



**Minutes  
Montana Board of Regents  
January 11, 2024**

**Thursday, January 11, 2024**

Meeting convened at 10:01 am

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

Welcome and Comments by Chair Buchanan | 00:06:49

Chair Buchanan welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked attendees for their continued commitment to Montana students. He noted Board members had earlier attended the Montana Chamber of Commerce Business Days at the Capitol breakfast and he appreciated the chance to interact with legislators. He congratulated the nearly 2,000 MUS students who earned their degrees at Fall Commencement in December. Chair Buchanan gave an overview of the agenda and acknowledged the importance of the Board staying on top of developments with Artificial Intelligence in the educational arena.

Approval of Minutes | 00:09:43

- November 16-17, 2023 Meeting Minutes

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

Commissioner's Report | 00:09:50

Commissioner Christian welcomed everyone to the meeting, congratulated the fall graduates, and thanked the MUS faculty and staff for their commitment to Montana students. Commissioner Christian welcomed OCHE's new Deputy Director for Government Relations and Communications, Galen Hollenbaugh, and announced the hiring of the Headwaters Tech Hub Regional Innovation Officer, Tim VanReken. He thanked all those involved in the Tech Hub designation. He congratulated Crystine Miller and the MUS's Montana 10 initiative for being selected as the 2024 WICHE Forum Colleague Choice Innovation Award winner. Commissioner Christian said Montana 10 has been a success and has proven measurable positive outcomes for students. He discussed the importance of incorporating AI into academia. He said he is looking forward to the presentation on AI and how it will intersect with postsecondary education.



Interim Deputy Commissioner Joe Thiel acknowledged the significant impacts of AI, the questions that surround it, how quickly it is disrupting industries and education, and the importance of figuring out how to successfully incorporate it. He said the task force is doing good work and campuses are holding workshops and symposiums on how to be effective in this quickly changing environment. He acknowledged the Teaching Scholars Program and that their focus will be on AI and how to incorporate it into all areas of education. He introduced Dave and Helen Edwards from Artificiality.

- Artificial Intelligence and Postsecondary Education | 00:16:16

Dave Edwards gave a brief history of the three eras of evolution of AI starting with the beginning of commercial internet in the information economy era, followed by the attention economy, and lastly, the projected intimacy economy and the growth and advancement of each era. He said the goal of the frontrunners in the industry is to create Artificial Generative Intelligence (AGI), which is technology that can surpass human cognition, raising the question of what the consequences will be. He explained that AGI enables the medium to create the message, which is the fundamental difference between AI and AGI. Mr. Edwards listed the big companies that are involved in monetizing and creating AGI and the benefits AGI brings to each company. He said the main form of generating money to fund AGI comes from subscriptions. He said these companies have created foundation models which allow anyone to be able to build platforms like ChatGPT.

Mr. Edwards discussed some of the positive aspects of AGI and showed some examples of the differences between traditional AI and AGI. He explained that AGI is still guessing at what comes next, not only in text, but images, audio, and video. He stressed that these tools aren't always accurate, and that information can be fabricated. He said research is being conducted to help in learning when and if to trust AGI and gave some examples of inaccuracies known as fabrications or hallucinations. He talked about the different biases of AGI, the challenges they create, and what companies are doing to address them.

Helen Edwards from Artificiality discussed how AI impacts education, if it will enhance learning or decrease it, and the potential impact on students of not doing hard work and thinking critically. She said that AI can enhance learning by creating a personalized learning experience but noted that the primary concerns include equity and accessibility challenges and the potential to impact human critical thinking skills.

Ms. Edwards said that at the high school level there has not been a significant increase in cheating, which indicates cheating is driven by more than just access to a tool such as ChatGPT. She shared statistics on detection accuracy as it relates to humans and AI. She discussed the perils and promises of AI in higher education regarding teaching, learning, research, and administration. She talked about the impact of AI on workflow as it relates to productivity, proficiency, skill requirements, and whether AI should compete with or complement human cognition.

Mr. Edwards talked about the shift from novel AI apps such as ChatGPT to integrating tools with AI embedded inside and the potential explosion of access to these tools as



they will be everywhere. Lastly, he shared the evolution of how we gain knowledge as we make this shift from man to machine and the challenges we face as we outsource our cognition and the need to still be aware of what we can trust. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Christian said that adapting to AI in the postsecondary education environment is a significant task considering the speed with which it is evolving. He emphasized the desire to keep policies or guidance implemented by the board Montana focused. He addressed some of the questions being raised on campuses and the importance of getting feedback to develop MUS-specific policy. He said the direction to the task force is to be inclusive and to move quickly. Commissioner Christian added that the MUS would continue to seek advice from consultants to help create solutions that best serve Montana students and institutions.

Regent Lozar echoed Commissioner Christian's comment that the process to seek input and develop recommendations on AI move as quickly as possible.

Remarks by Superintendent Arntzen | 00:01:26:47

Superintendent Arntzen discussed the Perkins Plan. She talked about the alternative learning assessment being done in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade and the need for discussions on secondary testing in high school. She shared her concern about the decline in K-12 spring enrollment in public, private, and homeschool populations. She said her goal is to have 60 teachers in the teacher residency program and currently there are only 20. She said she'd like to have someone representing K-12 on the AI task force as AI doesn't just affect post-secondary education. She said she is asking for a year extension on the longitudinal data grant and noted some challenges in getting data from tribal colleges. She agreed with Commissioner Christian on the need for a Montana-based approach to AI and expressed the need for the process to also be transparent to the public.

**CONSENT** | 01:53:34

**Staff Item:**

- a. Request for Approval of University System/Employee Intellectual Property Joint Participation under MUSP 407-LaMeres; MSU Bozeman ITEM 210-2003-R0124
- b. Staff Item; OCHE ITEM 210-100-R0124 | Attachment #1

**Emeriti Items:**

- c. Sorenson; MSU Bozeman ITEM 210-2001-R0124 | Attachment #1
- d. O'Neill; MSU Bozeman ITEM 210-2002-R0124 | Attachment #1

**Other:**

- e. Request for Authorization for Montana PBS/Montana State University to Acquire Three FCC Broadcast TV Licenses, Real Estate, and Improvements Located in



Glendive and Miles City and a Translator in Sidney, MT; MSU Bozeman ITEM 210-2006-R0124

- f. Request for Authorization to Enter into Off-Campus Lease for the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics (Tennis); UM Missoula ITEM 210-1001-R0124 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

**Foundation Operating Agreements (Biennial Review):**

- g. Request for Authorization to Renew the Operating Agreement with the University of Montana Foundation; UM Missoula ITEM 210-1002-R0124 | Attachment #1
- h. Request for Authorization for the University of Montana Western and the UMW Foundation to Enter into an Operating Agreement; UM Western ITEM 210-1601-R0124 | Attachment #1
- i. Request for Authorization to Renew the Operating Agreement Between Montana State University and Montana State University Foundation, Inc.; MSU Bozeman ITEM 210-2007-R0124 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2
- j. Request for Authorization to Renew the Operating Agreement Between Montana State University Billings and Montana State University Billings Foundation, Inc.; MSU Billings ITEM 210-2701-R0124 | Attachment #1
- k. Request for Approval of Operating Agreement Between Montana State University Northern and Montana State University Northern Foundation; MSU Northern ITEM 210-2801-R0124 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3
- l. Request for Authorization to Renew the Operating Agreement Between Great Falls College MSU and Montana State University Foundation, Inc.; Great Falls College MSU ITEM 210-2901-R0124 | Attachment #1
- m. Request for Authorization to Renew the Operating Agreement Between Montana Technological University and the Montana Technological University Foundation; Montana Technological University ITEM 210-1501-R0124 | Attachment #1
- n. Request for Authorization to Renew Operating Agreement Between Helena College and the Helena College Foundation, Inc.; Helena College UM ITEM 210-1901-R0124 | Attachment #1

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

**ACTION | 01:36:37**

- a. Request for Authorization to Design and Construct Parking Improvements; MSU Bozeman ITEM 210-2004-R0124 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

Deputy Commissioner Trevor said this request is to ensure that the existing parking that will be displaced by new academic buildings has sufficient replacement. It also addresses expansion of parking lots around the stadium. He said the funding will come from existing physical plant funds and auxiliary revenue. Questions and discussion followed.

A motion to approve action item a., ITEM 210-2004-R0124 was made by Regent Bough; motion passed (6-0).



- b. Request for Authorization to Complete Parking Maintenance; MSU Bozeman  
ITEM 210-2005-R0124 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

Deputy Commissioner Trevor said this request is for ongoing annual maintenance of campus-wide parking with funding coming from existing physical plant funds and auxiliary revenue.

A motion to approve action item b., ITEM 210-2005-R0124 was made by Regent Yeager; motion passed (6-0).

- c. Request to Plan Proposals | Supporting Documentation

Dr. Jennifer Brown, MSU Northern, presented the request to plan proposal for an M.S. in Teaching. She said it would not result in additional costs and clarified that the degree would not lead to licensure, but to endorsement. Questions and discussion followed.

A motion to approve action item c., Request to Plan Proposals was made by Regent Rogers; motion passed (6-0).

**INFORMATION** | 02:00:20

- a. Academic Approval Memo

Interim Deputy Commissioner Thiel explained these are all the items, requests and plans for new programs that have reached the next stage of development for final approval.

Appeal #1

Chair Buchanan explained the process related to the appeals. He called for a motion to hear any of the listed appeals. No motion was made to hear the appeal, and therefore the Commissioner's decision was upheld.

Public Comment | 02:02:44

There was none received.

Executive Session | 02:03:38

- Honorary Doctorate Nomination #1 – MSU
- Honorary Doctorate Nomination #2 – MSU
- Honorary Doctorate Nomination #3 -- MSU
- Honorary Doctorate Nomination #1 – UM
- Honorary Doctorate Nomination #2 -- UM



## MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

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The Board convened an executive session. Chair Buchanan determined the matters of the discussion related to matters of individual privacy and the demands of individual privacy outweigh the merits of public disclosure. He announced that the meeting would adjourn at the conclusion of executive session.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Approved by the Board of Regents on

March 14, 2024

Date

Handwritten signature of Clayton T. Christian in black ink.

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

March 14, 2024

Date

Handwritten signature of Joyce Dombrowski in black ink.

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Joyce Dombrowski  
Chair, Board of Regents