



**Montana Board of Regents
Montana Technological University
September 11-12, 2019
MINUTES**

Wednesday, September 11th

Meeting convened at 8:33am

A roll call indicated a quorum present.

Regents Present: Casey Lozar, Chair; Paul Tuss; Martha Sheehy; Bob Nystuen; Joyce Dombrowski; Brianne Rogers; and John Miller. Ex officio members included: Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian; Ex officio Governor Steve Bullock, represented by Ms. McCall Flynn, and Ex officio Superintendent Elsie Arntzen.

Comments by Chair Lozar

Chair Lozar welcomed all attendees and extended thanks to Chancellor Cook and the staff at MT Tech for hosting the meeting. He briefly reviewed the agenda, noting the Board's primary task of taking action on the system's operating budget for the new fiscal year. Board Education regarding how state timber revenue is allocated to the Montana University System (MUS) will also be addressed. He noted the opportunity to tour the newly completed Student Success and Living Learning Center, on campus, which is designed to serve as the campus' social, academic, and cultural hub. Chair Lozar discussed the importance of student recruitment and success across Montana, noting that more than 40,000 students are starting a new academic year.

Welcome by Chancellor Cook.

Chancellor Cook welcomed all attendees to campus. He noted the importance and impact that STEM institutions, like MT Tech, have across the Nation. He reiterated recent changes impacting MT Tech including, the special focus designation, name change, and moving students into the new Student Success and Living-Learning Center. Chancellor Cook noted the celebration of 100 years of the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, 120 years of Mining Engineering B.S. degrees, and 25 years of the Upward Bound Program with more than 3,000 graduates of which 88% continue to complete college degrees. He noted that MT Tech was recently named the #1 Best Value Engineering School in the Nation and the #1 nursing program in Montana. He shared that the Oredigger football team led Frontier Conference last season with Scholar-Athletes and held the second-highest GPA in the Nation last fall with a 3.24 overall GPA. Chancellor Cook informed the Board that the National Institutes of General Medical Sciences of the NIH Science Education Partnership Award program recently awarded a five-year, \$1.3 Million grant to MT Tech for an exciting science education research project titled, "Phages Helping Acquire Genuine Experiences in Science (PHAGES)." PHAGES builds on Montana Tech's previously funded 5-year SEPA project, Bringing Research Into the Classroom (BRIC), and demonstrates a sustainable



model for faculty across the country to expand phage discovery outreach to K-12 teachers and students. Thousands of Montana's K-12 students will engage in a relevant citizen science project by participating in the phagedigging classroom visits. He also shared that the graduate school has grown by 50% since Fall of 2012, and research expenditures have risen 18% since FY13 to about \$13 million. He discussed the importance of embracing our science and engineering focus at the doctoral level, noting that it is essential to serve Montana fully and to position the University for long-term sustainability, relevance, and continued excellence.

Approval of Minutes

- July 10, 2019 Board Conference Call Minutes
- August 15, 2019 Board Executive Session Minutes

A motion for approval of July 10, 2019 and August 15, 2019 BOR meeting minutes was made by Regent Tuss; motion passed (7-0).

Commissioner's and System Report

- Commissioner's Update

Commissioner Christian reminded attendees that Board Members are volunteer positions and extended thanks and appreciation to those willing to serve in this capacity. He welcomed students to a new academic year, noting the excitement across the system as more than 40,000 students either begin or continue their post-secondary education. Commissioner Christian welcomed and introduced Dr. Laura Vosejka, newly appointed Dean and CEO of Helena College. Dr. Vosejka comes to us from the College of Sciences and Liberal Arts at Kettering University in Flint, Michigan, where she was the founding Dean. He also introduced Mr. Aaron Clingingsmith, who is serving as Interim President at Miles Community College. He extended thanks and appreciation to Cory Sangrey-Billy of Stone Child College, here today representing the Tribal College Campuses. Commissioner Christian also introduced Karen Ogden, OCHE's new Communications Director. Karen is responsible for our internal and external communications on behalf of the Board and the Montana University System as a whole. Karen worked for over a decade as a reporter and editor at the Great Falls Tribune and then as communications director for Benefis Health System in Great Falls. She most recently worked as a public information officer at the Department of Environmental Quality. Commissioner Christian also welcomed Student Regent John Miller to the Board.

Commissioner Christian discussed the upcoming College Application Week (CAW) event, scheduled for September 30th – October 4th. This event is important across the MUS, last year over 4,600 applications were submitted from 164 participating high schools, an increase of 800 compared to 2017. Of these applications, 2.9% were submitted to MUS campuses, 22% to Two-Year colleges, and 68% to Four-Year Campuses. He reminded attendees that CAW provides access for many low-income and first-generation students. Commissioner Christian spoke the importance of access and affordability, with an emphasis on resident students, noting that this remains the number one strategic goal for the MUS. He discussed recent headway related to Career



and Technical Education (CTE), noting a variety of events that took place over the summer including a CTE focused meeting or school administrators, CTE panel that presented at the iGraduate Summit, and the recent grant Montana was awarded specifically designed to CTE workshops for high school counselors focused on better connecting students with CTE programs of study. Commissioner Christian provided an update on efforts related to the development of the College and Career Access Portal, an essential recruitment effort for resident students. This portal will be designed to serve students, meet expectations, deliver on shared policy goals and audit recommendations around student transfer. He explained that the portal would be home to a centralized application process, serving as a one-stop-shop for students to apply to all MUS campuses. Dual enrollment, financial aid, and other student resources will also be incorporated into the portal. Commissioner Christian discussed recent work focused on revising the academic approval process. Proposed revisions include engaging the Board of Regents at a more meaningful level, adding steps to allow new programs associated with workforce needs to come to fruition faster, and allowing the MUS to be more responsive to business and industry demands.

- Campus Reports (Linked to agenda)
- Introductions & Acknowledgements

OCHE, MSU, and MSU-Billings made introductions for new staff.

- Request for Approval to Amend BOR By-Laws to Update Committee Names; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 184-104-R0919*

Commissioner Christian presented the request for the Board to approve the request to change the name of the Budget, Audit and Enterprise Risk Committee to the Budget, Administration and Audit Committee, where financial matters will be preliminarily addressed prior to any full Board of Regents action. With this name change the request includes the elimination of the Staff and Compensation committee. Discussion followed.

A motion for approval of ITEM 184-104-R0919 was made by Regent Dombrouksi; motion passed (7-0).

- Other

Remarks by Governor Bullock (or Designee)

McCall Flynn, Education Policy Advisor to Governor Bullock, expressed thanks and appreciation to the Board of Regents and attendees noting that she looks forward to working with the Board and OCHE on efforts across the MUS.

Remarks by Superintendent Arntzen

Superintendent Arntzen extended thanks and appreciation for being included in this meeting. She reminded attendees that 821 public schools are now in session with 15,000 teachers, focused on student success, serving 148,000 students. She reiterated the importance and focus of school safety across Montana. She thanked UM for their strong partnership on the Stop Violence grant, recently awarded by Congress, to



address social and emotional health for students. Superintendent Arntzen thanked President Cruzado for allowing OPI to partner on a grant focused on counselors in rural Montana. She also thanked MSU-Billings for their partnership on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant which is focused on mental health in Eastern Montana and across Tribal Lands. She discussed the excellent work associated with Perkins V and strong partnership between the MUS and OPI. She discussed the partnership with ACT and noted that ACT scores and data will soon be available.

What's Up Butte?

Stephanie Sorini, President of Butte Chamber of Commerce; Jon Wick, Owner of 5518; and Mike Cashell, Vice President of Electric and Gas Transmission at Northwestern Energy provided an update to the Board regarding their experiences and insights related to MT Tech and the local community. They noted positive experiences in working with the campus directly and establishing partnerships. They noted an eagerness to see growth across Butte and direct ties to subsequent growth at MT Tech. Panel members discussed the overall experience that students and families enjoy when attending events on campus and their hope to expand on these efforts within the community. Panelists discussed the number of MT Tech graduates that stay in the Butte area and invest back into their community and state. Local businesses actively look to MT Tech as a source of potential employees for the workforce. They noted that graduates are well prepared, eager to learn, and adaptable individuals. They suggested increasing community engagement and partnerships with businesses to foster more success for both the campus and community. Improving the student experience at MT Tech was discussed as these experiences help instill pride and serve as an investment in the future by creating more engaged alumni that are advocating on MT Tech's behalf. Discussion followed.

Board Education: Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Mr. Shawn Thomas of DNRC provided an update on University System Trusts and how the trust holdings are managed. Mr. Thomas reviewed how revenue from different sources, renewable and nonrenewable are managed. He reviewed revenue related to surface and mineral acreage, noting the potential issue of split estate situations. Mr. Thomas reviewed the process behind residential leasing and details of the cabin/home site sales program. He shared with the Board recent accomplishments, which include 119 cabins sites selling for more than \$15 million, increased capacity, streamlined processing, a decreased withdrawal rate to 10%, and lessee engagement. Discussion followed.

Executive Session | *Mountain Con Room (Downstairs SUB)*

Chair Lozar convened an executive session. He determined that the matters of discussion relate to matters of individual privacy and that the demands of individual privacy outweigh the merits of public disclosure.

- Annual Review – President Bodnar
- Honorary Doctorate Nomination - MSU
- Litigation Update



Two-Year and Community College Committee

INFORMATION

a. CTE Update

Ms. Jacque Treaster, Director of Dual Enrollment and Career & Technical Education and Ms. Katy Brooke, Perkins Program Manager provided an update to the Board on efforts related to Career and Technical Education (CTE) noting the effort and ties with several other initiatives including the State Executive Leadership Team (SELT), Workforce and Labor Market Information Data Driven Decisions, Agency Leads Meeting, and fostering Business and Industry engagement. Ms. Brooke discussed the Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA), a new requirement that works to bridge industry and CTE and align CTE with the Labor Market. She provided an overview of the CLNA process noting the components of stakeholder engagement, gathering of data, recording findings and applying to programs' local Perkins application. She explained that programs are also required to work closely with parents and students; special populations; local industry; post-secondary CTE programs; and secondary CTE programs. Discussion followed.

b. Dual Enrollment Update

Ms. Jacque Treaster, Director of Dual Enrollment and Career & Technical Education, provided an update to the Board regarding Rural and CTE Dual Enrollment. She noted that 54% of Montana public schools had students participating in concurrent enrollment in 2018-19. She noted an increase of 76% in the number of Montana public high schools with students participating in concurrent enrollment over the past five years from 2014-15 through 2018-19. She provided an analysis and comparison Class B & C Montana public high schools with participating students noting the considerable growth for each over the past five years. Ms. Treaster reiterated the importance of focusing on rural schools to ensure connections are being made with high schools and to continue to provide students with access to postsecondary education. She shared information about the variety of subjects and courses that students are taking, noting focused areas on workforce needs. Discussion followed.

c. Two-Year Mission Fulfillment

Deputy Commissioner Brock Tessman provided background information and an overall snapshot of what the Two-Year System looks like in Montana, noting the varied landscape amongst community colleges, standalone colleges, embedded colleges, and integrated units. He discussed the five pillars that make up the Two-Year Mission, which includes 1) Career and College Readiness, 2) Transfer Education, 3) Career & Technical Education, 4) Workforce, Economic, and Community Development, 5) Community Education and Lifelong Learning. Two-Year College Leaders from across the MUS provided highlights on how they are meeting the comprehensive two-year mission at their respective campuses and discussed the next steps. Discussion followed.



ACTION

- a. Level II Executive Summary *Supporting Documentation | New Program Tracking*

Deputy Commissioner Tessman spoke to the process related to these submissions. Provost Bob Mokwa of MSU Bozeman, spoke to their requests which include establishing an M.S. in Bioengineering; retitling the Department of Agricultural Education to the Department of Agricultural and Technology Education. Discussion followed.

- b. MT Tech Mission Review *ITEM 184-1501-R0919 | Attachment #1*

Dr. Les Cook, Chancellor at MT Tech, presented the request for the Board of Regents to confirm approval of Montana Technological University's mission statement. This statement reads Montana Technological University, through exemplary undergraduate and graduate education, workforce development, research, and service builds on a strong heritage in engineering, science, and technology that blends theory with practice in meeting the changing needs of society and the responsible development and use of natural resources. Discussion followed.

INFORMATION

- a. MT Project 10 Update

Ms. Crystine Miller, Director of Student Affairs and Student Engagement, provided an updated regarding the Montana Project 10 (MTP10) initiative. Ms. Miller reiterated that MTP10 is a student success pilot initiative aimed at improving student success and completion. The initiative works to leverage financial support to better focus academic momentum to help advance a greater sense of purpose and belonging to students. Director Miller discussed the various stakeholders that have been included in this project. She reviewed the various MTP10 Teams across the MUS including UM-Missoula, Helena College, and MSU-Billings.

- b. College Access Initiatives

A panel including Ms. Jeannie Origbo, Director of Montana Education Talent Search (ETS); Mr. Travis Anderson, Director of Gear Up; and Ms. Angela McLean, Director of American Indian/Minority Achievement and K-12 Partnerships provided an update to the board on College Access Initiatives. The panel provided background information on ETS, a TRIO program funded by the Department of Education that works with nine school districts and 16 schools across Montana. Director Origbo shared ETS highlights from recent events. The panel spoke to effort and work addressed by Montana Gear Up, which is entering its 3rd year of a 7-year \$14.5 million grant, awarded by the Department of Education. Gear Up is focused on increasing the number of low-income students prepared to succeed in postsecondary education and primarily serves students in 7th – 12th grade. Discussion followed regarding impactful and successful events, including College Application Week and the iGraduate Montana Summit.



c. Accreditation Report

Deputy Commissioner Brock Tessman provided an update to the Board regarding The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) conducting evaluations of Montana University System campuses during the 2018-2019 academic year including a seven-year evaluation at MSU-Billings and an ad hoc evaluation at Dawson Community College. In the 2019-2020 academic year FVCC is due for a seven-year evaluation and a mid-cycle evaluation for MSU-Northern and MT Technological University.

d. Level I Memorandum (May, June, July)

Deputy Commissioner Tessman discussed the process behind these approvals noting that they include minor changes and are approved by the Commissioner's Office via direction of the Board.

e. Intent to Plan Proposals (July, August)

Submitted July 2019 - Expiration March 2021

Montana State University

Center for Science, Technology, Ethics and Society

PhD in Mechanical Engineering

Master of Science in Cybersecurity

Montana State University Billings

Institute for Neurodiversity and Applied Behavioral Analysis

University of Montana

Masters in Natural Resources Law and Policy

Committee Reports & Action

- Two-Year and Community College Committee
None.
- Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee

ACTION

a. Level II Executive Summary *Supporting Documentation | New Program Tracking*

A motion for approval of action item a. Level II Executive Summary was made by Regent Nystuen; motion passed (7-0).



b. MT Tech Mission Review *ITEM 184-1501-R0919 | Attachment #1*

A motion for approval of action item b. Item 184-1501-R0919 was made by Regent Sheehy; motion passed (7-0).

Public Comment*

Mr. John Grant, representing the Ravalli County Workforce Alliance (RWCA), spoke to recent efforts to advance a ballot effort to create a state-recognized community college district.

Meeting Recessed at 5:10pm.

Thursday, September 12th

The meeting reconvened at 8:42am.

Budget, Audit and Enterprise Risk Committee

CONSENT

Staff Items:

- a. Labor Agreements; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 184-106-R0919 | Attachment #1*
- b. Authorization to Modify Phase 1 of Athletic Field Improvement Project; MSU-Northern *ITEM 184-2801-R0919*
- c. Authorization to Extend Program and Design Authority of the Romney Hall repurposing; MSU *ITEM 184-2003-R0919 | Attachment #1*
- d. Appointment of Members to the Fire Services Training Advisory Council; MSU-Cooperative Extension Service *ITEM 184-2401-R0919*

Policy Revisions:

- e. Revision to BOR Policy 780 – Regents' Award for Excellence in University System Citizenship; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 184-102-R0919 | Attachment #1*
- f. Revision to BOR Policy 711.1; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 184-105-R0919 | Attachment #1*
- g. Revision to BOR Policy 807.2; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 184-108-R0919 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2*
- h. Authorization for the University of Montana Western and the UMW Foundation to enter into an Operating Agreement; UM-Western *ITEM 184-1601-R0919 | Attachment #1*

Emeriti Faculty:



- i. Burfiend; UM *ITEM 184-1001-R0919*
- j. Charles; UM *ITEM 184-1002-R0919*
- k. Greene; UM *ITEM 184-1003-R0919*
- l. Sillars; UM *ITEM 184-1004-R0919*
- m. Volkman; UM *ITEM 184-1005-R0919*
- n. Young; MSU *ITEM 184-2001-R0919*
- o. Bailey; MSU *ITEM 184-2002-R0919*

ACTION

- a. FY20 Operating Budgets; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 184-107-R0919 | Attachment #1*

Deputy Commissioner of Budget and Planning, Tyler Trevor, presented the operating budgets of all fund groups for the institutions and agencies of the Montana University System for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2019, as submitted by each of the units, recommended by the Commissioner of Higher Education, and summarized in the system and campus budget schedules for the Boards approval. Approval of these operating budgets is required by §17-7-138(2), MCA, which states: “The expenditure of money appropriated in the general appropriations act to the board of regents, on behalf of the university system units, as defined in §17-7-102, MCA, is contingent upon approval of a comprehensive operating budget by October 1 of each fiscal year.” The approving authority for the university system is defined by §17-7-102(3)(f), MCA, to be the Board of Regents of Higher Education or its designated representative. Discussion followed.

- b. Approval of the Montana University System Internal Audit Charter; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 184-103-R0919 | Attachment #1*

Diedra Murray, MUS Internal Auditor, presented the proposed MUS Internal Audit Charter before the Board, in accordance with Board of Regent policy 204.2.1, for the Montana Board of Regents review and approval. The draft Charter was last revised August 9, 2019. Discussion followed.

- c. Revision to BOR Policy 940.13 – Tuition Waivers and Discounts, to include Montana National Guard; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 184-101-R0919 | Attachment #1*

Deputy Commissioner Tyler Trevor presented a revised draft of BOR Policy 940.13 - Tuition Waivers and Discounts, to include a new mandatory tuition waiver for members of the Montana National Guard. This new mandatory tuition waiver will augment existing GI Bill and Tuition Assistance entitlements for Montana National Guard members, allowing them to receive financial aid packages that cover 100% of the cost of tuition in the Montana University System. OCHE developed this proposal in partnership with the Governor’s Office and the Montana National Guard based on the following elements: recruitment and retention, ensuring affordability, and operational feasibility. Discussion followed.

INFORMATION



a. Montana Resident Student Financial Aid Policies; OCHE/MUS

Deputy Commissioner Tyler Trevor noted that the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) will bring forward a proposal to modify and consolidate multiple existing board policies related to resident student financial aid at a future Board of Regents (BOR) meeting, creating a new overarching Montana resident student financial aid policy that mirrors state statute and Legislative intent. Affected programs include:

- Montana Access Scholarship Program
- Montana STEM Scholarship Program
- Montana Work Study Program
- Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG) Program
- Montana Tuition Assistance Program (MTAP)
- Montana Higher Education Grant (MHEG)
- Governor's Post-Secondary Scholarship Program
- Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program

b. MSU Hospitality Project

Mr. Terry Leist, Vice President of Finance at MSU and Dr. Alison Harmon, Dean of the College of Education, Health and Human Development at MSU informed the Board that Montana State University is planning to investigate the feasibility of developing a hospitality project to complement its existing Hospitality Management and Culinary Arts programs and provide visitor services to campus. MSU desires to explore the feasibility of developing a hospitality project on campus to provide educational opportunities for HMCA students. MSU will investigate the feasibility of leasing land to a private developer to design, construct, operate, and maintain a hospitality facility which will also serve as a teaching laboratory for students. In accordance with State law and Board of Regents policy, the project would be specifically developed to never be owned by the State of Montana, nor would Operation/Maintenance liability ever be transferred to MSU. MSU intends to begin this exploratory work during the Fall of 2019 and report back to the Board in the future with findings. No state funds will be used. Discussion followed.

Public Comment*

Dr. Beverly Hartline, Vice Chancellor for Research at MT Tech, informed the Board of an upcoming National Lab Day event, schedule for October 8th and 9th at MT Tech.

Mr. Taylor Blossom, President of ASMSU, extended his thanks and appreciation for the adjustment in student allocation of state dollars and approved increase.



- Budget, Audit and Enterprise Risk Committee

CONSENT

Staff Items:

- a. Labor Agreements; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 184-106-R0919 | Attachment #1*
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- l. Sillars; UM *ITEM 184-1004-R0919*
- m. Volkman; UM *ITEM 184-1005-R0919*
- n. Young; MSU *ITEM 184-2001-R0919*
- o. Bailey; MSU *ITEM 184-2002-R0919*

A motion for approval of consent items a. – o. was made by Regent Dombrowski; motion passed (5-0).

ACTION

- a. FY20 Operating Budgets; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 184-107-R0919 | Attachment #1*



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

A motion for approval of action item a. ITEM 184-107-R0919 was made by Regent Tuss; motion passed (5-0).

- b. Approval of the Montana University System Internal Audit Charter; OCHE/MUS
ITEM 184-103-R0919 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item b. ITEM 184-103-R0919 was made by Regent Miller; motion passed (5-0).

- c. Revision to BOR Policy 940.13 – Tuition Waivers and Discounts, to include Montana National Guard; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 184-101-R0919 | Attachment #1*

A motion for approval of action item c. ITEM 184-101-R0919 was made by Regent Rogers; motion passed (5-0).

Meeting adjourned at 11:48 am

Approved by the Board of Regents on

11/21/2019

Date

Handwritten signature of Clayton T. Christian in blue ink.

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

11/21/2019

Date

Handwritten signature of Casey Lozar in blue ink.

Casey Lozar
Chair, Board of Regents