



**Minutes  
Montana Board of Regents  
July 11, 2023**

**Tuesday, July 11, 2023**

Meeting convened at 8:02 am

Regents Present: Joyce Dombrowski, Chair, Todd Buchanan, Casey Lozar, Loren Bough, Jeff Southworth, and Brianne Rogers. Ex officio members include Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian, Governor Greg Gianforte represented by Dylan Klapmeier, and Office of Public Instruction Superintendent Elsie Arntzen.

Welcome and Comments by Chair Dombrowski | 00:00:44

Chair Dombrowski welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She announced the Board would meet again in ten short weeks for the September Board of Regents meeting at Montana Technological University. She provided a brief agenda overview, outlining the consent and action items, as well as the executive and informal planning sessions.

Approval of Minutes | 00:01:53

- May 17-18, 2023 Meeting Minutes

With no corrections offered, the minutes were approved as distributed.

Commissioner's Report | 00:02:10

Commissioner Christian acknowledged that after a busy legislative session and May Board of Regents meeting, his team was working through the implementation process. He highlighted actively bargaining with the 26 different union partners to implement the pay plan and several meetings going through the \$1.2B in spending authority from House Bill 5, the Long Range Building Program. He spoke to working with the Governor's office, budget office, and A&E to get those projects planned, designed, and on the ground as quickly as possible. Commissioner Christian recognized and shared his appreciation for the legislative interim committees, that recently started their work for the interim.

- Campus Reports | 00:03:26
- Introductions | 00:00:3:42

President Bodner introduced John DeBoer as University of Montana's Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.



## MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

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President Cruzado recognized the retirement of Chris Kearns, Vice President for Student Success, and thanked him for his contributions to Montana State University. She introduced Steve Swinford as Montana State University's Interim Vice President of Student Success.

Remarks by Governor Gianforte or Designee | 00:07:43

Mr. Dylan Klapmeier, Governor Gianforte's Education & Workforce Policy Advisor, thanked Regent Rogers for her service as chair for the previous year. He congratulated Regent Dombrowski and Regent Buchanan on their recent elections as Chair and Vice Chair. He highlighted the record support for K-12 and post-secondary education systems in the most recent legislative session, including base funding to support students and teachers, OTO funding for innovative pilot programs, and the record infrastructure investment. He spoke to the work from the past interim that led to a successful session and looks forward to the interim work ahead for another successful session in 2025. He spoke to the shared policy goals discussed at the May Board of Regents meeting, which align well with the Governor's goals. The Governor's focus includes addressing the underlying cost of post-secondary education, on-time graduation, and moving towards asynchronous and proficiency-based delivery. He also highlighted the focus on free speech, tribal relations, CTE, and data sharing.

**CONSENT** | 00:11:51

**Staff Item:**

- a. Staff Item; MSU Great Falls ITEM 207-2900-R0723
- b. Labor Agreements; OCHE/MUS ITEM 207-106-R0723 | Attachment #1

**Emeriti Items:**

- c. Beck; UM Missoula ITEM 207-1001-R0723
- d. LaPier; UM Missoula ITEM 207-1002-R0723

**Other:**

- e. Request for Approval to Appoint a Faculty Member on Continuous Tenure to the Committee on Service; OCHE/MUS ITEM 207-105-R0723

A motion for approval of consent items a. – e. was made by Regent Buchanan; motion passed (6-0).

**ACTION** | 00:13:04

- a. Request for Authorization to Plan an Addition to the Bio-Research Building; UM Missoula ITEM 207-1003-R0723 | Attachment #1

Deputy Commissioner Trevor presented the request for authorization to plan an addition to the Bio-Research Building on the UM campus for \$600,000. The funding source is



from a federal grant. He spoke to the details of the addition and further expanded on the scope of the grant funding that will cover the cost of construction.

President Bodnar stated the federal grant came from the ALSAM Foundation, funded by the Skaggs Family, who also generously funded the Skaggs School of Pharmacy. This grant funding is for an entity called the Skaggs Institute for Health Innovation, with a primary focus on precision medicine.

A motion to approve action item a., ITEM 207-1003-R0723 was made by Regent Bough; motion passed (6-0).

- b. Request for Authorization to Execute Lease at the INDUSTRY Building Located at 2425 Technology Boulevard; MSU Bozeman ITEM 207-2001-R0723 | Attachment #1

Deputy Commissioner Trevor presented the request for authorization to execute a lease on the MSU campus. He referenced policy 1003.6, which requires all leases over five years or \$25,000 per year to come to the Board for approval. The lease request was due to the expansion of the current research department, MilTech, at MSU, which had doubled its research funding over the last year. He added that this is the funding that will be used for the lease. He spoke to the details of the lease space and stated that no state funding would be used for the project.

President Cruzado highlighted the work of MilTech and their successes over the last year. She stated the need for more space and emphasized their work in research and data analysis, along with providing manufacturing expertise.

A motion to approve action item b., ITEM 207-2001-R0723 was made by Regent Buchanan; motion passed (5-0-1). 1 Abstention by Regent Bough.

- c. Request for Approval to Revise Board of Regents Policy 940.1 - Residency; OCHE/MUS ITEM 207-101-R0723 | Attachment #1

Ali Bovingdon, Chief Legal Counsel, presented the request for approval to revise Board of Regents Policy (BOR) 940.1 – Residency. She highlighted the purpose of the policy revisions was to make the policy more understandable for students and campus decision-makers. She spoke to improved clarity of specific areas within the policy, what is necessary for students to meet the residency test for graduate programs, and an addition since the May Meeting pertaining to incarcerated individuals participating in the Second Chance Pell or prison education program. Discussion followed.

A motion to approve action item c., ITEM 207-101-R0723 was made by Regent Lozar; motion passed (6-0).

- d. Request for Approval to Revise Board of Regents Policy 203.5.2 - Appeals; OCHE/MUS ITEM 207-102-R0723 | Attachment #1

Ali Bovingdon, Chief Legal Counsel, presented the request for approval to revise BOR 203.5.2 – Appeals. She stated the changes to the policy include clarifying language,



improved readability, and an addition of a 30-day deadline for filing a petition with the district court.

A motion to approve action item d., ITEM 207-102-R0723 was made by Regent Lozar; motion passed (6-0).

- e. Request to Repeal Board of Regents Policy 504.3 - Eligibility for WICHE, WWAMI, and Minnesota Dental Programs; OCHE/MUS ITEM 207-103-R0723 | Attachment #1

Ali Bovingdon, Chief Legal Counsel, presented the request to repeal BOR 504.3 – Eligibility for WICHE, WWAMI, and Minnesota Dental Programs. She stated that with the revisions to BOR Policy 940.1 - Residency, these students are now incorporated in that residency policy, and this one creates redundancy.

A motion to approve action item e., ITEM 207-103-R0723 was made by Regent Southworth; motion passed (6-0).

- f. Request to Revise Board of Regents Policy 940.13 - Tuition Waivers and Discounts; OCHE/MUS ITEM 207-104-R0723 | Attachment #1

Scott Lemmon, Director of Admissions and Enrollment Strategy, presented the request to revise BOR Policy 940.13 – Tuition Waivers and Discounts. He spoke to the Honorably Discharged Veteran Waiver, which with these proposed changes will be more accessible to veteran students. The changes include removal of outdated language and requirements that currently prohibit some veterans from utilizing the waiver.

A motion to approve action item f., ITEM 207-104-R0723 was made by Regent Buchanan; motion passed (6-0).

Remarks by Superintendent Arntzen | 00:32:25

Superintendent Arntzen highlighted the teacher residency program and support of the legislature. She spoke to her concern about empty classrooms this fall due to a lack of teachers and presented a possible solution as implementing emergency licensed teachers. She acknowledged several outcomes from the recent legislative session, including language preservation, charter schools, and a K3 reading program. Superintendent Arntzen explained a request to the Department of Education for a waiver on assessment.

Public Comment | 00:44:30

There was none received.

Executive Session | 00:45:33

- Annual Review – President Bodnar
- Annual Review – President Cruzado



## MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

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- Annual Review – Commissioner Christian

The Board convened an executive session. Chair Dombrowski determined the matters of the discussion related to matters of individual privacy and the demands of individual privacy outweigh the merits of public disclosure.

Board Self-Evaluation

Meeting Adjourned at 12:50pm

Approved by the Board of Regents on

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Date

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Date

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

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Joyce Dombrowski  
Chair, Board of Regents