introductions

Commissioner Christian introduced and welcomed back Ms. Jane Baker as Interim Dean of Helena College-UM. Other campuses including MSU, MT Tech, FVCC and others made various introductions to new staff and extended thanks to other staff who were retiring, etc. Chair Tuss acknowledged and welcome the Tribal Presidents who were present.

- MAS 2017 Administrator of the Year Award

The 2017 MAS Administrator of the Year Award was presented by the Montana Association of Student (MAS) to Mr. Tracy Ellig, Executive Director of University Communications at MSU-Bozeman.

Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee

### **ACTION**

- a. Institutional Mission Parameters Policy 219.1; OCHE *ITEM 175-102-R0517 | Attachment #1*

Ms. Elizabeth Ternes, Academic Policy Specialist at OCHE, presented this request before the board for the approval of the creation of Policy 219.1 – Institutional Mission Parameters to establish institutional classifications to serve as mission parameters to guide the Montana University System. She explained that, to better guide the MUS and the distinct institutions that make up the system, a board policy establishing institutional mission parameters through institutional classification is being proposed. The policy broadly defines the mission of Two-Year Colleges, Regional Comprehensive Universities, Special Focus Universities, and Research Doctoral Universities and highlights key attributes associated with each institution type. Each institution of the MUS has been identified as fitting within one institutional mission type. The community colleges have been omitted from this policy as the missions of those institutions are determined by their individual governing boards. The institutional classifications in this policy serve as a set of institutional mission parameters which will help to guide the governance of the MUS. These parameters set out in policy will provide a framework for governance of the system and a clear articulation of the differing roles and unique value of each institution within the system. Mission statements approved by the Board of Regents further express the purpose and intent of each individual institution. Discussion followed.



b. Level II Executive Summary | *Supporting Documentation*

Regent Sheehy spoke to the process related to these submissions. Each campus spoke to their respective requests: MSU-Bozeman: Individual Interdisciplinary Program Ph.D.; MSU-Northern: College of Health Sciences; UM-Missoula: Department of Occupational Therapy; and Retitle the Montana Center for Childhood Trauma to the National Native Children's Trauma Center; MSU-Billings: Occupational Therapy M.S, in partnership with the University of Montana. Discussion followed.

**INFORMATION**

a. Montana Tech Update

Chancellor Blacketter, MT Tech presented before the board related to mission parameters for MT Tech. He reviewed the mission statement for MT and its specific commitment to engineering, science and technology. He noted the history of this conversation beginning back in September and charged MT Tech with special focus on how/where they fit. He clarified that MT Tech is a global mission focused research and academic institution. He shared samples of their unique, special focus programs. He discussed MT Tech's reputation and accolades. He discussed thee work group that was formed called WIRE – Workgroup for Institution Realignment for Excellence and will meet regularly. He clarified that this is not a mission change but a mission affirmation and commitment to a new level of focused excellence. Discussion followed.

b. Rural Educator Task Force Update | *Attachment #1*

Ms. Angela McLean, Director of American Indian/Minority Achievement and K-12 Partnerships, along with Dr. Tricia Seifert, Head of Department of Education Montana State University; Dr. Anneliese Ripley, Dean of Outreach at UM-Western; presented an update before the board on the Rural Educator Task Force. They provided the history to date noting that in May 2016, a group of Montana Hi-Line School Administrators, reported concerns regarding ability to fill educator vacancies to the Montana Board of Regents. In fall 2016 the Montana University System Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education launched The MUS Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force to examine and address the needs of rural Montana schools. The Task Force convened monthly by telephone and conducted and shared research and formulated plans that would mitigate school needs both in the short and long term. The Task Force recommends to the Commissioner that the group be reconstituted for 2017-2018 in order to: follow up on work done 2016-2017 and monitor programming needs; establish systemic Dual Enrollment efforts around pre-service education; continue research to support policy conversations around rural educator recruitment and retention; extend conversations to all Montana schools of education. Discussion followed.

c. Creation of Healthcare Education and Workforce Council

Ms. Janelle Booth, MUS Research Director, provided an update to the board regarding the creation of a healthcare education and workforce council. She noted the purpose behind this council is to advise the Commissioner, Board of Regents, Governor, &



legislative entities on healthcare education and workforce issues and policy; ensure the Montana Healthcare Education and Workforce Strategic Plan is adopted and a work plan implemented; ensure healthcare educational programs and workforce entities cooperate in addressing workforce issues; identify resources to support healthcare education and workforce initiatives; and evaluate annually the performance of key healthcare education and workforce initiatives. Council membership was reviewed and discussed. Discussion followed.

d. Level I Memorandum (February, March)

Regent Sheehy 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.

e. Intent to Plan Proposals (February, March)

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 March 2017- Expiration – November 2018*

**University of Montana**

M.S/M.A in Interdisciplinary Studies

**Montana State University- Billings**

M.S. in Adventure Leadership in Health and Recreation

**Montana State University**

Sustainability Minor

*Submitted February 2017- Expiration November 2018*

**Great Falls College-Montana State University**

Pharmacy Technician C.A.S.

**Helena College-University of Montana**

Sheet Metal C.A.S

**Montana State University-Bozeman**

M.A. Teaching



Budget, Audit and Enterprise Risk Committee

**CONSENT**

- a. Request for Authorization to Execute a Lease for Additional Area at Kalispell for the Montana State University Nursing Program; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 175-2007-R0517*
- b. Request for Authorization to Expend Computer Fees; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 175-2004-R0517*
- c. Request for Authorization to Expend Student Equipment Fees; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 175-2005-R0517*
- d. Request for Authorization to Expend Student Computer Fee Allocation; MSU-Billings *ITEM 175-2703-R0517*
- e. Request for Authorization to Expend Computer Fees; MSU-Northern *ITEM 175-2802-R0517*
- f. Request for Authorization to Expend Student Equipment Fees; Great Falls College-MSU *ITEM 175-2901-R0517*
- g. Request for Authorization to Expend Student Computer Fees; Great Falls College-MSU *ITEM 175-2902-R0517*
- h. Request for Authorization to Expend Student Computer Fees; Montana Tech *ITEM 175-1502-R0517*
- i. Request for Authorization to Expend Student Computer Fees; Helena College-UM *ITEM 175-1901-R0517 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2*
- j. Request for Authorization for Renewal of Operating Agreement; MSU-Northern *ITEM 175-2803-R0517 | Attachment #1*

**ACTION**

- a. 2019 Biennial Budget Recommendations; OCHE *ITEM 175-103-R0517*

Presentation | Campus Profile | Tuition & Fees – Detail

- Attachment #1: Campus Tuition & Fee Schedules
- Attachment #2: State Appropriation Allocations
- Attachment #3: Performance Funding: FY2018 Allocations | PF Metric
- Addendum #1: UM Non-resident Undergraduate Tuition Rate



Deputy Commissioner Trevor presented this request to the board; seeking adoption from the Board of Regents for the 2019 Biennial Budget Recommendations for setting tuition and mandatory fees, distributing state appropriations, and approving non-mandatory course, program, and auxiliary fees. He noted that this request includes approval for tuition & mandatory fees, level tuition and fee rates by campus/mission type (to the extent possible), increase individual campus rates, taking into consideration state appropriation allocations, enrollment projections, and peer benchmarks; Hold increases to mandatory fees flat (0% increase); state appropriations; allocate state appropriations based on FY17 distributions (with a few adjustments); distribute \$15 million of state appropriations in each year of the biennium using the MUS Performance Funding Model. Course & program fees, room & board; approve campus submissions of individual course fees, program specific fees, as well as room and board and other designated fees.

He noted that the recommendations are specific to the educational units. He stated that the recommendations are based on: state funding levels, enrollment projections, mission parameters, peer benchmarks and operating budget metrics. He noted that Institutional Requirements – State Approps = Required Tuition Revenue which results in an FY18 budget is projected to be \$4.8M short of budget goal, FY19 \$1.6M short. The net effect of this will require some campuses to constrict budgets in order to: annualize pay, address statewide and higher education fix cost increases, as well as meet contractual and compliance obligations. He reminded the board of Goal 3 from the strategic plan which is to improve institutional and system efficiency and effectiveness by controlling costs and operating efficiently is a critical component of the BOR Strategic Plan. Tuition growth over that last 10 years have mirrored inflationary growth. He discussed the total education revenue per student FTE, FY 16; noting that total educational revenue is the sum of public higher education state appropriations and public in-state and out-of-state net tuition. Montana ranks nearly last in the nation in the amount of total funding per student.

By comparing FY 15 to what the proposed FY 18 current unrestricted exp – state approps + tuition revenue, he noted that three out of 5 MUS campuses will operate on fewer dollars in FY 18 than FY 15. He discussed FY 17 Actual vs FY 18 goal noting that \$14.6 million will be added to FY 17 for present law and pay plan which produces the FY 18 Budget goal. He discussed what tuition would look like without any additional revenue. Lack of funding for Present Law combined with 2% cut creates an \$18.8 million hole. The recommendation for FY 18 is a 2% increase based on enrollment projections and tuition increases varying by campus; this still results in \$4.8 million short of goal. Recommendation or FY 19 include a 2.7% increase based on enrollment projections and tuition increases varying by campus will still result in \$1.6 million short of goal.

In summary, recommendations include:

**Tuition & Mandatory Fees,**

- Remove lower/upper division rate differences for each campus
- Level tuition and fee rates by campus/mission type



- Adjust by campus, taking into consideration state appropriation allocations, enrollment projections, and peer benchmarks
- Hold increases to mandatory fees flat (0% increase)

### **Budget**

- Allocate state appropriations based on FY17 distributions (with a few adjustments) Distribute \$15M of state appropriations in each year of the biennium using the MUS Performance Funding Model

### **Course & Program Fees, Room & Board**

- Approve campus submissions of individual course fees, program specific fees, as well as room and board and other designated fees

These recommendations produce tuition increases that vary by campus, level, residency, and year. He reviewed several drafts depicting the suggested recommendations and impact on campuses. Discussion followed.

#### **b. Campus Requests for Mandatory Fee Increases**

1. Request for Authorization to Increase the Student Health Services Fee; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 175-2011-R0517 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2*

Dr. Chris Kearns, Vice President for Student Success at MSU, presented this request, consistent with BOR Policy 940.12.1 (Tuition and Fee Approval) and BOR Policy 506.1 (Student Participation in Fee Decisions), seeking the Board of Regents of the Montana University System approval of a fee increase to the Montana State University Bozeman Health Services Fee in each of the next two academic years.

2. Request for Authorization to Increase Student Engagement and Recreational Facilities Project Fee; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 175-2012-R0517 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3 | Attachment #4 | Attachment #5*

Dr. Chris Kearns, Vice President for Student Success at MSU, consistent with BOR Policy 940.12.1 (Tuition and Fee Approval) and BOR Policy 506.1 (Student Participation in Fee Decisions), seeking the Board of Regents of the Montana University System authorization for Montana State University to increase the ASMSU activity fee to provide funding for student clubs and Student Recreational Facilities Project. Discussion followed.

3. Request for Authorization to Increase the Health Services Mandatory Fee; MSU-Billings *ITEM 175-2704-R0517 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3 | Attachment #4*

Dr. Joe Oravec, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at MSU-Billings, presented this request, in accordance with Board of Regents Policy 940.12.1, before the Board of Regents of the Montana University System seeking authorization for Montana State



## MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

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University Billings to increase the health services mandatory fee proposed by the student government and voted in support of by the student body.

4. Request for Authorization to Increase the Student Health Fee; MSU-Northern *ITEM 175-2804-R0517 | Attachment #1*

Mr. Brian Simonson, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration of MSU-Northern, presented this request, consistent with BOR Policy 940.12.1 (Tuition and Fee Approval) and BOR Policy 506.1 (Student Participation in Fee Decisions) seeking the Board of Regents of the Montana University System approval of a \$20.50 increase to the Montana State University Northern Health Fee.

5. Request for Authorization to Adjust ASUM Sustainability Fee – UM-Missoula; *ITEM 175-1008-R0517 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3 | Attachment #4 | Attachment #5*

Outgoing ASUM President Sam Forstag presented this request before the Board of Regents of the Montana University System, seeking authorization for the University of Montana- Missoula to convert the current opt-out sustainability mandatory fee to a non-optional mandatory fee, beginning fall 2017. Discussion followed.

6. Request for Authorization for Increase to the Student Health Services Fee – UM-Missoula; *ITEM 175-1009-R0517 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2*

Incoming ASUM President Braden Fitzgerald presented this request, consistent with BOR Policy 940.12.1 (Tuition and Fee Approval) and BOR Policy 506.1 (Student Participation in Fee Decisions), seeking the Board of Regents of the Montana University System approval of a fee increase of 3% to the University of Montana Missoula Health Services Fee in each of the next two academic years.

### c. Request for Approval of HB 5, Long-range Building Projects

1. Education Building Expansion, UM-Missoula *ITEM 175-1010-R0517 | Attachment #1 |*

Mr. Ron Muffick, Director of Operations & Administration for OCHE, presented this request, consistent with provisions of BOR Policy 1003.7, and as authorized in House Bill 05 of the 2017 Legislative Session, seeking the Board of Regents authorization for the University of Montana to proceed with the construction of a new Academic Building Addition for the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences on the UM Missoula Campus. This authorization is for \$20,000,000.

2. Barnard Hall Renovation, MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 175-2013-R0517 | Attachment#1*

Mr. Ron Muffick, Director of Operations & Administration for OCHE, presented this request, consistent with the provisions of MCA-18-2-102(2)(c) and as authorized in



House Bill 5 of the 2017 65th Legislative session, seeking the Board of Regents of Higher Education authorization for the Montana State University to remodel the Barnard Hall lobby. This authorization provides authority to a total of \$1,500,000.

3. Request for Authorization to Expend State Funds for Deferred Maintenance; OCHE *ITEM 175-105-R0517*

Mr. Ron Muffick, Director of Operations & Administration for OCHE, presented this request before the board, requesting the Board of Regents of Higher Education authorize campuses to expend \$3 million in State funds, contained in House Bill 5 of the 65th legislative session, for deferred maintenance projects as prioritized and determined by Montana State University and University of Montana facilities and planning staff and the Department of Administration Architecture and Engineering Division. Discussion followed.

- d. Request for Authorization to Construct a Living Learning Center; MT Tech *ITEM 175-1503-R0517 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3a | Attachment #3b | Attachment #3c | Attachment #3d | Attachment #3e*

Chancellor Blacketter presented this request before the board, requesting that the Board of Regents authorize Montana Tech to construct a Living Learning Center in an amount not to exceed \$24.0 million; and Consistent with Section 20-25-402, MCA, Borrowing by the Regents, the Board of Regents adopts a Resolution for Issuance of the Facilities and Improvement Revenue Bonds for the University of Montana (UM) and authorizes UM and the Commissioner of Higher Education of the Montana University System to proceed with the issuance of these bonds in an amount up to \$14.2 million. Discussion followed; Regent Nystuen and Regent Johnstone are recused.

- e. Request for Authorization to Install Permanent Seating, Press Box, Concessions Stand, and Restroom Facilities at Grizzly Softball Stadium; UM-Missoula *ITEM 175-1004-R0517*

Mr. Ron Muffick, Director of Operations & Administration for OCHE, presented this request, consistent with Board of Regents Policy 1003.7, the Board of Regents of the Montana University System authorizes the University of Montana - Missoula to implement steps necessary to install permanent seating, press box, concessions stand, and restroom facilities at the Grizzly Softball Stadium. This authorization is for \$625,000. Discussion followed.

- f. Request for Authorization to Renovate Existing Space in the Student Union Building for Extended University Operations; MSU-Northern *ITEM 175-2801-R0517 | Attachment #1*

Mr. Ron Muffick, Director of Operations & Administration for OCHE, presented this request, consistent with the provisions of Regents Policies 1003.7 and 940.9.2, seeking the Board of Regents of Higher Education authorization for Montana State University-Northern to renovate portions of the Student Union Building on Montana State University –Northern’s campus to expand Extended University operations and support



the Little River institute. This authorization is for \$700,000.

- g. Request for Approval to Reconcile Legal Settlement of Property Ownership through Land Exchanges and/or Property Use and/or Settlement Agreements between Butte Silver Bow County and Montana Tech of the University of Montana; *ITEM 175-1504-R0517 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2*

Chancellor Blackketter presented this request, seeking the Board of Regents of the Montana University System authorization for Montana Tech to proceed with clarification of land ownership and use, exchange of land and granting of a perpetual easement with Butte Silver Bow County.

- h. Authorization to Negotiate and Execute the Transfer of Student Loan Guaranty Services; OCHE *ITEM 175-104-R0517*

Mr. Ron Muffick, Director of Operations & Administration for OCHE, presented this request, seeking the Board of Regents of Higher Education authorization to allow the Commissioner of Higher Education to negotiate and execute the transfer of the student loan guaranty services currently provided by the Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program to a guaranty agency approved by the United States Department of Education.

### INFORMATION

- a. UM-Missoula Budget Plan Update

President Stearns provided an update to the board. She described the APASP efforts (Academic Priorities and Administrative Services Prioritization), currently underway and are working to prioritize in a serious and systematic way, based on the Dickenson model. She provided an update on VERIP (Voluntary Employee Retirement Incentive Program) which is being offered to faculty over the age of 65; roughly 20% have indicated that they have some interest in the program. She discussed the timeline to date and that the results of this pool will help determine expanded this offer to other groups of faculty. She discussed efforts geared toward achieving operational savings and the current hiring freeze in place. She spoke to enrollment efforts, noting work on affordability and access. She stated that the transitional review team is conducting stress testing in order to focus on ways to be more effective and efficient. She noted that fiscal management, information technology and communications have all been identified as areas that can be better enhanced. She mentioned a few areas of innovation and optimism related to enrollment, these included: joining the Coalition of Affordability and Access, and joining the Raise.me micro-scholarship program, which helps high school students build and obtain micro-scholarships with their successes and achievements throughout high school; and an initiative to move international recruiting over to the admissions office in a reorganization attempt that will increase coordination and effective outreach. She spoke about the Transition Review Team as just one of several efforts underway on campus, to improve organizational efficiencies to improve effectiveness in information tech, fiscal management and communication areas. She discussed the SPCC (Strategic Plan Coordinating Council) who have developed and



shared a draft strategic plan and have received positive feedback to date. They strengthened the areas of Program Prioritization and better aligned with the MUS strategic plan and focused on the theme of education for the global century. Discussion followed.

b. Annual Authorities Report; MSU-Bozeman | Attachment #1

Mr. Ron Muffick, Director of Operations & Administration for OCHE, noted the annual report, consistent with the provision of Regent's Policy 1003.7, MSU hereby reports the status of existing project authority approved by the Board of Regents, and Legislative Authority, for the Montana State University campuses.

c. Annual Authorities Report; UM-Missoula | Attachment #1

Mr. Ron Muffick, Director of Operations & Administration for OCHE, noted the annual report, consistent with the provision of Regent's Policy 1003.7, MSU hereby reports the status of existing project authority approved by the Board of Regents, and Legislative Authority, for the University of Montana campuses.

d. Update on Applied Research Laboratory at the MSU Innovation Campus

Mr. Terry Leist, Vice President of Administration and Finance at MSU-Bozeman, provided a quick update, noting last November that MSU asked for board authorization to enter into a letter of intent for a lease for an applied research laboratory. Since that time, they are moving forward. He described the innovation campuses, noting that it is part of the Alumni Foundation, located about 1 mile west of campus. This building would allow MSU to conduct research that they currently cannot. The innovation campus conducted a competitive RFP for a developer and negotiations are currently underway with a contractor. MSU plans to bring forth an action item for the lease agreement before the Board at the upcoming July BOR meeting, noting that expected completion of construction is December of 2018.

e. Long Range Building Program

Mr. Ron Muffick, Director of Operations & Administration for OCHE, provided a refresher on the process used for LRBP. This is a continual process throughout the year. During April through September, campuses develop project lists; in late summer through early fall OCHE conducts campus tours; in November-January MSU and UM develop a campus project priority list; in February campuses meet with OCHE to develop a consolidated LRPB project priority list. This list is presented before the Board in March; in May the Board votes to act on the list. In June of 2018, OCHE transmits the list to the A&E Division. In October 2018, the Governor develops a Capital Construction plan in preparation for the 2017 Legislative Session. During May of 2019 the Board would act on legislative authorized funding. He discussed the various criteria used for developing projects including: health and life safety, major maintenance of buildings, code compliance, operation and efficiencies in savings, adaptive renovation, and new construction.



- f. Shared Services Update
  1. Inventory of Currently Shared Services
  2. Shared Services Prioritization

Mr. Ron Muffick, Director of Operations & Administration for OCHE, provided an update on the Shared Services Initiative. He notes that task force has been actively meeting since January. He noted inventory they developed, which shows what services are currently being shared by campuses. He noted, that this is still a work in progress. In addition, Mr. Muffick presented a list of potential future shared service items prioritized in three tiers (short term, mid, long). Prioritization is based on logistics, costs, and achievability/time to achieve. One new shared services item has entered the implementation phase as a contract has been executed for campuses to use one legal firm to conduct immigration processing for the hiring of foreign nationals. Discussion followed.

Staff & Compensation Committee

### INFORMATION

- a. Overview of Senate Bill 294 (state employee pay plan)

Deputy Commissioner McRae provided an update, noting that SB 294 for the MUS (including Ed. Units, CC's, Agencies, & OCHE) contains \$4.7 million for the biennium. This is based on resident student share of enrollment, rather than traditional state share of current unrestricted funds. He reiterated that if state revenues do not reach a certain level, a cut is triggered and almost all this funding would be forgone. He spoke to the impact this may have on collective bargaining and labor agreements.

### CONSENT

#### Emeriti Faculty

- a. Siebert; UM *ITEM 175-1002-R0517*
- b. Martin; MSU *ITEM 175-2001-R0517*
- c. Paul; MSU *ITEM 175-2002-R0517*
- d. Kamowski; MSU Billings *ITEM 175-2701-R0517*
- e. Hobbs; MSU Billings *ITEM 175-2702-R0517*

### ACTION

#### Staff Items

- a. Montana Tech; *ITEM 175-1500-R0517*

Deputy Commissioner McRae noted this recommendation is for faculty tenure.

- b. Helena College; *ITEM 175-1900-R0517*

Deputy Commissioner McRae noted this item contains tenured faculty items and



approval of hiring Dr. Jane Baker as interim Dean for Helena College.

b. MSU-Bozeman; *ITEM 175-2000-R0517*

Deputy Commissioner McRae noted that this item includes recommended hires, recommended tenure action, a standard new hire, hiring a director, woman's basketball coach for retention purposes and the official hiring of Provost Bob Mokwa.

c. Policy 407 Employee Equity Interest – Santos; UM-Missoula; *ITEM 175-1003-R0517*  
| *Attachment #1*

Deputy Commissioner McRae presented this request for approval from the Board of Regents of Higher Education to allow UM-Missoula employee Alessander Danna-dos-Santos for an equity interest in and to serve as an officer, employee, or member of a governing board of, Synergy Applied Medical and Research, Inc., a Montana corporation. The Board of Regents of Higher Education further authorizes The University of Montana-Missoula to enter into licensing agreements and contractual arrangements with Synergy Applied Medical and Research, Inc. for use of University facilities, if needed.

d. Policy 407 Employee Equity Interest – Wiedenheft; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 175-2003-R0517* | *Attachment #1*

Deputy Commissioner McRae presented this request for approval from the Board of Regents of Higher Education for MSU-Bozeman employee Blake Wiedenheft to have an equity interest in and to serve as an employee of SurGene, LLC. The Board of Regents of Higher Education further authorizes Montana State University to enter into research agreements, licensing agreements, and contractual arrangements with SurGene LLC for use of University facilities, if needed.

Public Comment

Mr. Dillon Ecord, an MSU student spoke in support of the student engagement fee.

Mr. Brad Tucker, an MSU Student and Chairman of Club Sports Council, spoke in support of the student engagement fee.

Mr. Kylar Clifton, ASMSU President, spoke in support of the student health fee and student engagement fee.

Ms. Sam Garcia, an MSU Bozeman student spoke in support of the recreation facility fee and student engagement fee.

Ms. Susan Gilberts, MSU Billings Chair of Academic Senate, asked that elements of PBF be evaluated and how it can harm a school that is trying to become stable.



**Friday, May 26th**

Board Reconvened at 8:40am

Update on 6 Mill Levy

Ms. Molly Bell, on behalf of the Montanans for Higher Education, provided an updated to board on the 6 Mill Levy. She noted that Montanans for Higher Education is a statewide organization advocating of the 6 mill levy which will be voted on in November 2018. She clarified that this is not a new levy, but one voted on every ten years. She discussed the commitment that it represents from past generations toward students in Montana dating back since 1948. She provided historical information noting that the 6-Mill Levy came about in 1920 and since 1948 it has been a primary component of university funding in Montana. It was recently placed on ballot by the 2017 Montana Legislature. She explained that funds are generated by a mill levy tax on property. On average, the tax amounts to 12 cents of every \$1000 in property value. She reiterated that the 6-mill levy is not a new tax. As of 2016-2017, the mill levy provides \$19 million per year, approximately 10% of the total state appropriated funding for higher education. These funds help to provide educational support for approximately 40,000 students. These dollars go towards direct education of students in the form of student services and hiring instructors. She stressed that the 6-Mill Levy is critical because it helps ensure everyone who wants to go to college can attend; ensures the university system is accessible to all; and drives economic growth and helps businesses and communities. Moving forward, without voter approval, the 6-Mill Levy funds will expire. During the upcoming biennium, estimates show the absence of this funding will likely require over \$20 million in state support each year. She discussed the campaign efforts currently underway, noting that they plan to engage early, build statewide support, and create familiarity. She spoke to the endorsements received so far. She noted that help will be needed for this effort. Discussion followed.

Two Year and Community College Committee

**INFORMATION**

- a. Montana Dept. of Labor and Industry/MUS Joint Partnership  
Update | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

Dr. Kirk Lacey, Director of Industry Drive Workforce Development Partnerships and Ms. Pam Bucy, Commissioner of Department of Labor and Industry provided an update to the board. They noted that this partnership is in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year and enjoying incredible success. Commissioner Bucy spoke to the innovation and productivity of this partnership. She spoke to the critical need for this effort related to the worker shortage in Montana and impacts on the economy. Economy predictions are that it will slow down as less people are estimated to have jobs. She emphasized that this must to be data driven, she noted the Missoula College report and now the analysis for the entire



system. Dr. Lacey shared highlights of outcomes from this partnership, including: significant intentional effort to integrate and align staffing and funding resources to braid together limited resources and better drive these efforts in a common direction. Driving significant expansion for pre-apprenticeship opportunities for high school students. Creating talent pipelines through apprenticeship programs. Connecting youth with adult learners to provide opportunities to engage in apprenticeship and gain college credit. He noted that the successful passage of HB 208 – apprenticeship tax credits, will provide an incentive for employers to join these efforts. He discussed the rapid expansion of this endeavor, noting the organization chart and significant reorganization of the unit from one person to 15 people who are dedicated to this effort. He discussed the recently held meeting at Bitterroot College with Hamilton Job Service who partnered with OCHE and DOL to discuss the workforce and specific projects that may address workforce needs. He noted that MSU-Northern has been a leader in apprenticeship work statewide. Progress made to PLA, PLA-to-Associates-to-Bachelor's Degree Completion Pathways. He discussed the creation of new degree pathways for union, business and veteran training programs as well as the pre-approved credit recognition programs for past and future apprentices. Discussion followed.

b. MUS Co-Requisite Initiative Update

Mr. Erik Rose, Director of Workforce Initiatives and Information, led a panel discussion with Dr. Bob Hoar, Provost at MSU-Billings, Dr. Nathan Lindsay, Associate Provost for Dynamic Learning at UM, and Juli Rognlie, a Mathematics Instructor at Gallatin College-MSU, about remediation. Mr. Rose noted that three different workshops were conducted in Montana with participants from all MUS entities. These helped further the dialogue and helped identify challenges, opportunities to expand and share corequisite remediation. He mentioned that over summer an outcomes study of corequisite courses taught in Academic Year 2016-2017 will be conducted and results will be communicated to the Regents and MUS units. He also noted plans to review BOR Policy 301.18 which governs development and remedial education to identify any issues or concerns. Dr. Hoar spoke about the changes to the overall way in which we conduct remediation courses. He explained that in the past, if a remediation course was needed, a student would take that course in preparing for the 105 level course; they are now looking at having the student enroll in the 105 level class but simultaneously providing remediation assistance so that they can succeed and advance through the course. He noted the expansion of courses including corequisite options. Dr. Lindsey spoke to the success and benefits of the corequisite initiative at the University of Montana. He discussed the taskforce on campus that worked to draft a white paper focused on corequisite remediation at UM. This document includes a number of student success initiatives and plans for piloting correctional education in sections of writing and math over the summer in preparation for fall implementation. He noted the many spin off efforts, focused on retention, have spawned from this initiative including: academic boot camp, integrating Ed Ready, and identifying other classes that may need attention given high numbers of withdrawals and low grades. Ms. Rognlie, discussed her findings from the perspective of a faculty member and instructor, she noted the positive increases in completion rates. She discussed the ability to compare the success of students to how they would have done without taking the corequisite course. She noted the excellent collaboration with the registrar office, who are assisting in linking developmental credits with college level



credits. Discussion followed.

c. Potential for Carl D. Perkins Reauthorization | Attachment #1

Ms. Jacque Treaster, Carl D. Perkins Program Manager and Mr. Erik Rose, Director of Workforce Initiatives and Information, spoke to Perkins in Montana noting that 30% of Perkins funding is used at postsecondary institutions, 60% is administered by OPI for secondary career and technical education (CTE), and 10% is used for strengthening Career Pathways (Rural Reserve). They reported that in 2016, Montana received \$5,163,542, with \$3,031,952 awarded to secondary schools and \$2,131,618 awarded to postsecondary institutions. In 2015-2016 Perkins served 10,417 postsecondary students through 12 colleges in Montana, including 3 tribal colleges. For the 17-18 grant cycle, Montana is moving toward a Statewide Career Pathways model for our 10% Rural Reserve. The percentage of Perkins students who attempted a technical skill assessment passed was 96% while 77% of graduates were placed in employment in Montana within a year of exiting. Priority Funding for 17-18 colleges include: building Montana's workforce pipeline, building and strengthening partnerships with industries, improve CTE programs through professional development, industry recognized credentials, and technical skill attainment. Mr. Rose spoke about the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, noting that a near identical bill passed the House of Representative and was unanimously approved by the House Education and Workforce Committee. This empowers state and local community leaders, improves alignment with in-demand jobs, increases transparency and accountability, and ensures a limited federal role.

**Committee Reports/Action**

- Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee

**ACTION**

- a. Institutional Mission Parameters Policy 219.1; OCHE *ITEM 175-102-R0517 | Attachment #1*

Regent Nystuen made a motion for approval of action item a: Item 175-102-R0517. The motion passed (7-0).

- b. Level II Executive Summary *Supporting Documentation*

Regent Sheehy made a motion for approval of action item b. Level II memorandum. The motion passed (7-0).

- Budget, Audit and Enterprise Risk Committee

**CONSENT**

- a. Request for Authorization to Execute a Lease for Additional Area at Kalispell for the Montana State University Nursing Program; MSU-



Bozeman *ITEM 175-2007-R0517*

- b. Request for Authorization to Expend Computer Fees; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 175-2004-R0517*
- c. Request for Authorization to Expend Student Equipment Fees; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 175-2005-R0517*
- d. Request for Authorization to Expend Student Computer Fee Allocation; MSU-Billings *ITEM 175-2703-R0517*
- e. Request for Authorization to Expend Computer Fees; MSU-Northern *ITEM 175-2802-R0517*
- f. Request for Authorization to Expend Student Equipment Fees; Great Falls College-MSU *ITEM 175-2901-R0517*
- g. Request for Authorization to Expend Student Computer Fees; Great Falls College-MSU *ITEM 175-2902-R0517*
- h. Request for Authorization to Expend Student Computer Fees; Montana Tech *ITEM 175-1502-R0517*
- i. Request for Authorization to Expend Student Computer Fees; Helena College-UM *ITEM 175-1901-R0517 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2*
- j. Request for Authorization for Renewal of Operating Agreement; MSU-Northern *ITEM 175-2803-R0517 | Attachment #1*

Regent Johnstone made a motion for approval of the consent agenda items a. – j. The motion passed (7-0).

**ACTION**

- a. 2019 Biennial Budget Recommendations; OCHE *ITEM 175-103-R0517*

Regent Albrecht made a motion for approval of action item a. Item 175-103-R0517. Discussion followed. The motion passed (7-0).

- b. Campus Requests for Mandatory Fee Increases
  - 1. Request for Authorization to Increase the Student Health Services Fee; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 175-2011-R0517 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2*

Regent Johnstone made a motion for approval of action item b. #1. Item 175-2011-R0517. Discussion followed. The motion passed (6-0). Regent Johnstone excused.



2. Request for Authorization to Increase Student Engagement and Recreational Facilities Project Fee; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 175-2012-R0517 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3 | Attachment #4 | Attachment #5*

Regent Sheehy made a motion for approval of action item b. #2. Item 175-2012-R0517. Discussion followed. The motion failed (3-3), Regent Johnstone was excused.

Regent Albrecht made a motion to reconsider the vote on Item 175-2012-R0517: Request for Authorization to Increase Student Engagement and Recreational Facilities Project Fee; MSU-Bozeman. Discussion followed. Motion passed (6-0) Regent Johnstone was excused.

Regent Nystuen made a motion for approval of item 175-2012-R0517. Discussion followed. A roll call vote was taken, motion passed (4-2) Regent Johnstone was excused. Regents Birky and Tuss voting no.

3. Request for Authorization to Increase the Health Services Mandatory Fee; MSU-Billings *ITEM 175-2704-R0517 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3 | Attachment #4*

Regent Nystuen made a motion for approval of action item b. #3. Item 175-2704-R0517. The motion passed (6-0), Regent Johnstone was excused.

4. Request for Authorization to Increase the Student Health Fee; MSU-Northern *ITEM 175-2804-R0517 | Attachment #1*

Regent Albrecht made a motion for approval of action item b. #4. Item 175-2804-R0517. The motion passed (6-0), Regent Johnstone excused.

5. Request for Authorization to Adjust ASUM Sustainability Fee – UM-Missoula; *ITEM 175-1008-R0517 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3 | Attachment #4 | Attachment #5*

Regent Lozar made a motion for approval of action item b. #5 Item 175-1008-R0517 Discussion followed. The motion failed (2-4), Regent Johnstone was excused.

6. Request for Authorization for Increase to the Student Health Services Fee – UM-Missoula; *ITEM 175-1009-R0517 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2*

Regent Albrecht made a motion for approval of action item b. #6 Item 175-1009-R0517. The motion passed (6-0), Regent Johnstone was excused.

- c. Request for Approval of HB 5, Long-range Building Projects



## MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

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1. Education Building Expansion, UM-Missoula ITEM 175-1010-R0517 | Attachment #1 |

Regent Albrecht made a motion for approval of action item c. #1 Item 175-1010-R0517. The motion passed (6-0), Regent Johnstone was excused.

2. Barnard Hall Renovation, MSU-Bozeman ITEM 175-2013-R0517 | Attachment#1

Regent Albrecht made a motion for approval of action item c. #2 Item 175-2013-R0517. The motion passed (6-0), Regent Johnstone was excused.

3. Request for Authorization to Expend State Funds for Deferred Maintenance; OCHE ITEM 175-105-R0517

Regent Nystuen made a motion for approval of action item c. #3. Item 175-105-R0517. The motion passed (6-0), Regent Johnstone was excused.

- d. Request for Authorization to Construct a Living Learning Center; MT Tech ITEM 175-1503-R0517 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3a | Attachment #3b | Attachment #3c | Attachment #3d | Attachment #3e

Regent Albrecht made a motion for approval of action item d. Item 175-1503-R0517. The motion passed (5-0), Regent Nystuen recused himself from voting and Regent Johnstone was excused.

- e. Request for Authorization to Install Permanent Seating, Press Box, Concessions Stand, and Restroom Facilities at Grizzly Softball Stadium; UM-Missoula ITEM 175-1004-R0517

Regent Nystuen made a motion for approval of action item 3. Item 175-1004-R0517. The motion passed (6-0), Regent Johnstone was excused.

- f. Request for Authorization to Renovate Existing Space in the Student Union Building for Extended University Operations; MSU-Northern ITEM 175-2801-R0517 | Attachment #1

Regent Lozar made a motion for approval of action item f. Item 175-2801-R0517. The motion passed (6-0), Regent Johnstone was excused.

- g. Request for Approval to Reconcile Legal Settlement of Property Ownership through Land Exchanges and/or Property Use and/or Settlement Agreements between Butte Silver Bow County and Montana Tech of the University of Montana; ITEM 175-1504-R0517 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

Regent Albrecht made a motion for approval of action item g. Item 175-1504-R0517. The motion passed (6-0), Regent Johnstone was excused.



- h. Authorization to Negotiate and Execute the Transfer of Student Loan Guaranty Services; OCHE *ITEM 175-104-R0517*

Regent Lozar made a motion for approval of action item h. Item 175-104-R0517. The motion passed (6-0), Regent Johnstone was excused.

- Staff & Compensation Committee

### CONSENT

#### Emeriti Faculty

- a. Siebert; UM *ITEM 175-1002-R0517*
- b. Martin; MSU *ITEM 175-2001-R0517*
- c. Paul; MSU *ITEM 175-2002-R0517*
- d. Kamowski; MSU Billings *ITEM 175-2701-R0517*
- e. Hobbs; MSU Billings *ITEM 175-2702-R0517*

Regent Nystuen made a motion for approval of consent agenda, items a. -e. The motion passed (6-0) Regent Johnstone excused.

### ACTION

#### Staff Items

- a. Montana Tech; *ITEM 175-1500-R0517*

Regent Nystuen made a motion for approval of action item a. Item 175-1500-R0517. The motion passed (6-0), Regent Johnstone was excused.

- b. Helena College; *ITEM 175-1900-R0517*

Regent Albrecht made a motion for approval of action item b. Item 175-1900-R0517. The motion passed (6-0) Regent Johnstone was excused.

- c. MSU-Bozeman; *ITEM 175-2000-R0517*

Regent Lozar made a motion for approval of action item c. Item 175-2000-R0517. The motion passed (6-0) Regent Johnstone was excused.

- d. Policy 407 Employee Equity Interest – Santos; UM-Missoula; *ITEM 175-1003-R0517 | Attachment #1*

Regent Albrecht made a motion for approval of action item d. Item 175-1003-R0517. The motion passed (6-0) Regent Johnstone was excused.

- e. Policy 407 Employee Equity Interest – Wiedenheft; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 175-2003-R0517 | Attachment #1*



Regent Sheehy made a motion for approval of action item e. Item 175-2003-R0517. The motion passed (6-0) Regent Johnstone was excused.

Student Appeals

- Student Appeal #1

Regent Tuss explained the process related to the student appeal. No motion was made; therefore, the Commissioner's decision is upheld.

- Student Appeal #2

Regent Tuss explained the process related to the student appeal. No motion was made; therefore, the Commissioner's decision is upheld.

Election of Officers

Commissioner Christian discussed the process as it relates to Article IV of the by-laws.

Regent Tuss made a nomination for Regent Albrecht to serve as Board Chair. Regent Sheehy made a second nomination for Regent Johnstone to serve as Board Chair. A roll call vote was taken for the first nomination, for Regent Albrecht to serve as board chair. The motion failed (3-3) Regent Johnstone was excused.

A roll call vote was taken for the second nomination, for Regent Johnstone to serve as board chair. The motion failed (3-3) Regent Johnstone was excused.

Regent Nystuen made a motion of nomination for Regent Albrecht to serve as Board Chair. Discussion followed. A roll call vote was taken for the first nomination, for Regent Albrecht to serve as board chair. The motion passed (6-0) Regent Johnstone was excused.

Regent Tuss made a motion of nomination for Regent Lozar to serve as Vice Chair. Regent Birky made a motion of nomination for Regent Nystuen to serve as Vice Chair. A roll call vote was taken for the first nomination, for Regent Lozar to serve as Vice Chair. The motion failed (3-3) Regent Johnstone was excused.

A roll call vote was taken for the second nomination, for Regent Nystuen to serve as Vice Chair. The motion failed (3-3) Regent Johnstone was excused.

Regent Birky made a motion of nomination for Regent Nystuen to serve as Vice Chair. A roll call vote was taken for the first nomination, for Regent Nystuen to serve as Vice Chair. Discussion followed. The motion passed (6-0) Regent Johnstone was excused.

Public Comment

Ms. Joy Honea, President of MSU-Billings Faculty Association, spoke to the voluntary employee incentive plan and asked for consideration of expanding that plan to other



## MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

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institutions in the MUS, if funds remain.

Dr. William Rugg, Provost of MSU-Northern, extended thanks and appreciation to the Board and all those across the MUS for their dedication and service.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:10pm

Approved by the Board of Regents on

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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Fran Albrecht  
Chair, Board of Regents