



**Montana Board of Regents  
Conference Call – Virtual Meeting  
May 20, 2020  
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**

Meeting convened at 8:03am.

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

Comments by Chair Lozar

Chair Lozar welcomed all attendees to the meeting. He expressed his appreciation and thanks, on behalf of the Board to Chancellor Kegel for his willingness to host this meeting at the MSU-Northern campus in Havre, and for his flexibility with changes to the meeting format. Chair Lozar extended congratulations to the 2020 Graduating Class of the Montana University System (MUS). He spoke to the challenges and continued perseverance from students, faculty, staff, and administration across the MUS. Chair Lozar provided a brief overview of the meeting agenda.

Approval of Minutes

- March 5-6, 2020 Meeting Minutes

A motion for approval of March 5-6, 2020 meeting minutes was made by Regent Miller; motion passed 7-0.

- April 16, 2020 Conference Call Minutes

A motion for approval of April 16, 2020 Conference Call minutes was made by Regent Miller; motion passed.

Commissioner's and System Report

- COVID-19 Update

Commissioner Christian extended his thanks and appreciation to all attendees for their flexibility and patience with the new meeting format given COVID-19. He noted a number of presentations scheduled today will be focused on COVID-19, its impacts and strategies moving forward. He briefly summarized the efforts and timeline to date since the March meeting in Dillon, noting a number of changes that occurred across the MUS in response to the pandemic. He extended thanks to all campuses and others like the Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE) staff for their quick action and perseverance during this time. He also extended thanks to Board members for their availability to provide input, guidance and direction during this time. He discussed the Heathy Fall Taskforce, led by Deputy Commissioner Brock Tessman, who are charged



and focused on ensuring a healthy return to campuses this fall.

Deputy Commissioner Tessman reviewed the steps taken regarding crisis management and campus preparations, he noted a number of unscripted challenges along the way, but that life did go on in many ways. Faculty and students did a great job in moving to remote delivery and graduating students this spring with some exceptions to commencement programs and celebrations. He noted that the Perkins V State grant was approved which will bring in roughly \$60 million dollars to the state of Montana over the next ten years or so. In contact communication with health authorities at the local and state level. Kept an eye on nationwide trends and projections to begin planning preparations for a healthy return to on campus instruction for the fall semester of 2020. He reviewed the charge of the committee and work on each campus to ensure that while they plan for a fall return to campus, with appropriate precautionary measures, they are prepared to make adjustments along the way, as necessary based on projection information. He noted that the taskforce is made up of twelve representatives from across the system to serve as a planning committee. He emphasized that guidelines that are being developed are basic planning guidelines for campuses to use. The taskforce is near completing their work, which will be disseminated across the system. Discussion followed.

- Regents Award for Excellence

Commissioner Christian spoke to the Regents Award for Excellence, described in Board Policy 780 which allows for the recognition of outstanding contributions who work at a unit of the university system. Employees are selected for such an award by the Commissioner of Higher Education based on their contributions to the university system that go beyond the regular expectations of their positions. Commissioner Christian acknowledge the recipient this year for the Regents Award for Excellence to Jodi Todd of the University of Montana, a Grant Support Specialist. Commissioner Christian extended thanks and appreciation for her steady leadership in helping the College of Humanities and Sciences maintain a productive research grant pipeline is a key component to the college's prominent standing in discovery, innovation, teaching and learning. Discussion followed.

- Enrollment Report

Deputy Commissioner Tyler Trevor provided the annual enrollment report to the Board. He explained that Fiscal Year 20 numbers include End of Terms counts for Summer and Fall of 2019 and the most current but not finalized Spring 20 numbers. He noted that the Resident totals have seen declines from historic peaks beginning in FY12. The greatest decreases have been in our undergrad population, with a smaller overall decrease in grad students. Non-resident totals have increased over time to make up for the decreases in resident students but have remained fairly consistent for the past four fiscal years. Graduate programs as whole have seen consistent enrollments over time, and since FY12 resident/non-resident totals are about 3% higher than in FY12. He noted individual institutions have largely seen flat or decreasing enrollments form FY19 to FY20 overall. Deputy Commissioner Trevor reviewed resident enrollments, noting that there have been decreases in enrollment at all schools from FY19 to FY20, with the



exception of City College, Gallatin College, and Dawson and Miles. He reviewed trajectories for 4-year regional campuses, noting that Western has been the most consistent, which may be in part attributed to the unique course system in place. Regarding 2-year campuses, we see declines in resident populations from FY19 to FY20 for most campuses, with the exceptions of Gallatin and City Colleges. He reviewed resident populations for the Community Colleges noting that both Miles and Dawson have seen increased resident enrollments from FY19 to FY20 and going back to FY16.

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

Commissioner Christian announced the retirement of Chief Legal Counsel, Viv Hammill, from more than 39 years of practice. He extended his thanks and appreciation for excellent leadership, legal acumen, and dedication to the MUS, its students, faculty, and staff. She will be missed; he noted that Helen Thigpen would serve as Acting Chief of Staff. He welcomed Dr. Sandra Bauman to the role of Acting Dean/CEO of Helena College-UM. Her knowledge of the college, MUS, and the needs of the Helena community is a benefit as she transitions into her new role. He extended thanks to Chancellor Edelman of MSU-Billings, who was recently appointed to serve on the Governor's Board of Veteran Affairs. Commissioner Christian thanked Chancellor Edelman for his continued service to the state of Montana and our nation. Chancellor Weatherby of UM Western announced that Dr. Deb Hedeem, Provost at UM Western, would be leaving to assume the position of President at the University of Maine in Fort Kent. She announced that Dr. Jenny McNulty will be assuming the role of Interim Provost during this time. She expressed thanks and appreciation to both individuals for their excellent work. President Bodnar of the University of Montana announced that Provost Jon Harbor will be departing UM to pursue an opportunity in Indiana. President Bodnar noted that Dean Reed Humphrey will serve as acting provost during the interim.

- Other

Commissioner Christian noted that on May 6<sup>th</sup>, the US Department of Education issued new Title IX regulations. These advise how universities, colleges, and K-12 address reported sex-based discrimination, which encompasses a broad swath from sexual misconduct to equitable funding. OCHE is working across the MUS to review and understand these new rules. Jessica Weltman, MUS Compliance Officer, will be leading this effort. He noted that most national organizations ask for at least a year to implement these changes and we were given until August 14, 2020 to implement them, which we will work towards. He noted that we are working with national partners like the National Association of College and University Attorneys (NACUA) to exchange ideas on how best to implement these new rules. As we learn more about these changes and what it means for Montana, we will keep Board Members informed through updates provided by the OCHE Legal Team. Commissioner Christian reiterated that the MUS will continue to prohibit sexual misconduct of any kind and stressed that the MUS takes this matter very seriously. We want every student to be able to pursue their educational goals across the university system and want every faculty and staff member to be able to work in a safe environment. Discussion followed.



Remarks by Governor Bullock (or Designee)

Governor Steve Bullock extended his thanks for taking the initiative to keep Montana's students, faculty, and staff safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. He acknowledged the difficult decisions at hand and the importance of reaching the right decision for each campus and the respective community. Governor Bullock extended his thanks and appreciation for the guidance provided to students through one of the most challenging eras in the history of our state and nation. He acknowledged this uncertain time for all Montanans and spoke to the importance of continued leadership to help with reopening efforts across the state. He noted that, as it is everywhere else, the virus is still in Montana, and it will be with us for a long time. He pledged to do his part so that the MUS can reopen safely. To that end, he committed to continuing the fight for COVID-19 tests and personal protective equipment; to ramping up Montana's testing capacity so that we can quickly find and contain new cases to ensure campuses are safe. Governor Bullock expressed appreciation for the creation of nuanced opening plans that provide the continued safety of our campuses. He expressed his confidence that leadership across the MUS is weighing options carefully and will ultimately make the best decisions for your students, faculty, and staff. Discussion followed.

Remarks by Superintendent Arntzen

Superintendent Arntzen extended her thanks for being included in the meeting. She shared her positivity towards the reopening of K-12 Schools and her efforts to move forward, rather than backward. She extended thanks to the Governor for his flexibility and support of school closures for the safety of students, teachers, and staff. She spoke to two taskforces underway; Montana Flex 2020 focuses on bringing school leaders together for collaborative efforts to identify any hurdles related to what remote learning might look like related to statutes, rules, Federal Guidelines, etc. Findings from the task force will be elevated to the Board of Public Education. She described the other taskforce, Montana Learn 2020, as similar in its focus but more structured towards learning and things like curriculum development, professional development tools, changes to licensing, and corresponding impacts on teachers, parents, and students. She spoke about student safety, and it's important now and going forward. A safety committee will be involved in both task forces going forward to ensure that health and safety are being evaluated at every level. Superintendent Arntzen spoke to the number of waivers received from the US Department of Agriculture to ensure that students are receiving necessary food and nourishment. She noted changes to the ACT and the request to pause the test offering this year; she shared her expectation of learning more about these changes and what things will look like going forward for Montana. She noted that dollars related to Perkins V were another conversation underway. She extended her appreciation for the leadership from Deputy Commissioner Tessman and stressed that the ultimate opportunities are to benefit our students. Discussion followed.



Budget, Administration and Audit Committee

**CONSENT**

**Staff Items:**

- a. Staff Item; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 188-2000-R0520*
- b. Labor Agreements; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 188-101-R0520 | Attachment #1*
- c. Request for Approval of University System/Employee Equity Interest and/or Business Participation Under MUSP 407; Montana Technological University *ITEM 188-1502-R0520 | Attachment #1*

**Emeriti Faculty:**

- d. Ray; Montana Technological University *ITEM 188-1503-R0520*
- e. Braun; Montana Technological University *ITEM 188-1504-R0520*
- f. Weltzien; UM-Western *ITEM 188-1602-R0520*
- g. Bach; UM-Missoula *ITEM 188-1004-R0520*
- h. Winkler; UM-Missoula *ITEM 188-1005-R0520*
- i. Swaney; UM-Missoula *ITEM 188-1006-R0520*
- j. Hunt; UM-Missoula *ITEM 188-1007-R0520*
- k. Frey; UM-Missoula *ITEM 188-1008-R0520*
- l. Ametsbichler; UM-Missoula *ITEM 188-1009-R0520*
- m. Silverman; UM-Missoula *ITEM 188-1010-R0520*
- n. Evans; UM-Missoula *ITEM 188-1011-R0520*
- o. Ross; UM-Missoula *ITEM 188-1012-R0520*
- p. Larsen; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 188-2001-R0520*
- q. Lewandowski; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 188-2002-R0520*
- r. Lawrence; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 188-2003-R0520*
- s. Strizich; MSU-Northern *ITEM 188-2801-R0520*
- t. Danley; MSU-Northern *ITEM 188-2802-R0520*

**Facility Items:**

- u. Request for Authorization to Increase Spending Authority for Pantzer Hall Renovation and Upgrade Project; UM-Missoula *ITEM 188-1013-R0520 | Attachment #1*

**Other:**

- v. Request for Authorization to Renew the Operating Agreement between Montana State University Billings and Montana State University Billings Foundation; MSU-Billings *ITEM 188-2702-R0520 | Attachment #1*

**ACTION**

- a. Present Law Budget, 2023 Biennium; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 188-104-R0520 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3*



## MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

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Deputy Commissioner Tyler Trevor presented this request noting that each state agency is required to submit a budget for inclusion in the Governor's Budget per section 17-7- 111, MCA. As a state entity, the Montana University System is required to participate in the Executive Branch budget planning and development process. This budget process estimates the total operating budget required to maintain the present level of services. For the MUS Educational Units, this proposal projects approximately 42.5% state funding of projected cost increases, which is the actual systemwide state percent share for FY20. Depending upon the amount of state funding authorized by the state legislature, this budget estimate may need to be adjusted. Discussion followed.

- b. Long Range Building Program Priority List, 2023 Biennium; OCHE /MUS *ITEM 188-102-R0520* | *Priority List* | *Project Descriptions* | *UM Major Repair List* | *MSU Major Repair List*

Mr. Ron Muffick, Director of Operations & Administration, presented this request before the Board noting that each state agency is required to submit a proposed long-range building program for the agency or institution. Each agency and institution shall furnish any additional information requested by the Department of Administration relating to the utilization of or need for buildings. (17-7-202, MCA) As a state entity, the Montana University System is required to participate in the capital projects requests process. Discussion followed.

- c. Request to Increase Tuition & Fees; FY21; Dawson Community College *ITEM 188-201-R0520* | *Attachment #1*

Deputy Commissioner Tyler Trevor presented this request for the Board of Regents approval of the proposed Tuition and Mandatory Fee rates for FY2021. Rates become effective Fall Semester 2020.

- d. Request for Authorization to Design and Construct a Student Wellness Center; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 188-2004-R0520* | *Attachment #1*

President Waded Cruzado; Vice President of Admin & Finance, Terry Leist; Director of Space Planning and Management, John How; and Director of Counseling and Psychological Services, Dr. Betsy Asserson presented this request, consistent with the provisions of MCA 2-17-105, 20-25-302 1(d) and 18-2-102 2(b) and BOR policy 1003.7, for the Board of Regents to authorize MSU to expend up to \$60,000,000 to design and construct a comprehensive Student Wellness Center. Discussion followed.

- e. Request for Authorization to Increase a Building and Facilities Fee for the Student Wellness Center; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 188-2006-R0520* | *Attachment #1* | *Attachment #2*

Deputy Commissioner Tyler Trevor and outgoing ASMSU President Mr. Taylor Blossom presented this request, consistent with BOR 940.3 – Mandatory Fees, for the Board of Regents of the Montana University System to authorize Montana State University to increase a Building and Facilities Fee by \$58 per semester to provide partial funding for a new Student Wellness Center. Discussion followed.



- f. Request for Approval to Restructure the ASUM Student Activity Fee; UM-Missoula *ITEM 188-1015-R0520* | *Attachment #1* | *Attachment #2*

Deputy Commissioner Tyler Trevor and outgoing ASUM President Ms. Abigail Belcher, presented this request for the Board of Regents to approve an off-cycle request for a student driven fee brought forward by the Associated Students of University of Montana (ASUM), in conjunction with UM Administration, requesting authorization, in accordance with Board of Regents' Policy 940.12.1, to restructure the ASUM Activity fee to include a rate of \$35 per semester for any student taking six (6) credits or fewer. Discussion followed.

- g. Request for Approval to Increase ASUM Student Activity Fee; UM-Missoula *ITEM 188-1014-R0520* | *Attachment #1* | *Attachment #2*

Deputy Commissioner Tyler Trevor and outgoing ASUM President Ms. Abigail Belcher, presented this request for the Board of Regents to approve an off-cycle request for a student driven fee brought forward by the Associated Students of University of Montana (ASUM), in conjunction with UM Administration, requesting authorization, in accordance with Board of Regents' Policy 940.12.1, to establish a \$3.00 fee increase to the ASUM Student Activity fee. Discussion followed.

- h. Request for Authorization to Execute a Lease for a Shop/Warehouse on Behalf of MSU-MilTech; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 188-2005-R0520*

Mr. Ron Muffick, Director of Operations & Administration and MSU Vice President of Administration & Finance, Terry Leist presented this request, in accordance with Board of Regents Policy 1003.6, that the Board of Regents of the Montana University System authorize Montana State University to enter into an off-campus lease for space to accommodate required university Research and Development functions. Discussion followed.

### INFORMATION

- a. Proposed Revision to BOR Policy 706.1 – Faculty Tenure; OCHE/MUS  
*Information Item* | *Attachment #1*

Deputy Commissioner McRae presented this information item before the Board noting draft revisions to Board Policy 706.1, Faculty Tenure. He explained that the Commissioner of Higher Education, in concurrence with flagship university campus executives, recommends a change to the tenure policy for better practicality in tenure decisions involving persons hired into administrative positions. The policy since 2009 has provided that “persons hired into administrative positions from outside the MUS may be granted faculty tenure status in accordance with the terms of this policy.” The terms of the policy, however, are oriented almost entirely toward the traditional path by which a probationary non-tenured faculty member applies for and gains tenure over a period of years. The policy change better reflects the intent and practicality of offering faculty tenure to persons hired into administrative positions as a recruitment and retention tool when requested by campus leadership and recommended by the Commissioner. Discussion followed.



b. Proposed Revision to BOR Policy 1202.1 – Athletic Program Guidelines;  
OCHE/MUS *Information Item | Attachment #1*

Helen Thigpen, Associate Legal Counsel, presented this information item noting draft revisions to Board Policy 1202.1 related to Athletics to clarify that all new athletic programs must be approved by the Board of Regents. She discussed the availability of intercollegiate athletic programs providing significant benefits to students, campuses, and communities across the state. However, the addition of an athletic program may have a significant financial impact on existing programs and the wider campus community. Currently, the Board of Regents' athletic policy does not address whether Board approval is required for new athletic programs. To ensure the Board has the opportunity to review new proposals and to carry out its supervisory functions, the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education is recommending Board review and approval of all new athletic programs. Discussion followed.

c. Energy Service Company Assessment Update – Combined Heat and Power System; UM-Missoula *Information Item | Attachment #1*

Vice President of Administration and Finance Paul Lasiter, presented this informational update. The University of Montana is providing an update to the Board of Regents on the investment grade audit being completed with McKinstry to determine the feasibility of upgrading the existing Heating Plant to a combined heat and power plant. The current Heating Plant includes three (3) natural gas boilers that were installed in the 1960's. In the 1990's, a 440 Kilowatt steam turbine was installed to produce electric power for campus use and reduce steam pressure to 30 psi before supplying the campus with steam heating. The boilers and auxiliary systems have been well maintained but portions need to be either replaced or updated to ensure proper reliability can be maintained in the future. The potential new configuration of the facility would include a natural gas fired turbine coupled with a Heat Recovery Steam Generator (HRSG) and a condensing steam turbine. The gas turbine is the main driver for the combined heat and power plant. The gas turbine rotates a generator that produces electrical power for campus. Hot exhaust from the gas turbine provides heat to the HRSG to produce the steam that is sent to the steam turbine where additional power is generated and then lower pressure steam goes into the campus steam distribution system. Gas turbines in the 2-5 Megawatt were evaluated to determine if they would be a good fit for the application. Over the past few months, McKinstry has continued their analysis to refine scope, cost, and potential savings. This analysis has provided a preliminary project cost of \$18.5M with an estimated annual \$1.7M in utility savings. McKinstry will continue their analysis and are scheduled to complete the investment grade audit this June. At that point McKinstry will provide UM with a guaranteed maximum project cost and guaranteed savings. If these results fall within UM's parameters, UM plans to return to the Board of Regents in July for construction approval.





d. 2021 Legislative Initiative Discussion

Commissioner Christian noted the distinction between LRBP and the process associated with those projects, and this legislative initiative discussion, intended to share some of the topics, discuss interests and ideas as we prepare for the upcoming Legislative session, particularly given the outbreak of COVID-19. He noted that in the past, priorities had included a Present Law Adjustment, Pay Plan, our LRBP Priority List. Deputy Commissioner Tyler Trevor spoke to the board regarding the continuum of the projects that encompass two-year education, research, and student initiatives like the Montana Access Scholarship and the need-based aid one-time-only funding that we received with the stipulation for matching by MUS Foundations. Deputy Commissioner Trevor noted our ability to demonstrate this as a highly successful student aid program from which we could request continuing funding to support this program. Deputy Commissioner Tessman provided a summary related to a Montana Research and Economic Development Initiative (MREDI), noting the clear ROI associated with this project. He reiterated the success related to the first MREDI in 2015 and its broad reach and impacts made, indicating that we may ask for funding for an MREDI 2.0 effort. Deputy Commissioner Tessman stressed that efforts are tied to finding Montana solutions for Montana problems and identifying new opportunities for research initiatives. Regarding workforce development, he explained that efforts are underway to identify key areas of economic growth across the state and work with campuses to develop related programs, training opportunities, and relevant degree paths for these areas of need. Discussion followed.

e. IT Priority List

Deputy Commissioner Trevor and MUS IT Director John Thunstrom provided an update to the Board regarding how the MUS prioritize its IT projects. They explained that the list includes construction and infrastructure topics, as well as upgrades and lifecycle refreshes, administrative systems projects, and risk management and cyber security. John explained that this list was compiled with help from the campus Chief Information Officers and reviewed components of each subcategory. Discussion followed.

f. Annual Facilities Projects Authority Update

- MSU | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2
- UM | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

Deputy Commissioner Tyler Trevor reported to the Board, consistent with the provision of Regent's Policy 1003.7, the MSU and UM reports for the status of existing project authority approved by the Board of Regents, and Legislative Authority. Discussion followed.



Two Year and Community College Committee

**INFORMATION**

a. Two-Year Mission Fulfillment

Deputy Commissioner Brock Tessman and Dave Kruger, Dean of College of Technical Sciences at MSU-Northern, provided an update to the Board regarding two-year mission fulfillment. Dean Kruger extended thanks to the faculty, staff, and students for the flexibility and grace they displayed with the quick change to online course delivery this spring. He discussed the complexities associated with this change and detailed how certain programs, like welding, are using creative approaches, including blended coursework and virtual reality tools to ensure that students still receive the hands-on training and education needed. He noted the myriad of successes and challenges associated with the change to remote only offerings which is helpful as we move forward and as campuses prepare for the fall semester. Discussion followed.

b. COVID-19 Response – Remote Delivery of Trades/CTE Courses

Deputy Commissioner Brock Tessman presented an update to the Board regarding the remote delivery of trade and CTE courses. He reviewed best practices, including the creation of funding structures to incentivize institutions to adopt new technologies, encouraging school districts to partner with 2-year and community colleges to coordinate offerings and technology. Also, working with community leaders to ensure there is awareness about the course offerings availability and leveraging technology to deliver online and remote CTE content. Deputy Commissioner Tessman spoke to the teachers' resources through the Teaching and Learning Center, noting the matching of technology to components of instruction. He spoke to specific examples across the MUS at Missoula College, MSU-Northern, and Great Falls College-MSU. He reiterated the importance of equity related to the delivery of instruction and the new to commit to advancing quality access and equity in CTE related to access to technology and mental health support. Discussion followed.

c. COVID-19 Response – Workforce Training and Economic Recovery

Deputy Commissioner Brock Tessman presented an update regarding workforce training and economic recovery to the Board. He noted the unprecedented number of Montanans who have filed for unemployment; in addition, 27% of Montanans either have been or expect to be laid off/furloughed due to the coronavirus. Given the prediction that elevated unemployment could persist, he described the effects of short-term and long-term effects on families, particularly low-income families and those without a college degree. He noted that with support, unemployed adults could use this time to gain skills that would help them reenter the workforce. Deputy Commissioner Tessman reviewed possible strategies for this area, including offering to help unemployed adults enter and succeed in higher education, working with industry to identify and deploy credentials suited to the needs of adult learners, and investing in academic collaborations and online learning. Discussion followed.



d. Bitterroot Valley Community College District Ballot Initiative Update

Helen Thigpen, Associate Legal Counsel, presented an update to the Board on the results of the election in Ravalli County, where a vote passed to establish a new community college district called the Bitterroot Valley Community College (BVCC) District. She reviewed the election results, noting that while the vote successfully approved the new District, the vote to support a mill levy to ensure funding of the District failed. She reviewed the four phases for establishing a community college district in Montana, noting that phases one and two are complete. Phase three involves the Board in that it requires them to notify the Legislature regarding the result of the election and provide a recommendation to the Legislature on whether the new District should be established. She noted the fourth phase is the decision for approval, to be made by the Legislature. Going forward, OCHE will be collecting information to provide to the regents so that a decision can be made regarding the recommendation for the Legislature. She noted that OCHE's request for information would cover three main areas: budget and finances, academic programming, and IT/physical infrastructure. Discussion followed.

Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee

**ACTION**

- a. Request for Approval to Revise BOR Policy 504.4; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 188-103-R0520* | Attachment #1

Deputy Commissioner Tessman presented the request for the Board of Regents to approve revisions to BOR Policy 504.4 – WICHE Undergraduate Student Program to add the Western Regional Graduate Program. He noted that the proposed changes to this policy reflect the Montana University System's decision to join the Western Regional Graduate Program, a decision that will benefit graduate students at institutions across the state.

- b. Mission Statement Review; UM Western *ITEM 188-1601-R0520*

Dr. Deb Hedeem, Provost at UM-Western, presented the request for the Board of Regents to approve the University of Montana Western's revised mission statement. The institutional classification states that the University of Montana Western is recognized as a small, comprehensive, four-year, regional university offering certificates, associate, and baccalaureate degrees in education, business, and the liberal arts and sciences. The revised mission statement would read as follows: As a leader and innovator in experiential education, the University of Montana Western educates undergraduate students through immersive practices in their field of study, strives for continuous improvement, and achieves evidence-supported student learning and achievement outcomes.



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

Deputy Commissioner Tessman and Joe Thiel, Director of Academic Policy & Research, spoke to the process related to these submissions. Individual campuses spoke their requests individually, including MSU Bozeman's requests to establish a Master of Science in Innovation and Management and to establish a standalone PhD in Mechanical Engineering. The University of Montana's requests included establishing options in Software Engineering, Data Science, Algorithm Design in the B.S. Computer Science and offer blended delivery; establish a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Creative Writing; establish a Bachelor of Arts in World Languages and Cultures, and offer blended delivery. Montana Technological University's requests include establishing a Statistics option in the Bachelor of Science in Mathematical Sciences; renaming the Department of Business and Information Technology to the Department of Business; and renaming the Liberal Studies Department to the Department of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences.

d. Request to Plan Proposals (May)

Dr. Beverly Hartline, Vice Chancellor for Research at MT Tech, presented the request to plan proposal for an Engineering Geology option in the Geoscience M.S. Discussion followed.

**INFORMATION**

a. 2020-2021 Academic Calendar

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Brock Tessman provided an update to the board regarding changes to the start and end dates for the fall semester at campuses across the MUS in response to COVID-19. He extended thanks and appreciation to campuses for their work in reorganizing fall schedules to ensure that the quality of courses can be maintained and to ensure that the number of credit hours are preserved and kept in compliance with the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWCCU) requirements. He clarified that the impetus behind the decision to adjust the fall calendar stems from the lesson learned this spring regarding the outbreak of the virus and associated risks with sending students home over spring break and then returning to campus for final exams. Discussion followed.

b. COVID-19 Response – Student Engagement, Mental Health, and Retention

Deputy Commissioner Tessman and Crystine Miller, Director of Student Affairs & Student Engagement, provided an update to the board regarding the response related to COVID-19, related to student engagement, mental health, and retention. They noted how the recent changes, given the outbreak, have affected basic needs, access, mental health, etc. which directly ties back to the retention of students. They reviewed some of the most pressing issues facing campuses now due to COVID-19 noting enrollment, long-term financial viability, and sustaining an online learning environment among the top three. They discussed student engagement strategies and tools including student surveys, one-on-one calls, online wellness programming, telehealth counseling, community resources, and emergency aid. In moving forward, they noted the important



role that leadership will play here, the importance of communication, and the necessity for equity. Discussion followed.

c. COVID-19 Response – College Access Efforts & AIMA Engagement

Deputy Commissioner Tessman and Angela McLean, Director of American Indian/Minority Achievement and K-12 Partnerships, provided an update to the board regarding College Access efforts and AIMA engagement as it relates to COVID-19. They noted the meetings that have occurred between MUS campuses and American Indian Student Success (AISS) to assess how they are conducting outreach to American Indian students strategically. They noted that campuses are working to build into their AIMA Action Plans an ongoing American Indian student outreach/communication strategy that can be employed at any time. Campuses will also continue to update and implement campus based AIMA action plans and will continue to meet with AIMA Council and campus based AISS team members to share resources, discuss campus practices and advise the Commissioner. Regarding college access, they reviewed the number of iGraduate Montana awards made across the state. They noted the high number of TRIO Scholarships awarded totaling \$187,500.00 and shared several important dates associated with the Free Statewide ACT. Discussion followed.

d. COVID-19 Response – Remote Delivery Update and Planning

Deputy Commissioner Tessman and Joe Thiel, Director of Academic Policy & Research, provided an update to the board regarding remote delivery and planning as it relates to the COVID-19 response. They reported that 9,750 course sections were moved from face-to-face to remote delivery this spring. They extended thanks and appreciation to faculty across the MUS for their quick response and efforts in this area. They noted the weekly meetings of eLearning leaders to address technology access for students, faculty helping faculty, innovations to ensure accessibility for all, and more. They discussed next steps and strategies including: faculty roundtable in disciplines that rely on hands-on learning; recognizing excellent online educators and charge them to lead faculty learning communities this fall; and leverage the state eLearning Advisory committee to drive shared procurement opportunities. Discussion followed.

e. Level I Memorandum (February, March)

Deputy Commissioner Tessman spoke to the process related to these submissions.

Public Comment

*Public comment that was submitted via email or before or after the meeting can be found in Appendix A.*

Verena Lawrence, a student at MSU, spoke in support of the student wellness center fee.

Jason Yager, Vice President at NPIA in the Gallatin Valley area, spoke in support of the photonics program at Gallatin College. He encouraged the board to consider growth potential of the program and the ability to increase the facilities available, to help



increase the number of students within the program.

Michael Vasquez, incoming President for ASMSU, spoke in support of the student wellness center at MSU.

Chris Mehl, the Mayor of Bozeman, spoke in support of Gallatin College item listed on the LRBP priority list. He spoke to the high quality of employees that the program produces.

Carol Bellin, a student at UM-Missoula, spoke in support of adjunct professors systemwide. She also spoke in support of the libraries on campuses and its importance to students.

Kassidy Lywandowsky, a student at MSU, spoke in support of the student wellness center fee.

Tammy Harris, a consultant with MFPE, extended her thanks to OCHE and all those across the MUS for their excellent communication during this challenge time.

Representative Jim Hamilton spoke in support of the Gallatin College item listed on the LRBP priority list.

Taylor Gregory, incoming President of ASUM President, spoke in support of the ASUM fee initiatives discussed today.

Taylor Blossom, outgoing President of MAS and ASMSU, provided a brief update on the most recent MAS meeting. He spoke in support of the

James Flannigan, ASUM Vice President and newly elected MAS President, spoke in support of fee increases proposed by ASUM. He also spoke in support of the music building listed on the LRBP priority list.

## Committee Reports & Action

### Budget, Administration and Audit Committee

#### CONSENT

##### Staff Items:

- a. Staff Item; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 188-2000-R0520*
- b. Labor Agreements; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 188-101-R0520 | Attachment #1*
- c. Request for Approval of University System/Employee Equity Interest and/or Business Participation Under MUSP 407; Montana Technological University *ITEM 188-1502-R0520 | Attachment #1*

##### Emeriti Faculty:

- d. Ray; Montana Technological University *ITEM 188-1503-R0520*
- e. Braun; Montana Technological University *ITEM 188-1504-R0520*



- f. Weltzien; UM-Western *ITEM 188-1602-R0520*
- g. Bach; UM-Missoula *ITEM 188-1004-R0520*
- h. Winkler; UM-Missoula *ITEM 188-1005-R0520*
- i. Swaney; UM-Missoula *ITEM 188-1006-R0520*
- j. Hunt; UM-Missoula *ITEM 188-1007-R0520*
- k. Frey; UM-Missoula *ITEM 188-1008-R0520*
- l. Ametsbichler; UM-Missoula *ITEM 188-1009-R0520*
- m. Silverman; UM-Missoula *ITEM 188-1010-R0520*
- n. Evans; UM-Missoula *ITEM 188-1011-R0520*
- o. Ross; UM-Missoula *ITEM 188-1012-R0520*
- p. Larsen; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 188-2001-R0520*
- q. Lewandowski; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 188-2002-R0520*
- r. Lawrence; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 188-2003-R0520*
- s. Strizich; MSU-Northern *ITEM 188-2801-R0520*
- t. Danley; MSU-Northern *ITEM 188-2802-R0520*

**Facility Items:**

- u. Request for Authorization to Increase Spending Authority for Pantzer Hall Renovation and Upgrade Project; UM-Missoula *ITEM 188-1013-R0520 | Attachment #1*

**Other:**

- v. Request for Authorization to Renew the Operating Agreement between Montana State University Billings and Montana State University Billings Foundation; MSU-Billings *ITEM 188-2702-R0520 | Attachment #1*

A motion for approval of consent items a. – v. was made by Regent Dombrowski; motion passed (7-0).

**ACTION**

- a. Present Law Budget, 2023 Biennium; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 188-104-R0520 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3*

A motion for approval of action item a. Item 188-104-R0520 was made by Regent Tuss; motion passed (7-0).

- b. Long Range Building Program Priority List, 2023 Biennium; OCHE /MUS *ITEM 188-102-R0520 | Priority List | Project Descriptions | UM Major Repair List | MSU Major Repair List*

A motion for approval of action item b. Item 188-102-R0520 was made by Regent Dombrowski; motion passed (7-0).

- c. Request to Increase Tuition & Fees; FY21; Dawson Community College *ITEM 188-201-R0520 | Attachment #1*



A motion for approval of action item c. Item 188-201-R0520 was made by Regent Sheehy; motion passed (7-0).

- d. Request for Authorization to Design and Construct a Student Wellness Center; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 188-2004-R0520 | Attachment #1*

A motion for approval of action item d. Item 188-2004-R0520 was made by Regent Nystuen; motion passed (7-0).

- e. Request for Authorization to Increase a Building and Facilities Fee for the Student Wellness Center; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 188-2006-R0520 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2*

A motion for approval of action item e. Item 188-2006-R0520 was made by Regent Miller; motion passed (7-0).

- f. Request for Approval to Restructure the ASUM Student Activity Fee; UM-Missoula *ITEM 188-1015-R0520 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2*

A motion for approval of action item f. Item 188-1015-R0520 was made by Regent Miller; discussion followed. The motion passed (7-0).

- g. Request for Approval to Increase ASUM Student Activity Fee; UM-Missoula *ITEM 188-1014-R0520 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2*

A motion for approval of action item g. Item 188-1014-R0520 was made by Regent Tuss; motion passed (7-0).

- h. Request for Authorization to Execute a Lease for a Shop/Warehouse on Behalf of MSU-MilTech; MSU-Bozeman *ITEM 188-2005-R0520*

A motion for approval of action item h. Item 188-2005-R0520 was made by Regent Rogers; motion passed (7-0).

Two-Year and Community College Committee

None.

Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee

**ACTION**

- a. Request for Approval to Revise BOR Policy 504.4; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 188-103-R0520 | Attachment #1*

A motion for approval of action item a. Item 188-103-R0520 was made by Regent Sheehy; motion passed (7-0).

- b. Mission Statement Review; UM Western *ITEM 188-1601-R0520*





## MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

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A motion for approval of action item b. Item 188-1601-R0520 was made by Regent Miller; motion passed (7-0).

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

A motion for approval of action item c. Level II Proposals was made by Regent Dombrowski; motion passed (7-0).

d. Request to Plan Proposals (May)

A motion for approval of action item d. Request to Plan Proposals was made by Regent Sheehy; motion passed (7-0).

### Election of Officers

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

Regent Rogers made a nomination for Regent Lozar to serve as Board Chair. Discussion followed; motion passed (7-0).

Regent Miller made a nomination for Regent Tuss to serve as Vice Chair. Discussion followed; motion passed (7-0).

Meeting Adjourned at 4:50pm  
Approved by the Board of Regents on

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Casey Lozar  
Chair, Board of Regents



# APPENDIX A

To the Board of Regents,

My name is Dusty Keim, and I am an alumna of the University of Montana, holding a B.A. in English Literature and Creative Writing. I am currently a Fulbright grantee teaching English in Austria, and I am writing to you to advocate for the approval of funds for the renovation of the University of Montana's Music Building.

During my time at the University of Montana, I was actively involved in the University Concert Band and the Grizzly Marching Band. I spent many hours in the Music Building for rehearsals, and despite the wonderful staff and faculty working in the music department, the friends I made, and the positive experiences I had, the building itself is lacking and in dire need of renovation. The Music Building is one of the few on campus that still has chalkboards instead of whiteboards in classrooms, classrooms lack the technology found in other classrooms on campus, not to mention that the building is rather inaccessible for anyone with physical disabilities. The School of Music is an incredibly important part of the University of Montana, and it greatly deserves a comfortable, accessible home. My time at the University of Montana would have been greatly lacking without my experiences through the School of Music.

It is of critical importance to approve funding for renovations of the University of Montana's Music Building now more than ever because the School of Music is in danger of losing its accreditation without the necessary renovations. The School of Music is home to renowned faculty, and offers a world-class education for music students, as well as offering inclusive programs - such as concert and marching band - to non-majors. The School of Music is the heart and soul of University sports - imagine a Griz football game without the GMB or a basketball game without the Pep Band. The School of Music also hosts multiple events throughout the year for high school students, such as State Music Festival and Concert Band Festival, introducing many potential students to the University of Montana campus. In these uncertain times, losing the School of Music would be a devastating blow to the campus community, the Missoula community, and the wider Montana community. It is of the utmost importance these renovations are approved.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Dusty S. Keim

Hello Regents,

My name is Ethan Hanley and I'm the outgoing Vice President of the Associated Students of the University of Montana. This year, ASUM completely revised its constitution and every referenda passed by a significant margin during the general election. To comply with Board of Regents policy 506.2 (A), we presented those changes to President Bodnar and we are awaiting his decision. He has indicated support for nearly all of the changes and we have been grateful for his attention to this matter. If approved, the new executives will be working over the summer on implementing those changes and then carrying them out during the year. These changes include: changing composition of the Broadcast board which oversees KBGA, adjusting our senate size and changing it to a proportional system that is tied to total enrollment at UM, adding a seat reserved for a freshman, adding in changes to the Student Code of Conduct, updating executive position descriptions, and much more! The revised constitution should be attached in the email I sent over.

I also want to provide comment in my former Vice President's capacity on policy 506.2. I would advocate for paragraph A to be struck or amended to where Board of Regents approve Associated Students constitutions. This portion of the policy seems rather archaic and does not adequately reflect the way ASUM currently functions since we don't technically report to anyone at UM and are only under the control of the BoR. Although it was easy to work with President Bodnar on our changes and he analyzed them with good faith, there have been times in the past when the president has denied changes to our constitution. Former UM President Neil Bucklew denied a new constitution in 1984 because some of the language was not in compliance with BoR policy. Although I agree with the reasoning behind striking this, I feel part of any president's justification for denial of changes to a constitution could result from a conflict of interest. I think these changes could be more impartially analyzed at the board level and if there needs to be a check back to this, I think the appropriate check is with the Board of Regents and not the President.

To the Board of Regents,

My name is Max Greenleaf. I am a student at the University of Montana studying music education. I am writing to you to advocate for the approval of funds for the renovation of the University of Montana's Music Building.

In my time at the University of Montana, the Music Building has not only been a space where classes happen, but a space for studying, hanging out, and personal growth. For the over two hundred students, including music and musical theatre majors, minors, and general education students that regularly spend time in the music building this is a space that is like a second home. This building houses not only the music programs that the University of Montana has to offer, but many outside groups and concerts that bring the community together. Personally, I spend the majority of my day in the Music Building partaking in School of Music classes, ensembles, and interacting with fellow musicians. We work hard to accommodate for the lack of adequate practice space and crowded areas that hinder our ability to enhance the skills we are attending school for. However, the lack of space is not the only issue that the building faces. Perhaps most pressing is the obvious lack of accessibility and safety that the Music Building presents. Large ensemble rooms have no windows or fire exits and were deemed acoustically unsafe for our ears by the local fire marshal. The single elevator in the Music Building is an old freight elevator that is made for moving instruments and heavy equipment, not accessibility. If the elevator is not on the correct floor someone has to go and close the gates, if someone is not able to use the stairs and complete this they are not able to use the elevator. This provides obvious accessibility issues for students with limited mobility. The Music Building/School of Music is important to me because it is where I spend my time on campus, where most of my classes are held, and where I work to grow as a musician and a person. With over 3,700 prospective students coming into the Music Building every year the safety, accessibility, and appearance should be of the utmost importance to the University of Montana.

It is of critical importance to approve funding for renovations of the University of Montana's Music Building now more than ever because without these renovations the School of Music could lose appeal to prospective students and most urgently, could lose accreditation status with the National Association of School of Music (NASM). The building and program including state of Music Building and number of faculty is scheduled to be assessed in Spring 2022 to renew accreditation status and with the current state of the building many concerns that the NASM brought up at the last 2012 inspection have not been addressed. The degrees and programs offered through the School of Music have consistently grown since 2012 and the number of people occupying the space is grown with that. The overcrowded ensemble spaces, low quality ventilation in the practice rooms and classrooms, and unsafe acoustical qualities of the Music Building are all reason for concern not only for accreditation but for student health. These issues are relevant to past, current, and future students. The School of Music enrollment has been growing even with the declining overall University enrollment and without proper facilities or accreditation students will seek other options to fulfill the needs of a fully recognized program.

Thank you for your consideration,

Maxwell L. Greenleaf

To the Board of Regents,

I am writing to you today in support of the renovation project for Missoula UM - Music Building. I am a music student at the University of Montana studying Music Performance specializing in Oboe, pursuing honors and Entertainment Management certificates. I serve as President of the Student Music Union overseeing twenty-one involved student groups on campus, and I serve as an ASUM Senator advocating for the student body of the University of Montana. This project proposal is not a new one, but the importance of its passing is becoming increasingly vital to the School of Music's future. **I ask the board members to approve the Authority Only Project request for renovations in the amount of \$6,000,000, and the major repair request regarding health and life safety in the amount of \$1,500,000.**

**The UM School of Music serves a vital role in UM's recruitment and retention efforts, being one its few programs with increased enrollment over the last few years.** It hosts a wide array of festivals each year, including All Star Choir, All Star Bands and Orchestras, Montana All State Music Festival, Concert Band Festival, Buddy De Franco Jazz Festival, International Choral Festival, Northwest Horn Symposium, and the International Duo Symposium. These festivals bring in students of all ages in k-12 programs, and foster competitions for undergraduate and graduate students from across the globe. Through these festivals hosted in the Music Building, the University sees up to 3,700 prospective students each year, an accomplishment made by the School of Music community that supports the University of Montana's enrollment efforts. In addition, students and faculty of the School of Music tour the Pacific Northwest each year to increase recognition for the University of Montana as a first class institution. The recruitment and outreach efforts set forth by the UM School of Music are uncontested by other programs, and makes the Music Building truly unique.

The Music Building is heavily utilized by community members and non-music majors on campus. It hosts community organizations and ensembles such as the String Orchestra of the Rockies, Missoula Symphony Orchestra and Chorale, Montana Music Teachers Association, Society of Composers Inc., and the Northwest Music Educators National conferences. It hosts the History of Rock and Roll, the largest general education course on campus. The Music Building lobby serves as the main stop for ASUM transportation which is utilized by hundreds of students daily. The Grizzly Marching Band uses Music Building lockers for storage and large ensemble rooms for rehearsals. The School of Music and Student Music Union groups contract at least a dozen professional performing artists a year who utilize and perform within this building. **This space is not just for music majors, it is a space that invites the community and establishes an infrastructure for cross-campus collaborations.**

The first impression for the many prospective students coming to UM through music events hosted in the Music Building is the building itself. Right now, the Music Building does not portray an inspirational or functional atmosphere at first site due to many decades of maintenance and renovation efforts being deferred to later legislative sessions. **The Music Building has not seen a renovation since it was constructed in 1954, and at the time, it was**

**built for the purpose of only 100 students and 12 faculty members.** The building is not compatible with the incredible music program that it hosts, presenting a variety of safety, health, structural, and functional concerns.

An assessment of the building's needs was made by an Architectural program study in 2015 and the National Association of Schools of Music in 2015 of which the School of Music holds accreditation. **In 2012, when the School of Music was last reviewed for accreditation, it was re-accredited only because they were assured that the issues would be resolved. Since 2012, no improvements have been made, and the School of Music again faces reaccreditation in 2022.** These issues include a better utilization of space, ADA accessibility requirements, and safety concerns assessed by the fire marshal's standards. These issues are vast and are outlined in NASM's assessment attached as an addendum to this letter.

In 2016-2017, "Missoula UM - Addition to Music Building" was the third priority for the MUS Long Range Building Program projects, and the first priority presented by the University of Montana in the amount of \$10,000,000. It was classified as Major Maintenance Class 3, site owned, and selected with available access to utilities. The 2016-2017 report was described as such; "This project would provide for deferred maintenance, adaptive renovations to the existing building, and a new addition". This information may also be referenced as an addendum to this letter.

The financial need of this building remains while the monetary ask has been greatly reduced, and further specified. It is my understanding that these are steps taken to ensure its passing in a timely manner. While I understand the restrictions that may be in place now because of COVID-19, and the great care that the state must take in finding solutions, I cannot understate the importance of approving funds for the renovation of the music building at this time. It cannot afford to be deferred for any longer, even amidst a pandemic, as we run a great risk of losing our accreditation if it does.

The School of Music's accreditation is extremely important for our program because it elevates our education and allows for an approach to learning music like that of a conservatory. The ability for students to study as if they are at a conservatory with world renowned faculty for the affordable tuition offered at the University of Montana is a rare privilege that music students at UM have. This is especially important when considering the many students who are from rural areas of Montana who are at a disadvantage when applying for undergraduate programs, but have the opportunity to study music at UM. Advocating for the renovation of the Music Building is critical to ensure that we can maintain this accreditation and therefore sustain this high level of learning. It will also mean students at UM, not just music majors, will be able to learn in a building they are proud of. **Over 300 music students call the music building their home but this home currently presents issues with space, health, safety, climate, and accessibility.**

The University of Montana made a promise to music students that they value the arts, and as such has made continuous effort to prioritize this project when presenting it to the board. Now fulfilling this same promise lies in the hands of the board; that you represent all areas and degree programs offered in the MUS system, that you recognize the immeasurable value that this

accreditation provides in the Pacific Northwest, and that you choose to advocate for its renovation.

Noah Durnell  
University of Montana Student  
ASUM Senator  
SMU President



My name is Allie Dixon and I am a senior at Montana State University majoring in cell biology & neuroscience and minoring in finance and business administration. I am also a co-chair leader in the Student Health Advisory Committee on campus. In this committee, students work alongside MSU's health partners to inform students about the campus's health services as well as advocate for better resources. Through this roll, I have seen and heard concerning testimonies about the safety and privacy of our health facilities from both students and staff.

When the current health building (Swingle Building) was built in the 1950's, there were less than 3,500 students. Now there are over 16,500 students. MSU has built other buildings including a dining hall, residence hall, and academic halls to serve our growing student population. The health services have attempted to keep up with demand by expanding to other parts of campus; however, they were not designed to be used in a medical setting. Specifically, Counseling and Psychological Services have moved into rooms not meant for patient privacy. One fellow student mentioned that during a counseling session, they could hear voices of other students from the room next to them.

Safety is also a concern. Because of the cramped set up, students who are being tested for the flu or other communicable diseases have no other choice but to sit next to students who are there for other reasons like physicals or prescription refills.

The physicians, nurses, and medical staff have also expressed concern about the effect the outdated building has on their work. They constantly worry about their patients' privacy and often talk in hushed voices to ensure their patient's medical history does not travel through the

thin walls or curtain doors. They also worry that students who would benefit from the health services do not seek help because of the unwelcoming façade or fear they will not receive adequate privacy.

While many students are concerned about raising the health fee without the ability to enjoy the wellness center before they graduate, it is important to remember the rule most of us learned when camping: leave it better than you found it. Imagine if there had been no new construction on MSU's campus since the 1950's. Not only would we not have the newer buildings like Rendezvous Dining Pavilion or Norm Asbjornson Hall, but also familiar buildings that include Sherick Hall, which houses the college of nursing, and the arts complex that consist of Cheever, Haynes, and Howard Hall. MSU is home to so many students because past students and campus leaders chose to think of the interests of future students and now the time has come for this generation of Bobcats to think of the future health of MSU students.

To the Board of Regents,

My name is Cody Carlson. I am a rising Senior at the University of Montana studying Music Education. I am writing to you to advocate for the approval of funds for the renovation of the University of Montana's Music Building.

In my time at the University of Montana, the Music Building has served as a study space, a performance hall, a changing room (marching band), a cafeteria, a meeting spot, a rehearsal room, and – most quantifiable in the thousands of hours I've spent there – a practice room. These functions just scratch the surface of what the building is used for by students and people from all over campus and the Missoula community. However, these uses have reached far beyond what the building was built for – originally only intended to serve 100 students full time.

The Music Building/School of Music is important to me because it holds the value of knowledge through education. The Music Building houses world class professors that choose to work in cramped facilities for far less than enough pay. They stay because of the students that work so hard and the beauty of the surrounding area. Likewise, Montana is home for me, and the Music Building is also a place that connects my home to my future profession. I came to college hardly as a musician, and the faculty within the UM School of Music have been the willing educators that have mentored me to the place I am today. Without the opportunity of a music studio in my home state that would support me well, I could not have achieved so much through my education.

Therefore, it is of critical importance to approve funding for renovations of the University of Montana's Music Building now more than ever because the quality of our education at this School has far surpassed the quality of our available facilities. An excellent program of music is now in jeopardy of losing its accreditation because of the simple fact that the infrastructure cannot support the needs of the students. Somewhere along the line in the last 67 or so years, the building has become undervalued. The School of Music is a hub of activity for the community, bringing life to the musical atmosphere in town by hosting the Missoula Symphony Association, String Orchestra of the Rockies, First Night Missoula, the International Choral Festival, the Montana High

School All-State and Solo & Ensemble Festivals, and the Presidential Lecture Series. The music building is also a benefit to all of campus, bringing over 3,700 students from around the Northwest region to experience our campus throughout the year for festivals.

Further, I personally am astonished that the inequity the Music Building has faced persists. In light of all of the benefits it brings to individuals, students, the campus, Missoula, and the state of Montana (likely being the best music program in much of the region), the Music Building has still suffered from poor allocation of funds and simple oversight of priorities. In the recent past (2016-2017), the Music Building has been presented to the state legislature as a top priority for UM's Long-Term Building Plans and as the third priority overall by the Montana University System. Still, the issue has gone unaddressed.

The urgency of the situation is pressing, and our class is likely to be the last class that can make a difference for the Music Building before the reevaluation of accreditation that will occur in the Spring of 2022. If the Board of Regents ignores the matter, the School of Music may lose accreditation soon, draining Missoula of a fountain of musical development and opportunity. Alternatively, the Board of Regents could be the support we need in an especially difficult time to request any kind of funding. If the request for renovation funds are approved, we will need to push harder than ever to pass the funds through the 2021 legislative session. Your approval is the first step to continuing a legacy of excellence that runs deep in the School of Music at the University of Montana.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cody Carlson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "C" and "R".

Cody Carlson

Dear Regents,

My name is Ethan Hanley and I wanted to provide a few comments on two items to be seen during the May Board of Regents meeting. I'm encouraging you all to vote in favor of the two items related to the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) fee. This year, ASUM saw a significant deficit related to increased child costs, decreased fee revenue, and an overall increase cost to other services. In an effort to save money, ASUM raised childcare rates and implemented other cost saving measures to its agencies while maintaining their current level of services. Additionally, student groups saw a significant reduction in amount of funds allocated to them compared to the last two years. In order for ASUM to maintain their current level of services while providing an adequate amount of funds to allocate to student groups, both of these fee items must pass. As such, I strongly encourage a vote in affirmation on both items.

On an unrelated note, I wanted to provide comment on the LRBP and one particular item from UM. I am strongly in favor of allocating the \$1,500,000 for the Music Building related to health and life safety as well as the \$6,000,000 in authority spending. The building is in dire need of renovations not just related to safety but in an overall renovation. It's time this building saw a major reinvestment and I'm glad the University is again putting this as a priority for the LRBP next legislative session.

**From:** [Stecher, Kaylee](#)  
**To:** [Unsworth, Amy](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment in support of UM School of Music  
**Date:** Monday, May 18, 2020 5:03:43 PM

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To the Board of Regents,

My name is Kaylee Stecher. I am a student at the University of Montana studying Music Education with a focus in percussion. I am writing to you to advocate for the approval of funds for the renovation of the University of Montana's Music Building.

In my time at the University of Montana, the Music Building is where I have spent the majority of my college career, becoming a better musician, creating many wonderful memories and new friendships. Over these years I have had the same complaint: it is outdated.

I find that it is not a place I enjoy being in for long durations, and this is due to a handful of reasons. It feels dirty, even after it has been deeply cleaned. There is little to no natural light, and I often feel like a vampire. Up until recently, the only seating/lounge area was the basement floor, band chairs, or random broken office chairs that students would find and donate to the basement. Another issue is the storage space, especially for percussion students.

Percussion students often have a difficult time moving equipment back and forth between rehearsals, recitals, and performances. Constantly moving these instruments wears out these expensive instruments and can cause damage. For example, wheels fall off or become too damaged to roll properly, frames begin to fall apart easily, weather could have an impact on instruments, and in general, deteriorates the longevity these instruments are meant to have. Not to mention, the most expensive instrument in the studio, a Marimba One 5.0 octave marimba, must be dismantled entirely to move out of its designated practice room. Which is also harmful to the instrument.

The storage space for percussion equipment is very inadequate and takes up a lot of space that could be utilized well. The lack of storage space means that most of our equipment is stored in the large rehearsal room, which is shared with many other music groups. It is also stored in our main percussion practice room, which makes the room feel claustrophobic and always looks untidy. Three of the sixteen practice rooms are also reserved for percussion students only, which prevents other students from having easy access to practice rooms.

The Music Building/School of Music is important to me because it is a great place to connect with talented and experienced musicians, develop strong music skills and create long lasting memories. It has been the most significant place to my music education degree for these past three years.

It is of critical importance to approve funding for renovations of the University of Montana's Music Building now more than ever because this program is a large recruiter for  
Thank you for your consideration.

Kaylee Stecher

the University of Montana. It is important for it's students health to have proper and clean amenities, which allows for students to truly thrive. A new/updated building would create interest for students to attend this school, as opposed to others. There are many hard-working, talented students that deserve a great facility.

To the Board of Regents,

My name is Nick Barr. I graduated from the University of Montana this May with degrees in trumpet performance and music composition. I am writing to you to advocate for the approval of funds for the renovation of the University of Montana's Music Building.

In my time at the University of Montana, the Music Building has been a burden to work around in the five years I spent here. There has always been a severe lack of space, which is continuously made worse by the increase in music student enrollment over the years. There is absolutely no sound buffering left in any room, which is critical for a building that relies on students having quiet spaces to practice, record, and perform music. From a physical standpoint, there are literally holes in the ceiling tiles, and some of them are simply crumbling from old age. The staff in the building are doing all they can to maintain it, such as painting and finishing the floors when possible, but even that cannot fix the issues anymore. The main rehearsal room nor the performance stage are even big enough to safely house a full-size wind ensemble. It is not clear that appropriate acoustical treatments are provided in the two rehearsal rooms, the recording studio, practice rooms, some faculty studios and offices, and some classrooms.

The Music Building/School of Music is important to me because it is where I spent almost every waking moment of my college career. It became a home to me in my darkest times in college, but was also the place where I felt the most comfortable. I have memories that will stay with me forever in that building. It absolutely needs fundamental improvements to keep giving life to its faculty and students.

It is of critical importance to approve funding for renovations of the University of Montana's Music Building now more than ever because of growing health issues worldwide as well as maintaining the School of Music's high level of accreditation with the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM). We are fortunate enough to have students join us from all around the world because our music department is hailed as one of the best in the Northwest. It would be a shame, to say the least, if the School of Music lost its accreditation simply because it could not get enough funding to maintain its facilities. Current students are forced to compromise their hearing and personal space to accommodate the lack of space, which is just not acceptable. I urge you to consider how important this building is to all music students and community members that spend their time within its walls.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nick Barr



To the Board of Regents,

My name is Sabrina Mann. I am a student at the University of Montana studying Music Education. I am writing to you to advocate for the approval of funds for the renovation of the University of Montana's Music Building.

In my time at the University of Montana, my experience with the Music Building has been both rewarding and frustrating. The faculty of the music school are absolutely wonderful and they make the experience at UM very worthwhile. However, logistical issues with the Music Building itself have presented challenges. Lack of soundproofing and practice rooms are some of the most frustrating challenges. You can often hear people practicing in the rooms below you as you are in class trying to take a test. The lack of sound proofing is also very prevalent in the practice halls. It is often hard to focus when I can hear everyone in the rooms next to me. The practice halls are almost always full and students are often waiting in the adjacent hallway for one to open up. These conditions are not conducive for the best learning experience and they need to be addressed. The Music Building is essentially our home and the opportunities provided for us and the community are outstanding. If changes to the building occur, our ability to learn from these opportunities would increase substantially. The Music Building/School of Music is important to me because it is my home at the University.

It is of critical importance to approve funding for renovations of the University of Montana's Music Building now more than ever because the music program attracts students throughout Montana and the country. Events such as All Star Music Festival and University of Montana Music Camps are excellent ways for high school students to get to know the University. If renovations occurred, the music program could accommodate these events and provide a more conducive learning experience for current students. These renovations are necessary to provide a more welcoming and safe learning environment for the community and UM students.

Thank you for your consideration,

*x Sabrina Mann*

**From:** [Ulrich, Tyler](#)  
**To:** [Unsworth, Amy](#)  
**Subject:** Comments on Music Building Renovation Fund  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 19, 2020 11:58:04 AM

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To the Board of Regents,

My name is Tyler Elizabeth Ulrich. I am a junior at the University of Montana studying Percussion Performance and Pre-Nursing. I am writing to you to advocate for the approval of funds for the renovation of the University of Montana's Music Building.

In my time at the University of Montana, the Music Building has been where I've spent the most time. For example, I took 25 credits during the Spring 2020 semester and all but two classes were in the music building. I only chose to attend the University because of the outstanding music program here. It has become my second home, and the music building is the only way my degree is possible. As a percussionist, the building's infrastructure is incredibly important. For every performance and several rehearsals, we must take apart our five-octave marimba (which is bad for the instrument) to fit it through doorways because the building is outdated and isn't up to modern standards for these instruments. Timpani do not fit through doors, and we do not have enough percussion-dedicated practice rooms so we have to devise a schedule down to the minute of who gets each room at what time. Life could be so much easier and reflect that of other universities I've seen if we had more space and adequate structure to store and use our instruments.

It is of critical importance to approve funding for renovations of the University of Montana's Music Building now more than ever because the University of Montana's music program is special, and I see the magic it spreads to the community and future students. I have seen those very students turn away from the school because of our music building. We host several festivals which recruit future students, and I think both the current students and future students deserve a better, updated space to learn and grow in. We are already paying thousands of dollars to attend the university. The least we deserve is a functional, up-to-date facility...like the athletics department has.

Thank you for your consideration,

A proud member of the Grizzly Marching Band Drumline,

Tyler Ulrich

**From:** [Thorne, Jethro](#)  
**To:** [Unsworth, Amy](#)  
**Subject:** School of Music Renovations  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 19, 2020 8:04:53 PM

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To the Board of Regents,

My name is Jethro Thorne. I am a student at the University of Montana studying Music Performance in Euphonium and Mathematics. I am writing to you to advocate for the approval of funds for the renovation of the University of Montana's Music Building.

In my time at the University of Montana, the Music Building has been more than a place where my classes are. It has in fact been a part of my life since the summer of 2011. In my primary education, I attended the University of Montana Summer Band Camp. I attended the camp for a total of eight of years and each one of them brought with it new memories tied to the building. In my first couple years, I couldn't afford to stay in the dorms, so my father would drop me off at 4am on his way to work, and I would sleep in the lobby until the day started. My friends and I would spend our leisure time between events riding the old elevator and telling each other, "I wonder when they're going to get a new elevator! This is pretty sketchy." Turns out ten years later, I still use the same sketchy elevator for hauling stands and other music equipment to and from the music building. This is one of many issues I observe everyday in the building. Another issue is the lack of practice space. Instrumentalists who don't play piano or percussion have only 12 practice rooms (this is because pianists and percussionists have permanently reserved spaces, although on their own still aren't sufficient for even them) to share among hundreds of students. Also, the walls are like paper and trying to practice efficiently in a noisy area is comparable to taking a math test in a middle school cafeteria. It is hard to focus and the space doesn't add too much to productiveness. One last frustration I have with the building is the lack of a place just for students. Even the math building, one of the oldest buildings on campus, has a student lounge. It is depressing to walk to the ground floor and see the hallway lined with students sitting on dirty floors every single day. I have many friends whom I have met in high school at musical events such as the All-Northwest Honor Band and found out that some of them didn't attend the UofM School of Music because of the facility. I believe this attests to the state and need of our facility that we musicians would like to call our own.

It is of critical importance to approve funding for renovations of the University of Montana's Music Building now more than ever because it will heavily contribute to the enrollment problem our University has been struggling with. Every year, thousands of music students come through the music building for festivals, concerts, competitions, and many other musical activities. For a building that was designed for approximately 100 students, being competitive with other music schools is made even more difficult. For prospective college students, the main goal of their decision isn't solely based on the quality of the programs, but also the quality of life. For music students who are on the line about it, the state of the music building is something that is considered that tips people away from our University. Personally, I was one of those students and seeing the same building I saw 10 years ago while other parts of campus were new and fresh, almost pushed me away. The music building is a tool for the University. As of now, the building is comparable to Queen trying to record Bohemian Rhapsody with Brain May missing a string, John Deacon missing a tuner, Roger Taylor missing a drum stick, and Freddie Mercury missing his microphone. Without everything in proper working order, both can't and won't continue to be successful like we have observed in

past years.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jethro Thorne

**From:** [Jarvis, Madeline](#)  
**To:** [Unsworth, Amy](#)  
**Subject:** To the Board of Regents  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 19, 2020 6:22:43 PM

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To the Board of Regents,

My name is Madeline Jarvis. I am a student at the University of Montana studying Music Education, specifically piano and oboe. I am writing to you to advocate for the approval of funds for the renovation of the University of Montana's Music Building.

In my time at the University of Montana, the Music Building has been my home. I spend hours upon hours here, participating in a multitude of classes, playing in a variety of ensembles, eating every meal, doing homework, and attending a plethora of concerts. All of my friends and memorable college experiences have been made here. It is a wonderful, welcoming, diverse place, with over two hundred music and musical theater majors, minors, and general education students. Enrollment in the music department has been on the rise, which is fantastic. The School of Music hosts a huge variety of music festivals, competitions and camps independently, as well as takes turns hosting other large music events; up to 3,700 prospective students walk through those doors each year. In fact, I decided that UM was the right college for me after attending many different events at the School of Music and meeting phenomenal professors and interacting with many talented and kind UM students. Hosting these events provides unmatched musical opportunities and musical exposure to an enormous amount of youth across the Northwest.

The School of Music also provides space for a vast amount of community groups and occasions, such as the Missoula Symphony Association, String Orchestra of the Rockies, First Night Missoula, the International Choral Festival, the Montana High School All-State and Solo & Ensemble Festivals, the Presidential Lecture Series, and many other significant community events. The persistent integration of music throughout our community and society provides the circumstances to continually unify, expand our horizons, develop meaningful experiences, and acquire knowledge. Music is an important part of Missoula, and this passion is in part stimulated through the School of Music.

Unfortunately, the physical aspect of the Music Building is rapidly becoming outdated and is in a very urgent need for improvement. We have been making due as best we can, but the UM School of Music's accreditation review is soon to be conducted in the Spring of 2022. The accreditation review was last conducted in April of 2012, and we were fully re-accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM), *with the promise* that certain changes would be made. Just a few of the many concerns expressed in the 2012 accreditation report include:

- Insufficient space for recording studios, practice rooms, faculty studios and offices, ensemble rehearsal rooms, computer rooms, storage rooms, the general student population, and the scope of degrees offered
- Inadequate facilities due to lack of climate control and ventilation, little to no sound isolation, and improper acoustical properties
- Safety issues in regards to local fire and health codes

It is of critical importance to approve funding for renovations of the University of Montana's Music Building now more than ever. We need to begin making the necessary changes to ensure our full re-accreditation. Without it, we will lose our status as a flagship music program in the Pacific Northwest. This will lead to a tragic loss in program offerings, faculty members, and students. Investing in the Music Building will ensure that it is a safe, healthy place for everyone, as well as ensure that students, audiences, and guests are getting the best possible musical and educational experience they can.

Music is a vital aspect of society, and an essential, beautiful form of expression. Supporting renovations and improvement of the Music Building will do more than just fix the physical space; it will demonstrate a clear message that the arts are valued and important to the University of Montana, the city of Missoula, Montana itself, and all of the nation. We cannot lose our grasp on the arts; in doing so, we begin to lose our humanity.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Madeline Jarvis


To the Board of Regents,

My name is Marin Sewell and I am a recent graduate of the University of Montana School of Music, receiving my degree in Vocal Performance this spring. I am writing to you as an advocate for the approval of funds to renovate the University of Montana's dated Music Building.

In my time at the University of Montana, the Music Building has provided a home away from home. It is where I found myself as an artist, encountered difficulties and achievement, and grew as an individual and student. The building itself has housed many study sessions, enlightening lectures, and stunning performances, merging student-life with the community to produce lasting relationships and greater opportunities. Most of my time at UM was spent in the Music Building basement; singing in the practice rooms and sitting on the floor along the lockers studying for the next big theory or music history exam with my peers. The School of Music is important to me because it has been a beacon of hope, and source of joy and constant encouragement preparing me for education and life beyond Missoula.

It is of critical importance to approve funding for renovations of the University of Montana's Music Building now more than ever because we as students are struggling to reach our highest potential, given the dated amenities and resources. For example, when sitting in a first-floor classroom, noise from the practice rooms below are clearly audible and distracting to the ongoing lesson. The lack of adequate storage for instruments, opera costuming, and marching band equipment—just to name a few—often results in a waiting list for student locker rentals and takes already limited office and applied lesson space away from faculty. An approval of funds will reap many positive outcomes for those who study and attend events at the School of Music, and the updated appearance will greatly aid in UM's recruitment pursuits to increase enrollment. The UM Music School is known for its vibrant atmosphere and talented students, and what better way to encourage further achievement than to update the very place where music students become the educators and performers of tomorrow.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Sewell', written in a cursive style.

Marin Sewell

Former ASUM- Opera Theater President

marin.sewell@umontana.edu

(406) 560-6385

**From:** [Durnell, Noah](#)  
**To:** [Unsworth, Amy](#)  
**Subject:** Forwarding Public Comments  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 19, 2020 11:27:33 PM  
**Attachments:** [5.2020 Music Building Statement.docx](#)  
[Martens.MusicBuilding.pdf](#)  
[Music Building Funds.docx](#)

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Hello again,

I am emailing you once more to forward a few additional comments that my peers made for the board. They were unsure of how to forward on their comments and trusted in me to relay these to you. Please confirm if you have received these. I apologize for sending this out so late.

Thanks,  
Noah Durnell



**From:** [Daryl Schliem](#)  
**To:** [Unsworth, Amy](#)  
**Cc:** [Booth, Janelle](#)  
**Subject:** Item 6 Board of Regents  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 20, 2020 4:32:09 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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Amy,  
I was on the phone and in line but never called upon.

Daryl Schliem = CEO Bozeman Area Chamber of Commerce

Chair, Board of Regents  
On behalf of the Bozeman Area Chamber of Commerce we would like to support item number 6, Gallatin College.

We have had a great partnership with MSU and President Cruzado and with Gallatin College and Dean Gray and Dean Hietala over the past 10 years.

The business community is in full support of a Gallatin College Facility and we are currently working on many Training Programs to meet the needs of our community.

HVAC is up and running

Building and Trades in the process of being formed

Daycare has met and a great need for training

Senior Care training

These are just a few of the classes we are working on with Dean Gray prior to COVID=19 and we feel the need will just as great if not greater than prior to March 15, 2020.

We stand willing and ready as a business community to fill the New Gallatin College Facility.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Daryl

Daryl W. Schliem  
CEO  
Bozeman Area Chamber of Commerce  
Bozeman Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Gallatin Valley Tourism Business Improvement District

406-922-0448

[www.bozemanchamber.com](http://www.bozemanchamber.com)

[www.bozemancvb.com](http://www.bozemancvb.com)

THANK YOU TO OUR DIAMOND MEMBERS

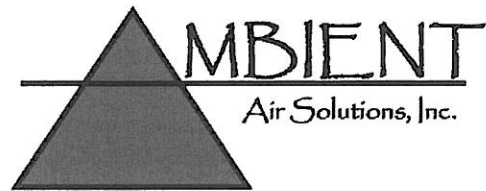


THANK YOU TO OUR SAPPHIRE MEMBERS



THANK YOU TO OUR PLATINUM MEMBERS





**Montana Board of Regents**  
**Gallatin College**

I am Garret Gillispie, General Manager and Founder of Ambient Air Solutions in Bozeman, MT. I would like to thank the board for allowing me a few minutes of their time to speak today.

I am advocating for the prioritizing of a new facility here in Bozeman for Gallatin College. A new facility would be instrumental in helping Montana make strides to improving our workforce challenges in the state. A new facility will allow Gallatin College to expand their current enrollment, add new programs and improve existing programs. By prioritizing a new facility, this will help improve these challenges as many graduates will naturally relocate to other areas of the state.

I am pleased to be involved with providing insight and guidance toward the development of a new HVAC program at Gallatin College. Vocational Technical Schools are increasingly more important in training students to be effective, reliable, quality employees. Vo-Tech schools also inspire Entrepreneurship.

I can only speak to my own personal experience of when I graduated MSU-COT Billings in 1999. In my graduating class of 14 specific to HVAC, 7 moved back to their respective home towns to work, 2 stayed in Billings and went to work for HVAC supply companies, 1 went to work for Montana -Dakota Utilities and eventually relocated to North Dakota, 4 of us started new HVAC companies, 1 in Ennis, 1 in Billings, 1 in Great Falls and I am located in Bozeman.

My company in Bozeman currently employs 20 people and we are in the design process of building our own new facility to promote our future and continued growth. I am proud of these accomplishments and credit the technical school I attended for preparing me to accomplish these feats.

So, again I would like the board of regents to consider prioritizing a new facility for Gallatin College so we can move toward improving our work force challenges in the state of Montana. Thank you.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like any further input.

Sincerely,

Garret F. Gillispie  
General Manager  
[garret@ambientairsolutions.com](mailto:garret@ambientairsolutions.com)

**From:** [Jack Kirkley](#)  
**To:** [Unsworth, Amy](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 20, 2020 1:55:34 PM

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Dear Regents:

Question #1: How can we plan on a full-speed-ahead resumption of Fall Semester classes... that is face-to-face classes on campuses... while we still do not have a full understanding of COVID transmission... such as the viability of the virus on surfaces, its viability in the indoor air in a classroom and in hallways, etc. ?

Proposed protocols for disease detection in students (e.g., looking for high body temperature) may miss a percentage of asymptomatic virus carriers who still may be able to transmit the virus to others, according to some sources.

Bottom line: There is no foolproof methodology that can be guaranteed to safeguard the health of students, faculty or staff. How is this risk justified?

Question #2: Is the MUS being a responsible community member by welcoming thousands of students into that college town thus very possibly transporting the virus into a community that has been, thus far, keeping the incidence of the virus at minimum. It seems to be overtly obtuse, in the face of an ongoing pandemic, for the MUS to promote this kind of influx of outsiders into each of the college towns where a unit of the MUS is located.

Thanks for your consideration of these concerns.

Jack Kirkley  
Professor of Biology  
UM-Western  
Dillon

**From:** [Jack Kirkley](#)  
**To:** [Unsworth, Amy](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 20, 2020 3:09:20 PM

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Amy:

Yes... It would be fine if you'd forward that correction of the typo.

Also.... You could add the following to the coordinator of those Public Comment questions....

If there are any follow-up questions for me from any of the Regents... I can be reached at my home phone number (406) 683-4140... either during this meeting or sometime later, after the meeting has ended.

I'm listening to the live streaming of the meeting right now.

Thanks!

Jack

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**From:** Jack Kirkley <Jack.Kirkley@umwestern.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 20, 2020 2:40 PM  
**To:** Unsworth, Amy <AUnsworth@montana.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Public Comment

Oops! I found a typo... Might you correct it for me?

The very last sentence of Question #2 should read.... **outsiders into each Of go the college towns...**

Thanks Amy!

Jack

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**From:** Jack Kirkley <Jack.Kirkley@umwestern.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 20, 2020 2:28 PM  
**To:** Unsworth, Amy <AUnsworth@montana.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Public Comment

Thanks, Amy.

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**From:** Unsworth, Amy <AUnsworth@montana.edu>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 20, 2020 2:01 PM

**To:** Jack Kirkley <Jack.Kirkley@umwestern.edu>

**Subject:** RE: Public Comment

Not to worry Jack, the public comment portion has not yet begun. I have shared your comments with BOR members. Thank you for submitting these.

With appreciation,  
Amy

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**From:** Jack Kirkley <Jack.Kirkley@umwestern.edu>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 20, 2020 2:00 PM

**To:** Unsworth, Amy <AUnsworth@montana.edu>

**Subject:** Re: Public Comment

Thank you Amy:

I may have been tardy in my submission.... if the Pubic Comment segment has already occurred.

My apologies.

But, Thank you for providing my questions to the Regents, as these are critically important questions... possibly life-or-death decisions, in fact.

Jack

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**From:** Unsworth, Amy <[AUnsworth@montana.edu](mailto:AUnsworth@montana.edu)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 20, 2020 1:56 PM

**To:** Jack Kirkley <[Jack.Kirkley@umwestern.edu](mailto:Jack.Kirkley@umwestern.edu)>

**Subject:** RE: Public Comment

Good afternoon Jack,

Thank you for submitting your comments. Please consider this email as acknowledgement that they have been accepted. Your comments will be shared with all Regents.

Than you again,

**Amy Unsworth**

Executive Assistant to the Commissioner of Higher Education & Policy Coordinator

**From:** Jack Kirkley <[Jack.Kirkley@umwestern.edu](mailto:Jack.Kirkley@umwestern.edu)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 20, 2020 1:56 PM

**To:** Unsworth, Amy <[AUnsworth@montana.edu](mailto:AUnsworth@montana.edu)>

**Subject:** Public Comment

Dear Regents:

Question #1: How can we plan on a full-speed-ahead resumption of Fall Semester classes... that is face-to-face classes on campuses... while we still do not have a full understanding of COVID transmission... such as the viability of the virus on surfaces, its viability in the indoor air in a classroom and in hallways, etc. ?

Proposed protocols for disease detection in students (e.g., looking for high body temperature) may miss a percentage of asymptomatic virus carriers who still may be able to transmit the virus to others, according to some sources.

Bottom line: There is no foolproof methodology that can be guaranteed to safeguard the health of students, faculty or staff. How is this risk justified?

Question #2: Is the MUS being a responsible community member by welcoming thousands of students into that college town thus very possibly transporting the virus into a community that has been, thus far, keeping the incidence of the virus at minimum. It seems to be overtly obtuse, in the face of an ongoing pandemic, for the MUS to promote this kind of influx of outsiders into each go the college towns where a unit of the MUS is located.

Thanks for your consideration of these concerns.

Jack Kirkley  
Professor of Biology  
UM-Western  
Dillon

**From:** [ryan mccormick](#)  
**To:** [Unsworth, Amy](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 20, 2020 5:18:33 PM

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Mr. Chairman members of the Board,

My name is Ryan McCormick I operate a successful agribusiness near the thriving metropolis of Kremlin which is west of Havre 20 miles, I am writing you today in support of the MAES capital development proposal.

You have plenty of information already provided to you from the 20,000 foot level about the amount of return on investment received via our research centers. I am going to explain a specific event to you from the farm and the industry level that returned more profit not only to our farm but the state as well.

Several years ago the late Mike Waring became the field agronomist for Montana Specialty Mills where they had been sourcing a majority of there yellow mustard from Canada. Mike had decided that they should be sourcing there yellow mustard from within the state but yellow mustard had not been produced in our county since the homestead era. Mike partnered with Peggy Lamb who is a cropping system specialist at NARC to grow trials of yellow mustard at NARC. The stars happened to align and there was a spike in mustard price on about year 3 of her trials, from previous experience we knew that we could count on Peggy's data being accurate and giving us the ability to project a yield and potential profit from yellow mustard. At the time projected gross revenue from a wheat crop was \$300 per acre and projected revenue from yellow mustard using Peggy's data was \$400 per acre. We were able to achieve projected yield on the 1000 acres we had seeded thus netting us an extra \$100 per acre over what we would have had raising wheat putting an extra \$100,000 of net revenue in our pockets. This crop continues to to be a profit center for us for the last 10 years.

This is not an unusual story this is one that can be retold from every research center in the state whether it be crops or livestock. The great part of this story is that its a product that was delivered to an end use Montana based company all inputs were purchased within Montana and it diminished purchases from Canada. Acreage has continued to expand in our area from producers other than ourselves and the conduit to make this possible is a direct line to NARC.

I fully realize that these are trying times in education funding, scheduling, and safety but let us not forget what the backbone for education has been within this state. We have watched fossil fuels, timber and tourism economies falter for various reasons in recent history and the constant and reliable source of revenue for education within this state is agriculture. Agriculture is highly dependent on the R&D done at the research centers and returns profit



from the farm level up as evidenced by the story I have just related to you.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Ryan E. McCormick  
Kremlin, MT  
406-390-1615

## **Public comment by Carol Bellin at the May 20, 2020 MT Board of Regents Meeting**

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and Regents. My name is Carol Bellin and I've been hanging in here with you all day. Thank you for your service. I am a student at UM-Missoula; a senior completing my Bachelor's degree in Political Science with a History minor. After graduation I'm considering applying to UM for grad school.

I have two brief concerns and a closing remark to share with you.

First, I'd like to express my support for our adjunct professors system wide. Though I know you are not responsible for faculty hiring and firing, you are entrusted with our system's educational leadership and you can provide guidance through your oversight responsibilities. So, I am asking you to please speak up and stop the bleeding of our academic teaching positions.

There has been a lot of talk today about how the University system must be "nimble" in the face of the challenges the current pandemic brought to us. I don't think there is any nimbler member of the academic community than the adjunct professor. They tend to be more versatile with new technologies and more willing to develop and teach new curricula to meet fast-changing needs.

Also, adjuncts contribute in a major way to student retention. They have been among the most exciting and motivating professors I have had. They bring fresh energy, creative content delivery and unsurpassed outreach and support to their students.

I am distressed and demoralized as a student to learn that adjuncts are being treated as low-hanging fruit to be cut and terminated without departmental or student input as to the impact this will have on programs of study. The scale of these cuts merits more than a decision by a departing administrator and a Dean. It is so painful to watch our university system lose these rising star teachers, discarding them to the already enormous unemployment pile, instead of utilizing their abilities to help our students get a leg up in the uncertain future we are facing now and post-graduation.

With all due respect for the extraordinary difficulty administrators face right now, the elimination of adjuncts erodes my trust that administrators are doing due diligence in searching out cuts in nonacademic areas.

Second, I ask you to please be sure that financial support for the libraries in our university system is not only maintained but increased. The library is the very beating heart of a university. It has been the greatest factor in my ability to be successful in my studies. The librarians have been an invaluable resource in advancing my research skills. The library

provides critical physical study spaces. When the Mansfield Library was forced to close because of the virus it completely wrecked my spring semester.

Also, do not undervalue libraries when it comes to recruiting new students. The condition of the campus library weighs heavily in the decision of which school to choose.

My closing remark is this:

I ask you to take action, in light of the financial impact of the pandemic crisis, by setting a much more reasonable cap on administrator salaries as positions are vacated and rehired. For example, consider the fact that the one single position of Provost at UM-Missoula has cost us over \$820,000 over three years. It does not sit well at all with me that we honored our Provost with a contract for \$270,000 per year and a \$10,000 signing bonus and he is abandoning ship after serving only two full years, when our University is at its greatest need for academic leadership. After a slash and burn treatment of adjunct faculty the mess he leaves behind will fall to an interim Provost to sort out.

I am tired of hearing that we must raise administrator salaries to attract superstar candidates from a national pool. Can you feel the burn? Stop this now! Even if it is only a temporary emergency policy – cap these outrageous administrator salaries and promote candidates from within our university system.

Thank you for hearing my concerns.

May 21, 2020

Dear Chairman, Lozar and Montana Board of Regents,

I was unable to stay on the meeting on May 20 for the Public Comment Agenda item. I would like to give you my comments in this letter.

As a former small business owner, school board trustee and current state legislator serving on education committees, I have a strong interest in supporting our Two Year and Community Colleges. I strongly support Gallatin College, which has come a long way since I served on the College of Technology Advisory Committee when the program was run out of MSU Great Falls.

I am writing you today to urge you to prioritize a permanent building for Gallatin College on the MUS future infrastructure list. I know that MSU Bozeman finally was able to receive the funding to start the Romney Hall renovation in the 2019 session which I supported. I believe it took four sessions to get this passed and it was long overdue and urgently needed at a growing campus such as MSU Bozeman. Usually this would mean that MSU Bozeman would have to wait to have another project funded. Things have changed over the last two months and our economy has suffered. That is why I would urge you to rethink the normal way of prioritizing where state money is spent on infrastructure.

We do not know what the state budget situation will be during the 2021 session, but we do know that any investments must give the state the best economic returns possible. We will be focusing on what can bring the state's jobs and economy back as fast as possible to support the people and families of Montana.

According to the last report I have seen from the Legislative Fiscal Division, Gallatin County contributed the most income tax revenue to the state general fund in 2019 of any county in the state. Also, according to the BBER, Gallatin County has the second largest in GDP in the state after Yellowstone County. Gallatin County also has had the fastest population growth in the state for the last several years. With the COVID 19 crisis and the move to more remote employment I see Gallatin County becoming a destination for more people escaping large crowded cities.

So why do we need to support a permanent home for Gallatin College? Gallatin College is the only two-year college in the state that does not have its own building. Gallatin College has the largest growth rate in students of the two-year schools and is working with local employers in expanding programs to help those employers fill shortages of qualified workers. Many of these positions do not require a four-year degree as you know, but with the training necessary can lead to a rewarding high paying career. With the loss of jobs in the hospitality and travel industry many workers will be looking for education that can lead to a more stable career.

As a long time member of the Bozeman Area Chamber of Commerce and a former small business owner I hear from business owners all the time that they cant find qualified people to fill many jobs that don't require a 4 year degree, especially in the trades and technical fields. We need to help these businesses provide job growth once the economy starts recovering.

I hope that you will strongly consider prioritizing a permanent home for Gallatin College. Our Interim Education Committee toured their rented facility in Bozeman which is off campus and bursting at the seams. We heard from many of the instructors of the limitations of their teaching spaces. We cannot wait another four legislative sessions.

Please contact me with any questions at: [bruce.grubbs@legmt.gov](mailto:bruce.grubbs@legmt.gov)

Respectfully,

Representative Bruce Grubbs – Bozeman  
322 N 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave  
Bozeman, MT 59718  
406-570-7467