



**MINUTES**  
**Montana Board of Regents**  
**May 26-27, 2021**

**Wednesday, May 26th**

Meeting convened at 8:31am

Regents Present: Casey Lozar, Chair; Bob Nystuen, Brianne Rogers, Joyce Dombrowski, Todd Buchanan, Loren Bough, and Amy Sexton. Ex officio members included: Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian; and Ex officio Superintendent Elsie Arntzen. Ex officio Governor Greg Gianforte, represented by Dylan Klapmeier.

Comments by Chair Lozar

Chair Lozar welcomed all attendees. He recognized and extended congratulations to the graduating class across the MUS this spring, noting their success and determination in navigating unprecedented challenges. He also recognized the thousands of MUS faculty, staff, and administrators who truly made this year possible. We are in awe of your dedication to the education, safety, and well-being of our students. We know much was asked, but we are grateful to each of you. On behalf of the Board, thank you.

Chair Lozar extended thanks and appreciation to Great Falls College – MSU for being our virtual host campus this meeting. He noted that Dean Wolff is retiring in just a few weeks after a decades-long career in higher education. Dean Wolff has been a true champion of Great Falls College and for the entire Great Falls community. Thank you Dean Wolff for your service to the MUS, to the students of Great Falls College, and to the State of Montana. Chair Lozar provided an overview and brief review of the meeting agenda.

Approval of Minutes

- March 11, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes
- May 19, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

A motion for approval of the March 11, 2021 and May 19, 2021 Board meeting minutes was made by Regent Nystuen. Motion passed (7-0).

Welcome by Dean Wolff | Presentation

Dr. Susan Wolff, Dean/CEO of Great Falls College-MSU shared a video highlighting student experiences and testimony related to their time at GFC-MSU, recent events and happening across the campus, as well as an update and sneak peek at the new Dental building, currently under construction. This facility will support both dental assistant and dental hygiene programs. Dean Wolff extended thanks and well wishes as she transitions into retirement.

Commissioner's and System Report



Commissioner Christian extended thanks to all the board members for being present today. He acknowledged the incredibly busy year and recognized the significant responsibility and commitment placed before each board member. They volunteer their time and expertise to help lead the MUS amidst their personal and professional lives. He commended board members for their dedication to students and campuses.

Commissioner Christian reflected on the past year and various challenges and successes. He spoke to the resilience and flexibility of our students. Students showed remarkable commitment to the safety and well-being of others and to achieving their educational goals despite numerous obstacles. In the past few weeks alone, thousands of students received their diplomas across the state. He extended well wishes to all graduates as they leave campuses for new adventures and opportunities.

Commissioner Christian echoed Chair Lozar's gratitude to our campus communities for making this academic year a success. Through it, all, our faculty, staff, and administrators demonstrated incredible resolve and commitment to providing a safe learning environment for students, which including everything from reworking instructional methods – to rolling out COVID vaccines – to providing outdoor learning spaces. We knew that our efforts to keep the campuses open and running during this time was essential to student success and retention.

- COVID-19 Update & Recommendations

Commissioner Christian noted that when we planned for a return to campus last Fall, we knew it would be a challenge. We also knew the recommendations around our COVID-19 response would evolve and change along with the course of the pandemic. Deputy Commissioner Tessman provided an update noting the number of adaptations required along the way. He spoke to recent commencement activities and their success. He discussed durable innovations coming out of the pandemic to continue to benefit from and evaluate key lessons learned. He extended thanks and appreciation to the MUS Healthy Task Force members for their dedication, commitment, and focus throughout the pandemic in assisting with developing guidance for the MUS. He noted the recent sunset of the task force planning guidelines. Some guidance remains related to limited quick testing, contact tracing where needed, retaining the capacity for quarantining and isolating, working with public health authorities on event planning, etc., and other important areas like travel. Deputy Commissioner Tessman spoke to the recent partnership with the state to create incentives to increase vaccine interest and obtaining student participation as we prepare for the fall semester. The MUS Healthy Taskforce will continue to meet and monitor throughout the summer to continue navigating the situation. Discussion followed.

- Legislative Summary

Commissioner Christian spoke to the recent conclusion of the Legislature, for the 2021 session. Commissioner Christian spoke to a few highlights from the budget perspective, noting that this Legislature budgeted the largest amount ever provided to the MUS for capital projects and major repairs. The MUS received \$53.5M in cash for building projects and \$19.7 in major repairs for a total of \$74M. That number includes \$25M in



cash for the UM Forestry; Conservation and Lab Sciences Building; \$12M for Block Hall at UM Western; \$11M for the MAES Research & Wool Labs at MSU; and funds for critical heating system upgrades at Tech. We also saw \$8.96M in one-time-only funding for various programs and efforts across the university system. In sum, we saw a 4% increase in our biennial appropriation. Commissioner Christian thanked the legislature and the Governor and his staff for the significant investments in higher education in Montana. We are grateful for the support and dedication of the many members who care deeply about our institutions.

Deputy Commissioner Trevor reviewed changes to various programs, including OCHE Admin, Student Assistance, Community Colleges, Appropriations Distribution, Research and Service Agencies, Tribal Colleges. He spoke to changes to the general fund and state special revenue, insurance premium holiday, shared policy goals, and the state employee pay plan. Mr. Trevor reviewed the Shared Policy Goals developed with the Joint Education Appropriation Subcommittee and OCHE to further advance the shared goals of the MUS and State. Discussion followed.

Deputy Commissioner Trevor reviewed one-time-only (OTO) funding bills totaling \$8.96 million. These bills include funding associated with the implementation of HB 102, proficiency-based education, workforce recovery from COVID, an AccelerateMT initiative, Cyberhub program, coal & mine data records, MAES seed lab, MAES wool lab, finishing trades, and "Grow Your Own" teach grant program.

Bills related to building projects, major repairs, and authority-only projects were reviewed and discussed. Building projects include the Forestry, Conservation & Lab Science Building at UM; Block Hall at UM Western; MAES Research & Wool Labs at MSU; Heating System Upgrades at MT Tech; and MAES Greenhouses at MSU. Authority Only projects include \$20 million in general spending authority and \$27 million for six additional privately funded projects. Discussion followed.

Helen Thigpen, Executive Director of Government Relations & Public Affairs, reviewed and summarized other bills impacting the MUS were reviewed. She discussed Senate Bills including, SB 243, SB 248, and SB 319. House bills were reviewed and discussed, including HB 112, HB 129, HB 179, 218, 349. Discussion followed.

- Federal Update

Helen Thigpen, Executive Director of Government Relations and Public Affairs, provided an update on federal higher education activities and efforts impacting the MUS. The update included information on congressional activity, President Biden's higher education priorities, and rulemaking at the U.S. Department of Education. In late December, Congress passed the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, which provided additional Covid-19 relief funding. Congress then passed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the third round of Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF III), which allocated additional relief to colleges and universities – split between funding for students and funding for institutions. Ms. Thigpen discussed President Biden's priorities for higher education, including: (1) support for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority Serving



Institutions (MSIs); (2) support to double the amount of the maximum Pell Grant award; (3) student loan forgiveness for federally-back student loans; and (4) free attendance for up to two years to a community college. Many of these priorities are reflected in the American Families Plan, which would create a federal-state partnership for free community college. Ms. Thigpen also discussed the American Jobs Plan, which is President Biden's infrastructure proposal. For agency activity, Ms. Thigpen also noted that the U.S. Department of Education is considering revising the Title IX regulations that were adopted by the previous administration and that listening sessions will be held in early June. The Department will also hold a hearing on student loans and the borrowers' defense for misleading student loan programs.

- Apply Montana/ Portal Update

Commissioner Christian spoke to the latest developments related to the MUS central application tool – Apply Montana, noting the state goal of increasing the percentage of Montanans with some postsecondary education. The decision to develop a designated portal for accessing information and entry into the MUS was made to help achieve this goal. This idea has developed further into a single application and other tools that are helpful to prospective students navigating the plethora of opportunities. Scott Lemmon, Director of Admission and Enrollment Strategy, provided an overview and sneak peek at the Apply Montana Portal. Director Lemmon spoke to the scale of the project and impactful areas of the qualitative nature embarked upon with stakeholder groups. He noted recent work on content recently and a search engine optimization audit to help ensure the site and tools are easily found. He noted the focus on college and career connections, exploration of programs by career, etc. Discussion followed.

- Regents Award for Excellence

Commissioner Christian spoke to the meaningful tradition of recognizing a classified staff member in the MUS for excellence in public service. The MUS employs almost 3,000 classified staff members across the system. Our students, contract faculty, professional, and administrative team members on every campus will tell you that their own work would be impossible without the dedicated and highly talented staff who directly serve students and all campus programs. Nominees for this recognition are submitted annually to my office by MUSSA, the system staff senate organization. I carefully vet the nominations with my senior leadership team, and we select the recipient. This year, I am honored to announce, the Regents Award for Excellence goes to Darla Tyler-McSherry of MSU Billings. We recognize Darla for her contributions to the health and wellness of MUS students, faculty, staff, and countless residents of Montana. Darla serves the Director of Student Health Services at MSUB and has been with the Billings campus for more than 20 years. She also, by the way, is a product of the MUS, having received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from MUS institutions.

- Campus Reports
- Introductions & Acknowledgements



After a national search Commissioner Christian recognized Michael Reid's appointment as the new Chancellor at UM-Western. He announced that Helen Thigpen has been named the MUS Executive Director of Government Relations & Public Affairs, a new leadership position for the MUS. In addition, Commissioner Christian welcomed Margaret Wallace to the OCHE team, as the Director of Assurance & Enterprise Risk. He extended a farewell and well wishes to Susan Witte, Benefits Compliance Director at OCHE, on her recent retirement.

President Cruzado of MSU extended thanks and appreciation to Dr. Susan Wolff, Dean/CEO of Great Falls College-MSU and congratulated her on her retirement. She welcomed incoming Dean/CEO Dr. Stephanie Erdmann who will soon be joining us in Montana. President Cruzado introduced and welcomed Dr. Ryan Knutson, MSU's new Chief Information Officer for University Information Technology; Dr. Dan Miller, Interim Dean, Jake Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship; and Dr. Yves Idzerda, Dean, College of Letters and Science.

#### Remarks by Governor Gianforte or Representative

Mr. Dylan Klapmeier, Governor Gianforte's Education & Workforce Policy Advisor, provided a brief update on behalf of Governor Gianforte. Mr. Klapmeier spoke to his recent meetings and discussions related to GEER II, MUS credit transfers, college access and other support portals, the Montana Digital Academy, and arrangements for an upcoming Board of Education meeting. He noted that with the legislative session recently ending, Governor Gianforte was pleased to see many bills head to his desk that strengthens Montana's K-12 and post-secondary education systems. Mr. Klapmeier spoke to HB 143, which is also represented in the state budget. This bill was a priority in the Governor's Comeback Plan. It incentivizes increased starting teacher pay. Governor Gianforte remains committed to recruiting and retaining high-quality educators. He noted the need for reliable broadband, especially in rural Montana. The Governor signed HB 632, which appropriates our state's ARPA funds. \$250 million is dedicated to building up broadband infrastructure. On the secondary and post-secondary front, we had the Montana Trades Education tax Credit to increase private sector investments in workforce training. Overall, this legislative session was very positive for Montana's education system. Throughout the interim, Governor Gianforte looks forward to working with education partners in the state to recruit and retain high-quality educators, strengthen career & technical education opportunities, and expand individualized learning.

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

#### **ACTION**

- a. Request for Approval to Revise BOR Policy 1006; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 194-108-R0521 | Attachment #1*

Regent Rogers noted that the item was removed due to a recent Board decision directing the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education to, on behalf of the board, seek judicial review for HB 102 regarding its constitutionality. As Chair of ARSA, Regent



Rogers felt it was pertinent to not make additional changes prior to the ruling.

- b. Request for Approval to Revise BOR Policies 301 and 301.1; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 194-110-R0521 | Attachment #1*

Deputy Commissioner Tessman presented this request before the Board of Regents to authorize a permanent change to BOR policy 301, section 1, part B, which requires first-time undergraduate students to submit ACT or SAT scores for admission to 4-year institutions within the MUS. Further, the Board of Regents permanently authorizes additional methods for students to demonstrate proficiency in mathematics and writing as set forth in proposed revisions to BOR Policy 301.1. Discussion followed.

- c. Request to Plan Proposals *Executive Summary and OCHE Analysis | Supporting Documentation | New Program Tracking*

Dr. Bob Mokwa, Provost of MSU Bozeman, presented the request to plan proposals for a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Across the Life Span Certificate; a Master of Engineering – Environmental Engineering Option; a Master of Engineering – Manufacturing Engineering Option; a Master of Engineering – Manufacturing Engineering Option; and a request to plan a Master of Engineering – Civil Engineering Option. Vice Provost, Nathan Lindsay, of the University of Montana, presented the request to plan proposal for an Online B.S. in Business. Dr. Jenny McNulty, Provost at UM Western, presented the request to plan proposal for a Health and Human Performance A.A.S. Discussion followed.

## INFORMATION

Academic Review Items:

- a. Academic Approval Memo

Deputy Commissioner Tessman noted this memo contains academic items that we're either delegated from the Board to campuses or proposed educational items to advance to the next steps for approval. He noted that campuses are asked to consistently review current programs to consider if they are still relevant or if they should be considered for moratorium placement. The MUS carefully tracks these programs and placements.

Strategic Priority Items:

- a. MUS Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Task Force Update

Crystine Miller, Director of Student Affairs & Student Engagement OCHE, and Betsy Asserson, Director of Counseling & Psychological Services at MSU, presented an update to the Board regarding MUS Suicide Prevention and a Mental Health Task Force update. They reiterated the ties between education, a culture of care, and providing clinical services related to suicide prevention and mental health efforts. They spoke to the impact of COVID-19 on College Mental Health, noting that 85% of college students in counseling reported at least one area of their lives being negatively impacted by COVID-19. They noted that approximately 1/3 of clients sought counseling due to the pandemic. In looking ahead, they noted the recognition that we are all affected and that different groups move differently toward recovery. They noted how the "rush to



normalcy” may vary depending on racial disparities, economic impacts, and history of trauma or adverse experiences. These reactions all lead to the potential for the increased demand for mental health treatment. They highlighted several COVID-19 mental health response efforts, including Mindful Minutes, Protect the Hive, and Seize the Awkward campus campaigns. They made the following recommendations for continuing MUS Suicide Prevention and Mental Health efforts, including increasing access and capacity for clinical services, building communities of practice, reducing access to lethal means, and more.

b. Research and Graduate Education Update

Joe Thiel, Director of Academic Policy & Research, provided an update to the Board on Montana Research. He noted that Montana leads the region in research with 2019 expenditures; that UM has experienced 90% growth in research expenditures from 2014-2019. He spoke to the creation of 43 new startups commercializing MUS research; MSU being the largest research university by R&D expenditures in the region, and 121 patents issued to MUS researchers from 2010-2020. Director Thiel discussed research expenditures and increased percentage over the past five years since the Legislature made its initial investment of \$15 million via MREDI. He explained that Montana’s research spending per capita grows to \$2 above the national average. Growth in Montana Research leads to improved economic opportunity, increased community impact, and access to an excellent education. Director Thiel discussed risk and priorities related to research, including sustainability and expansion of tech transfer and commercialization and the recruiting and retaining of highly productive junior faculty, graduate students, and post-docs.

Two-Year and Community College Committee

**INFORMATION**

a. Great Falls College 8-Week Advantage

A panel consisting of Dr. Leanne Frost, Executive Director of Instruction, Dr. Eleazar Ortega, Institutional Research, and Troy Stoddard, Director of Advising, presented to the board on the 8 Week Advantage program at Great Falls College – MSU. They noted the goal associated with this program is to increase retention and completion through greater immersion in course material, increased student focus, faster completion, etc. They reviewed a sample schedule of a student taking 15 credits using the 8 Week Advantage approach. The panel discussed the results over a year, noting that the first-time, full-time fall 2018 cohort had a 1-year retention/completion rate, higher than the 2014-2017 cohorts. They indicated that matriculated students are completing more credits and completed college-level math and writing at a higher rate. The student also achieved a higher proportion of GFC MSU courses with passing grades. Student feedback regarding the approach has been positive. Discussion followed.

b. Dual Enrollment: Analysis and Strategy



Dan Karalus, Dual Enrollment Program Manager & Special Projects Data Analyst, provided an update to the Board on Dual Enrollment. First, he provided a brief history of Dual Enrollment. It involves high school students taking college courses taught by college faculty and delivered on a college campus or online for college and high school or dual credit. Dual Enrollment helps students save time, money and achieve greater success in courses. Within the MUS, roughly 60% of Dual Enrollment students enroll in the MUS within two years and enjoy higher first term GPAs, increased retention rates, and higher graduation rates. Next, he spoke to the MUS Dual Enrollment participation, noting that 28% of eligible Montana public high school students participated. Next, he reviewed Dual Enrollment by delivery and class size, noting that 83% of public-school dual enrollment students take courses in their school. Mr. Karalus also reviewed Dual Enrollment by delivery and region and, more specifically, early college students by delivery, class size, and region, noting that 70% of public-school, early college students take Dual Enrollment courses online. Discussion followed.

#### Public Comment\*

Dr. Laurie Baefsky, Dean of the College of Arts and Media at UM spoke in support for the proposed arts and cultures fee.

Wendi Fawns, Education Coordinator/Program Manager of Valley Oak Education Research Center, a nonprofit, spoke in support of the work on the Apply Montana portal, dual enrollment efforts, and for continued efforts in partnering with non-profits.

Meeting Recessed at 4:23 pm.

#### **Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>**

Meeting Reconvened at: 8:35 am.

#### Remarks by Superintendent Arntzen

Superintendent Arntzen extended congratulations and well wishes to all recent graduates across the MUS. She spoke to the partnerships with the Board of Education in reviewing ARM Chapters related to accreditation and licensure. She provided an update on ESSER III Funds, noting that OPI received from the Department of Education the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds in March. These funds provide Montana schools support with reopening efforts and sustaining safe school operations while meeting students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. Superintendent Arntzen spoke to the OPI data modernization project, now live. OPI worked with MT PEC to arrive at a consensus recommendation to the legislature for database modernization uses. The Superintendent spoke to the end of the Legislative Session and reported that all OPI's priority legislative items passed both chambers. She talked to efforts underway to prepare for the 2021-2022 school year, including a memo supporting removing mask/facing requirements. In addition, she provided an update regarding the request for the Attorney General to issue an opinion on the legality of some educational practices that have been included under the





umbrella of "Critical Race Theory". In conclusion, she updated the board on a partnership with the American Legion of Montana on a Stars and Stripes initiative to donate American Flags for Montana classrooms. This initiative coincides with updates to Montana's social studies standards and the celebration of Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day.

Budget, Administration, and Audit Committee

## CONSENT

### Staff Items:

- a. Staff Item, OCHE/MUS; *ITEM 194-100-R0521*
- b. Staff Item, MSU Bozeman; *ITEM 194-2000-R0521*
- c. Staff Item, MSU Extension Service; *ITEM 194-2400-R0521*
- d. Staff Item, Great Falls College-MSU; *ITEM 194-2900-R0521*
- e. Staff Item, MSU Billings; *ITEM 194-2700-R0521*
- f. Staff Item, MSU-Northern; *ITEM 194-2800-R0521*
- g. Staff Item, Helena College; *ITEM 194-1900-R0521*
- h. Staff Item, Montana Tech; *ITEM 194-1500-R0521*
- i. Staff Item, UM Western; *ITEM 194-1600-R0521*
- j. Request for Approval of University System/Employee Intellectual Property Joint Participation under MUSP 407 – Adams; MSU Bozeman *ITEM 194-2006-R0521* | *Attachment #1*
- k. Request for Authorization for the Montana Motorcycle Safety Advisory Committee to Appoint Lisa Pooler; MSU Northern *ITEM 194-2802-R0521*

### Emeriti Faculty:

- l. Carlson, UM Western; *ITEM 194-1601-R0521*
- m. Zaspel, UM Western; *ITEM 194-1602-R0521*
- n. Kirkley, UM Western; *ITEM 194-1603-R0521*
- o. Earling, UM Missoula; *ITEM 194-1003-R521*
- p. McNamer, UM Missoula; *ITEM 194-1004-R0521*
- q. Canty, UM Missoula; *ITEM 194-1005-R0521*
- r. Cook, UM Missoula; *ITEM 194-1006-R0521*
- s. Kero, UM Missoula; *ITEM 194-1007-R0521*
- t. Condon, UM Missoula; *ITEM 194-1008-R0521*
- u. Belsky, UM Missoula; *ITEM 194-1009-R0521*
- v. Nickerson, UM Missoula; *ITEM 194-1015-R0521*
- w. Scott, MSU Bozeman; *ITEM 194-2001-R0512*
- x. Rydell, MSU Bozeman; *ITEM 194-2002-R0521*
- y. Garrott, MSU Bozeman; *ITEM 194-2003-R0521*
- z. Wilmer, MSU Bozeman; *ITEM 194-2004-R0521*
- aa. Bruckner, MSU Bozeman; *ITEM 194-2005-R0521*
- ab. Dana, MSU Bozeman; *ITEM 194-2008-R0521*
- ac. Christensen, MSU Bozeman; *ITEM 194-2016-R0521*
- ad. Young Pelton, MSU Billings; *ITEM 194-2701-R0521*



ae. Lockwood, MSU Northern; *ITEM 194-2801-R0521*

**Facility Items:**

af. Request for Authorization to Make Energy Efficiency Improvements; Helena College *ITEM 194-1901-R0521 | Attachment #1*

ag. Request for Authorization to Increase BOR Authority for Remodel of Student Centers; Helena College *ITEM 194-1902-R0521 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3*

ah. Request for Authorization to Renovate and Refresh Dining Services; University of Montana Western; *ITEM 194-1604-R0521 | Attachment #1*

ai. Request for Authorization to Construct Wayfinding/Signage; UM Missoula *ITEM 194-1013-R0521 | Attachment #1*

aj. Request for Authorization to Increase BOR Authority for Remodel of Aber Hall; UM Missoula *ITEM 194-1014-R0521 | Attachment #1*

ak. Request for Authorization to Extend Memorial Walk and Redesign Lot P; UM Missoula *ITEM 194-1016-R0521 | Attachment #1*

al. Request for Authorization to Purchase Property at 1710 Greek Way in Bozeman for Auxiliary Use; MSU Bozeman *ITEM 194-2007-R0521 | Attachment #1*

am. Request for Authorization to Expend General Spending Authority for South Campus Energy District (Phase 1); MSU Bozeman *ITEM 194-2009-R0521 | Attachment #1*

an. Request for Authorization to Grant an Easement to the City of Billings to Enable the Installation, Maintenance and Operation of a Traffic Signal; MSU Billings *ITEM 194-2702-R0521 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2*

ao. Request for Authorization to Execute an Energy Performance Contract for LED Lighting Upgrades on the Montana Tech campus and Highlands Colleges; MT Tech *ITEM 194-1501-R0521 | Attachment #1*

ap. Request for Authorization to Increase Construction Authority for Yellowstone Science and Allied Health Building; MSU-Billings; *ITEM 194-2703-R0521 | Attachment #1*

**Other:**

aq. Request for Approval to Revise Language in Board of Regents Policy 713.1 – Workplace safety; Workers' Compensation; MUS/OCHE *ITEM 194-101-R0521 | Attachment #1*

ar. Request for Approval to Create Board of Regents Policy Related to the MUS Compliance Reporting Hotline; MUS/OCHE *ITEM 194-111-R0521 | Attachment #1*



as. Request for Authorization to Revise BOR Policy 901.15 – Reserve Revolving Accounts; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 194-109-R0521 | Attachment #1*

at. Request for Approval to Revise Language in Board of Regents Policy 702.4 – Appointment; Legal Counsel OCHE/MUS *ITEM 194-102-R0521 | Attachment #1*

au. Request for Approval to Revise Language in Board of Regents Policy 805 – Executive Prerequisites; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 194-103-R0521 | Attachment #1*

av. MUS Group Health Insurance Holiday; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 194-106-R0521 | Attachment #1*

aw. Request for Authorization to Exclude Certain Officer/Directors from Personnel Security Clearance; UM Missoula *ITEM 194-1010-R0521 | Attachment #1*

### **ACTION**

a. 2023 Biennial Budget Recommendations; *OCHE/MUS ITEM 194-104-R0521*

Deputy Commissioner Trevor presented the request before the board to adopt the 2023 biennial budget recommendations for setting tuition and fees, allocating state appropriations, and distributing performance funding. The 2023 biennial budget recommendations are summarized in the following categories: Tuition, fees, state appropriations, and performance funding. Tuition-related recommendations include freezing resident undergraduate tuition in FY 2022, increasing resident undergraduate tuition by 3% in FY 2023, and increasing resident graduate and non-resident tuition rates up to 5% annually on each campus. Recommendations related to fees include holding annual increases to mandatory fees at or below 3% on each campus, approving increases to program and course fees, as well as other designated fees, including room and board. Finally, recommendations related to state appropriations include allocating \$8.5M of state appropriations to the MUS Ed. Units to address present law adjustments, including \$2M for the pay plan, for a total of \$10.5M. In summary, the recommendations focus on systemwide reductions, based on 3-year average resident enrollment, providing an adjustment to specific campuses to address inequities related to state funding per resident student, the distribution of the pay plan, and Performance Funding allocations amounting to \$13.8M out of the designated \$15M.

#### 1. Tuition | Campus Tuition & Fee Schedules | Tuition/Fees Comparison Dashboard

Deputy Commissioner reviewed campus tuition and fee schedules, noting the proposed resident student tuition freeze in FY22 for undergraduates only, followed by moderate increases in FY23. He discussed the coupling of fees and tuition to help better show the annual bill charged to a student enrolled full time in both semesters. Deputy Commissioner Trevor reviewed campus tuition and fees by campus type and mission. He summarized the proposed tuition for the 2023 Biennium, noting that MUS 4-year campus non-resident tuition rates are close to regional averages. For resident



undergraduate students over the past 15 years, the MUS dropped below the regional average. He explained that ratios for MUS 2-year have improved but remain slightly above the regional average. Rates in Montana have remained below the regional average since 2008. Discussion followed.

## 2. Fees

Deputy Commissioner Trevor provided a review of fees at campuses across the MUS. He discussed mandatory fees, noting that campuses may assess student mandatory fees dedicated to support certain categories. He reviewed mandatory fee categories and the mandatory fee proposal summary for the 2023 Biennium. Mr. Trevor noted the annual increase in mandatory fees for resident students does not exceed 3% at any campus. He reviewed the proposed mandatory fees for resident undergraduates noting that mandatory fees at most MUS 4-year campuses are above the regional average. Mandatory fees at some MUS 2-year campuses are below the regional average. Regional fees were compared, showing Montana ranking as 5th among the western states. Rates in Montana have ranged from \$100 -\$250 higher than the regional average for the past 15 years. Discussion followed.

Mr. Trevor reviewed campus program fees, which he explained are additional fees assessed to students in certain high demand/occupational/ professional/ academic programs. He then reviewed course fees, which are assessed to cover the unique or extraordinary costs associated with delivering a specific course. Appropriate uses of course fees are limited to the following: specialized activities or equipment fees, where payment is made to individuals or entities generally conducting these types of activities (such as downhill skiing, bowling, etc.); field trips; study abroad programs; pass-through fees (such as Red Cross certifications, Nursing liability insurance, etc.); laboratory consumables and other class consumables (such as sheet music), excluding computer supplies and paper products; materials used by students to create a product that becomes the student's property after use in a specific course.

Room and Board costs were reviewed and discussed, including the proposed amounts for FY22 and FY 23 and the percentage change from FY21 to FY22, and the annual growth rate by campus. Deputy Commissioner Trevor spoke to the cost of attendance in its entirety including tuition and fees, in addition to room and board at the flagship campus, regional 4-year institutions, and 2-year colleges. He reviewed the growth of tuition and fees in comparison to inflation, noting a cumulative percentage change over the past 15 years, and a national comparison.

## 3. State Funding Allocation

Deputy Commissioner Trevor reviewed the process of state funding allocations noting that the first step is calculating the total Education Unit Lump Sum. He explained that the next step involves removing any special appropriations, and then accounting for other funding sources. Next, funds are removed for system initiatives resulting in the campus allocation amounts. He discussed the breakdowns for FY 22 and FY23 noting



that state appropriations for performance funding, LAD audit costs, new space O&M, backfill and reductions, the pay plan, etc. for each year. He noted that in FY22 there are reductions but as you move into FY23 there is a \$2 million pay plan and an additional \$8.5 million for present law adjustments and/or state support per student alignment allocation which means reviewing the base and looking for changes related to audit, new space, present law adjustments, etc. Discussion followed.

#### 4. Performance Funding

Deputy Commissioner Trevor reviewed performance funding allocations for FY22. He reiterated the goals associated with performance funding specifically, to utilize it to help increase the percentage of the population with a higher education credential. In addition, to incentivize campuses to improve student success and attainment of outcomes and connect finances with outcomes. He reviewed performance funding results and allocation summaries, noting those campuses that received full funding and those that did not. He reviewed allocations compared to metrics for each campus. Discussion followed.

- b. Request for Approval of the FY 2022 Tuition and Mandatory Fee Rates for Flathead Valley Community College; *ITEM 194-302-R0521 | Attachment #1*

Shauna Lyons, MUS Director of Accounting and Budget, presented this request for the Board of Regents to approve the proposed tuition and mandatory fee rates for FY 2022. Rates become effective Fall Semester 2021.

- c. Request for Approval of the FY 2022 Tuition and Mandatory Fee Rates for Dawson Community College; *ITEM 194-201-R0521 | Attachment #1*

Shauna Lyons, MUS Director of Accounting and Budget, presented this request for the Board of Regents to approve the following proposed tuition and mandatory fee rates for FY 2022. Rates become effective Fall Semester 2021.

- d. Request for Approval for the 2023 Biennium Tuition and Mandatory Fee Rates for Miles Community College; *ITEM 194-401-R0521 | Attachment #1*

Shauna Lyons, MUS Director of Accounting and Budget, presented this request for the Board of Regents to approve the following proposed tuition and mandatory fee rates for the 2023 Biennium. Rates become effective Fall Semester 2021.

- e. Request for Authorization and Approval to Proceed with Infrastructure Projects Authorized by the 67th Legislative Session; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 194-112-R0521 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3*

Ron Muffick, Director of Operations & Administration, presented this request for the Board of Regents to authorize and approve the Capital Development Projects, Major Repair Projects and Authority Only Projects included in House Bill 5, House Bill 14 and House Bill 632 as authorized by the 67th Montana Legislative Session. Under this request, the Board of Regents authorizes the Commissioner to identify, prioritize and



submit projects that may be eligible for additional federal funding as defined in House Bill 632.

- f. Request for Authorization to Remodel Knowles Hall; UM Missoula *ITEM 194-1012-R0521 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2*

Ron Muffick, Director of Operations & Administration, presented this request, consistent with MCA 18-2-102(2)(b) and in accordance with Board of Regents Policy 1003.7, for the Board of Regents of the Montana University System to authorize the University of Montana – Missoula to expend up to \$12,000,000 for the remodel of Knowles Hall.

- g. Request for Authorization to Construct a New Dining Facility; UM Missoula *ITEM 194-1011-R0521 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3*

Ron Muffick, Director of Operations & Administration, presented this request, consistent with MCA 18-2-102(2)(b) and MCA 20-25-302 (1)(c) and in accordance with Board of Regents Policy 1003.7, for the Board of Regents of the Montana University System to authorize the University of Montana – Missoula to expend up to \$27,000,000 to construct a new Dining Facility and demolish part of the Lommasson Center and part of Craig Hall to make land available for the construction of the new Dining Facility.

- h. Request for Authorization to Amend its Bond Indenture; MSU Bozeman *ITEM 194-2011-R0521 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #3 | Attachment #4*

Tyler Trevor, Deputy Commissioner of Budget and Planning, and Terry Leist, Vice President of Administration and Finance at MSU, presented the request for Montana State University to receive authorization from the Montana Board of Regents of Higher Education to amend its bond indenture and execute transactions for a previously approved refunding of existing debt and a new money borrowing under the new indenture.

- i. Request for Approval of Spending Authority for Additional COVID Relief Funding; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 194-107-R0521 | Attachment #1*

Shauna Lyons, MUS Director of Accounting and Budget, presented the request for the Board of Regents to approve spending authority for additional COVID relief funding in the Montana University System. On March 11, 2021, Congress approved additional funding to support COVID relief that will be appropriated directly to campuses within the MUS. Discussion followed.

- j. Request for Designation of Distribution of Timber Sales Revenue; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 194-105-R0521 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3*

Shauna Lyons, MUS Director of Accounting and Budget, presented the request before the Board of Regents of Higher Education to elect to continue to designate trust land timber sales revenue as distributable revenue in year FY 2022 through FY 2023. Section 17-3-1003(4), MCA, requires the Board of Regents to designate, at least once a biennium, whether the timber sale proceeds from Montana University System lands must be distributed to the beneficiaries or placed in the permanent trust. Campuses will use the money as set forth in Policy 901.12, for the repayment of debt to which these



revenues are pledged, the elimination or reduction of chronic or material negative fund balances, or for deferred maintenance and equipment and fixed asset expenditures that are non-recurring in nature. Discussion followed.

## INFORMATION

### a. Enrollment Report

Deputy Commissioner Trevor spoke to enrollment for FY21. He noted that FY21 FTE counts include the End of Term count for Summer and Fall semesters of 2020 and the most current, but not finalized, counts for Spring 2021. Overall enrollment decreased by -5.3% from FY20, slightly more than the national average of -4.0% for public two-year and four-year colleges. FY21 witnessed an 8% drop in resident undergraduate students and a 2.7% increase in resident graduate students. Total non-resident enrollment experienced a 1.1% decrease over FY20. While overall undergraduate enrollments were down despite an increase in WUE, graduate enrollments increased by 4.93%. Two-year campuses experienced the largest enrollment declines of any sector in FY21, a trend that mirrored national data. Enrollment dropped nationally over all sectors by 2.5%, led by decreases in 2-year education. Individual institutions were all down to varying degrees, except for Dawson Community College. Declines in resident enrollments accelerated in FY21. This trend has persisted over the past decade with many contributing factors. The number of high school graduates has stabilized and will increase over the next several years, providing opportunities to increase the incoming class sizes. Despite the difficult challenges faced by the campuses of the MUS over the past fiscal year, there are signs of progress; the launch of ApplyMontana has provided an opportunity for all Montana residents to apply for every campus of the MUS with a single, free application. Initial application counts are encouraging for FY22.

### b. ARPA Commissions Update

Deputy Commissioner Trevor noted that the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) ties to HB 632. He explained that the ARPA Commission will convene during the interim. He noted that OCHE has been in contact with A&E as well as the Governor's office and stands ready to participate as needed in commissions.

### c. Annual Facilities Projects Authority Update

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

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.

### Public Comment\*

Jack Rinck, Business Manager of ASUM spoke in support of the fees associated with Curry Health Center and the Student Advocacy Research Center, noting the important services these Centers provide for students.



Canyon Lock, Vice President of ASUM, spoke in support of a fee for BIPOC and cultural groups.

Isaac Laa, a student at UM, spoke in support of a fee for cultural groups, outlined in SB 69, a resolution geared toward supporting BIPOC and cultural groups.

Kaamonana Ahina, President of the Pacific Islanders Club, spoke in support of a fee detailed in the SB 69 resolution, geared toward supporting BIPOC for cultural groups.

Noah Durnell, President of ASUM, spoke in support of the proposed arts and culture fee.

**Committee Reports & Action**

- Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee

**ACTION**

- a. Request for Approval to Revise BOR Policy 1006; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 194-108-R0521* | *Attachment #1*

Item 194-108-R0521 was removed from the agenda. No action was taken.

- b. Request for Approval to Revise BOR Policies 301 and 301.1; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 194-110-R0521* | *Attachment #1*

A motion for approval of action item b. Item 194-110-R0521 was made by Regent Buchanan. Motion passed (6-0).

- c. Request to Plan Proposals *Executive Summary and OCHE Analysis* | *Supporting Documentation* | *New Program Tracking*

A motion for approval of action item c. Request to Plan Proposals was made by Regent Rogers. Motion passed (6-0).

- Two-Year and Community College Committee

None.

- Budget, Administration and Audit Committee

**CONSENT**

**Staff Items:**

- a. Staff Item, OCHE/MUS; *ITEM 194-100-R0521*
- b. Staff Item, MSU Bozeman; *ITEM 194-2000-R0521*
- c. Staff Item, MSU Extension Service; *ITEM 194-2400-R0521*
- d. Staff Item, Great Falls College-MSU; *ITEM 194-2900-R0521*
- e. Staff Item, MSU Billings; *ITEM 194-2700-R0521*
- f. Staff Item, MSU-Northern; *ITEM 194-2800-R0521*
- g. Staff Item, Helena College; *ITEM 194-1900-R0521*
- h. Staff Item, Montana Tech; *ITEM 194-1500-R0521*





- i. Staff Item, UM Western; ITEM 194-1600-R0521
- j. Request for Approval of University System/Employee Intellectual Property Joint Participation under MUSP 407 – Adams; MSU Bozeman *ITEM 194-2006-R0521 | Attachment #1*
- k. Request for Authorization for the Montana Motorcycle Safety Advisory Committee to Appoint Lisa Pooler; MSU Northern *ITEM 194-2802-R0521*

**Emeriti Faculty:**

- l. Carlson, UM Western; *ITEM 194-1601-R0521*
- m. Zaspel, UM Western; *ITEM 194-1602-R0521*
- n. Kirkley, UM Western; *ITEM 194-1603-R0521*
- o. Earling, UM Missoula; *ITEM 194-1003-R521*
- p. McNamer, UM Missoula; *ITEM 194-1004-R0521*
- q. Canty, UM Missoula; *ITEM 194-1005-R0521*
- r. Cook, UM Missoula; *ITEM 194-1006-R0521*
- s. Kero, UM Missoula; *ITEM 194-1007-R0521*
- t. Condon, UM Missoula; *ITEM 194-1008-R0521*
- u. Belsky, UM Missoula; *ITEM 194-1009-R0521*
- v. Nickerson, UM Missoula; *ITEM 194-1015-R0521*
- w. Scott, MSU Bozeman; *ITEM 194-2001-R0512*
- x. Rydell, MSU Bozeman; *ITEM 194-2002-R0521*
- y. Garrott, MSU Bozeman; *ITEM 194-2003-R0521*
- z. Wilmer, MSU Bozeman; *ITEM 194-2004-R0521*
- aa. Bruckner, MSU Bozeman; *ITEM 194-2005-R0521*
  
- ab. Dana, MSU Bozeman; *ITEM 194-2008-R0521*
- ac. Christensen, MSU Bozeman; *ITEM 194-2016-R0521*
- ad. Young Pelton, MSU Billings; *ITEM 194-2701-R0521*
- ae. Lockwood, MSU Northern; *ITEM 194-2801-R0521*

**Facility Items:**

- af. Request for Authorization to Make Energy Efficiency Improvements; Helena College *ITEM 194-1901-R0521 | Attachment #1*
  
- ag. Request for Authorization to Increase BOR Authority for Remodel of Student Centers; Helena College *ITEM 194-1902-R0521 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3*
  
- ah. Request for Authorization to Renovate and Refresh Dining Services; University of Montana Western; *ITEM 194-1604-R0521 | Attachment #1*
  
- ai. Request for Authorization to Construct Wayfinding/Signage; UM Missoula *ITEM 194-1013-R0521 | Attachment #1*



aj. Request for Authorization to Increase BOR Authority for Remodel of Aber Hall; UM Missoula *ITEM 194-1014-R0521 | Attachment #1*

ak. Request for Authorization to Extend Memorial Walk and Redesign Lot P; UM Missoula *ITEM 194-1016-R0521 | Attachment #1*

al. Request for Authorization to Purchase Property at 1710 Greek Way in Bozeman for Auxiliary Use; MSU Bozeman *ITEM 194-2007-R0521 | Attachment #1*

am. Request for Authorization to Expend General Spending Authority for South Campus Energy District (Phase 1); MSU Bozeman *ITEM 194-2009-R0521 | Attachment #1*

an. Request for Authorization to Grant an Easement to the City of Billings to Enable the Installation, Maintenance and Operation of a Traffic Signal; MSU Billings *ITEM 194-2702-R0521 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2*

ao. Request for Authorization to Execute an Energy Performance Contract for LED Lighting Upgrades on the Montana Tech campus and Highlands Colleges; MT Tech *ITEM 194-1501-R0521 | Attachment #1*

ap. Request for Authorization to Increase Construction Authority for Yellowstone Science and Allied Health Building; MSU-Billings; *ITEM 194-2703-R0521 | Attachment #1*

**Other:**

aq. Request for Approval to Revise Language in Board of Regents Policy 713.1 – Workplace safety; Workers’ Compensation; MUS/OCHE *ITEM 194-101-R0521 | Attachment #1*

ar. Request for Approval to Create Board of Regents Policy Related to the MUS Compliance Reporting Hotline; MUS/OCHE *ITEM 194-111-R0521 | Attachment #1*

as. Request for Authorization to Revise BOR Policy 901.15 – Reserve Revolving Accounts; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 194-109-R0521 | Attachment #1*

at. Request for Approval to Revise Language in Board of Regents Policy 702.4 – Appointment; Legal Counsel OCHE/MUS *ITEM 194-102-R0521 | Attachment #1*

au. Request for Approval to Revise Language in Board of Regents Policy 805 – Executive Prerequisites; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 194-103-R0521 | Attachment #1*

av. MUS Group Health Insurance Holiday; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 194-106-R0521 | Attachment #1*

aw. Request for Authorization to Exclude Certain Officer/Directors from Personnel Security Clearance; UM Missoula *ITEM 194-1010-R0521 | Attachment #1*

A motion for approval of consent agenda items a. – aw. was made by Regent Dombrowski. Motion passed (6-0).



## ACTION

- a. 2023 Biennial Budget Recommendations; OCHE/MUS ITEM 194-104-R0521
  1. Tuition | Campus Tuition & Fee Schedules | Tuition/Fees Comparison Dashboard
  2. Fees | Mandatory Fees Dashboard
  3. State Funding Allocation | State Funding Dashboard
  4. Performance Funding | PF Metrics Dashboard

A motion for approval of action item a. Item 194-104-R0521 was made by Regent Sexton. Regent Buchanan proposed an amendment to remove the proposed 3% graduate hike. Seeing no second on the amendment the item stands as is. Motion passed (5-1).

- b. Request for Approval of the FY 2022 Tuition and Mandatory Fee Rates for Flathead Valley Community College; ITEM 194-302-R0521 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item c. Item 194-302-R0521 was made by Regent Bough. Discussion followed. Motion passed (6-0).

- c. Request for Approval of the FY 2022 Tuition and Mandatory Fee Rates for Dawson Community College; ITEM 194-201-R0521 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item c. Item 194-201-R0521 was made by Regent Rogers. Motion passed (6-0).

- d. Request for Approval for the 2023 Biennium Tuition and Mandatory Fee Rates for Miles Community College; ITEM 194-401-R0521 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item d. Item 194-401-R0521 was made by Regent Dombrowski. Motion passed (6-0).

- e. Request for Authorization and Approval to Proceed with Infrastructure Projects Authorized by the 67th Legislative Session; OCHE/MUS ITEM 194-112-R0521 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3

A motion for approval of action item e. Item 194-112-R0521 was made by Regent Bough. Motion passed (6-0).

- f. Request for Authorization to Remodel Knowles Hall; UM Missoula ITEM 194-1012-R0521 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

A motion for approval of action item f. Item 194-1012-R0521 was made by Regent Dombrowski. Motion passed (6-0).

- g. Request for Authorization to Construct a New Dining Facility; UM Missoula ITEM 194-1011-R0521 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3

A motion for approval of action item g. Item 194-1011-R0521 was made by Regent Sexton. Motion approved (6-0).

- h. Request for Authorization to Amend its Bond Indenture; MSU Bozeman ITEM 194-2011-R0521 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #3 | Attachment #4



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

A motion for approval of action item h. Item 194-2011-R0521 was made by Regent Buchanan. Motion passed (6-0).

- i. Request for Approval of Spending Authority for Additional COVID Relief Funding; OCHE/MUS ITEM 194-107-R0521 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item i. Item 194-107-R0521 was made by Regent Dombrowski. Motion passed (6-0).

- j. Request for Designation of Distribution of Timber Sales Revenue; OCHE/MUS ITEM 194-105-R0521 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3

A motion for approval of action item j. Item 194-105-R0521 was made by Regent Rogers. Motion passed (6-0).

Appeal #1

Chair Lozar explained the process related to the appeal. The request to hear the appeal is denied and the Commissioner's decision is upheld.

Appeal #2

Chair Lozar explained the process related to the appeal. The request to hear the appeal is denied and the Commissioner's decision is upheld.

Election of Officers

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

Regent Dombrowski made a nomination for Regent Lozar to serve as Board Chair. Discussion followed; motion passed (6-0).

Regent Sexton made a nomination for Regent Rogers to serve as Vice Chair. Discussion followed; motion passed (6-0).

Meeting Adjourned at 11:54am

Approved by the Board of Regents on

8/11/2021
Date
Clayton T. Christian
Commissioner of Higher Education
Board of Regents

8/17/2021
Date
Casey Lozar
Chair, Board of Regents and Secretary to the