



Montana University System

Minutes Montana Board of Regents May 21, 2025

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Meeting convened at 8:31 am

Regents Present: Todd Buchanan, Chair, Loren Bough, Joyce Dombrowski, Jeff Southworth, Dean Folkvord, Heather Hoyer, and Raina Mortenson. Ex officio members present included Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian, Governor Greg Gianforte, represented by Dylan Klapmeier, was excused, and Superintendent Susie Hedalen.

Comments by Chair Buchanan | 00:00:54

Chair Buchanan congratulated the MUS spring graduates. He thanked Dean Erdmann and Great Falls College for hosting the meeting. He discussed colleges of technology, their incorporation into the MUS, and how these two-year colleges are now contributing to the state's economic growth and program diversity. He welcomed President Sean Chandler from Aaniiih Nakoda College and stressed the importance of tribal college partnerships. He then provided a detailed agenda overview.

Welcome by Dean Erdmann | 00:07:54

Dr. Stephanie Erdmann, Dean of Great Falls College, highlighted some academic program statistics at Great Falls College. She highlighted student, faculty, professional, campus and community successes over the past 2 years. She shared a brand and marketing video that was launched in 2024 to increase awareness of Great Falls College.

Approval of Minutes | 00:26:32

- March 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes
- April 2, 2025, Meeting Minutes

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

Commissioner's Report | 00:23:39

Commissioner Christian welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting and Dean Erdmann for hosting. He congratulated the MUS spring graduates and shared his appreciation for all individuals that contribute to student success across the MUS. He reviewed some of the key bills from the 2025 Legislature, noted OCHE's strong relationship with the Legislature, and acknowledged OCHE staff's work throughout the 2025 session.



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- Federal Update | 00:33:01

Dr. Tom Harnisch, SHEEO's Vice President of Government Relations, presented the organization's key observations on recent federal policy, Trump Administration actions and goals, and Congressional activities. He reviewed the House Budget Reconciliation process; the FY 26 Budget and Appropriations Process; key initiatives of the Executive Branch and Department of Education; Executive Orders; and federal court cases. He said SHEEO produces a daily policy update for anyone that wants to stay up to date. Questions and discussion followed.

- Legislative Overview | 01:03:07

Deputy Commissioner Galen Hollenbaugh reviewed the MUS budget and infrastructure proposals approved by the Legislature and reported on the legislative interim committees that will be meeting and what they will be discussing. He recognized the student lobbyists and thanked them for their dedication.

- Regents Award for Excellence | 01:08:59

Chair Buchanan presented the 2025 Regents Award for Excellence to Dr. Cheri Johannes, Executive Director of the Office of Academic Success, Director of the Registrar's Office, MSU Billings, and Kat Cowley, Program Manager, ASUM Bear Necessities, University of Montana.

- Enrollment Report | 01:18:22

Scott Lemmon, Director of Admissions and Enrollment Strategy, gave a spring semester update on year over year enrollment numbers systemwide. He discussed the enrollment landscape for first-year freshmen, full-time equivalents as well as total headcount. Director Lemmon also covered recent FTE growth and the statewide projections for upcoming high school graduates.

- Campus Reports | 01:26:05

- Introductions & Acknowledgements | 01:26:11

Dr. Jane Karas, President, Flathead Valley Community College, acknowledged Shauna Lyons, MUS Director of Budgeting & Planning, for her work with the legislature in support of the community college funding formula.

Waded Cruzado, MSU President, introduced Dr. Deborah Haynes, Dean of the Graduate School.

Greg Kegel, MSUN Chancellor, introduced Dr. Lindsay Brandt-Bennett, Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management.

Remarks by Superintendent Hedalen | 01:31:19



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Superintendent Hedalen thanked those involved for advocating for education during the legislative session to ensure continued funding. She discussed the STARS Act. She said she hopes to receive additional funding for the Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education and talked about direct enrollment opportunities for high school students. Superintendent Hedalen discussed the charter school located in Great Falls and the teaching opportunities it provides. She provided federal funding and data sharing updates. She said she is looking forward to continuing building relationships to support Montana students.

Budget, Administration and Audit Committee | 01:43:59

CONSENT | 01:46:09

Facility Items:

- a. Request for Authorization to Remodel Law 225 Classroom at the School of Law; UM Missoula; ITEM 218-1005-R0525 | Attachment #1
- b. Request for Authorization to Construct Major Maintenance Repairs for Taylor Hall; MSU Bozeman ITEM 218-2008-R0525 | Attachment #1
- c. Request for Authorization to Construct an Outdoor Classroom at the American Indian Hall; MSU Bozeman ITEM 218-2009-R0525 | Attachment #1
- d. Request for Authorization to Grant a Utility Easement to Project Telephone Company, Inc.; MT Agricultural Experiment Station ITEM 218-2301-R0525 | Attachment #1
- e. Request for Authorization to Renew a Grazing Lease on Behalf of MAES (Montana Agricultural Experiment Station) in Madison County; MT Agricultural Experiment Station ITEM 218-2302-R0525 | Attachment #1
- f. Request for Authorization to Renew an Agricultural Lease on Behalf of MAES (Montana Agricultural Experiment Station) in Judith Basin County; MT Agricultural Experiment Station ITEM 218-2303-R0525 | Attachment #1

ACTION | 01:46:49

- a. 2027 Biennial Budget Recommendations; OCHE/MUS ITEM 218-101-R0525 | Budget Building Blocks

Deputy Commissioner Tyler Trevor presented the request to the board to adopt the 2027 biennial budget recommendations and discussed the four main budget drivers and the key budget metrics that go into making tuition decisions. Questions and discussion followed.

○ Tuition | Campus Tuition & Fee Schedules

Deputy Commissioner Trevor explained the tuition proposal, detailing the increases in resident and non-resident tuition across the MUS campuses and community colleges. He presented a comparison of average MUS tuition rates to other WICHE states, along with net tuition paid by resident students at the MUS 4-year campuses and some key factors that influence net tuition. He then provided a comparison of tuition and fees at the national level.



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- Fees

Deputy Commissioner Trevor presented the fee proposal and explained the increases being proposed for mandatory fees, room and board, course fees, program fees, and designated fees. He discussed the cost of attendance for full-time resident undergraduate students in the MUS and presented a national comparison.

- State Funding Allocation

Deputy Commissioner Trevor presented the three components of the state funding allocation--pay plan, present law allocations, and performance funding--and the complex process of how funds are allocated.

- Performance Funding

Deputy Commissioner Trevor reviewed the model, metrics, and results of performance funding across the MUS campuses. Discussion followed.

- b. Request for Authorization to Increase the Recreation Fee in Support of Student Wellness Center Programming; MSU Bozeman ITEM 218-2006-R0525 | Attachment #1

Steve Swinford, MSU Vice President for Student Success, presented the request for authorization to increase recreation fees in support of student wellness.

- c. Request for Authorization to Increase ASMSU Fee to Support the Campus CatTracks Shuttle System; MSU Bozeman ITEM 218-2007-R0525 | Attachment #1

Terry Leist, MSU Vice President of Administration and Finance, presented the request for authorization to increase ASMSU fees in support of Campus CatTracks

- d. Request for Approval of the FY 2026 Tuition Rates for Dawson Community College; ITEM 218-201-R0525 | Attachment #1

Shauna Lyons, OCHE Director of Budget and Planning, presented the request for the Board of Regents to approve the proposed tuition and mandatory fee rates for FY 2026 for Dawson Community College. Rates become effective Fall Semester 2025.

- e. Request for Approval of the FY 2027 Biennium Tuition and Mandatory Fee Rates; Miles Community College ITEM 218-400-R0525 | Attachment #1

Director Lyons presented the request for the Board of Regents to approve the proposed tuition and mandatory fee rates for the 2027 Biennium for Miles Community College. Rates become effective Fall Semester 2025

- f. Request for Approval of the FY2025 Tuition and Mandatory Fee Rates; Flathead Valley Community College ITEM 218-301-R0525 | Attachment #1



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Director Lyons presented the request for the Board of Regents to approve the proposed tuition and mandatory fee rates for FY 2026 for Flathead Valley Community College. Rates become effective Fall Semester 2025.

- g. Presidential Hire, Montana State University; OCHE/MUS ITEM 218-104-R0525

Deputy Commissioner Trevor presented the Presidential Hire, MSU, per policy for board approval.

- h. Staff Item; OCHE/MUS ITEM 218-100-R0525 | Attachment #1

Deputy Commissioner Trevor presented the request for the approval to implement the MUS pay plan for employees on Board of Regents contracts consistent with the budgeted pay plan parameters in House Bill 13.

- i. Request for Authorization and Approval to Proceed with Major Repair Projects Authorized by the 69th Legislative Session; OCHE/MUS ITEM 218-103-R0525 | Attachment #1

Dan Stevenson, MUS Director of Facilities Planning, presented this request. Major Repair projects include renovation, alteration, replacement, or repair projects with a total cost of less than \$2.5 million per project. The 69th Montana Legislature authorized \$24,655,000 in Major Repair Projects for a total of 22 projects across the campuses and agencies of the MUS. This item authorized proceeding with these projects pending the Governor's signature of HB5.

- j. Request for Authorization to Construct Major Maintenance Repairs for the Molecular Biosciences Building; MSU Bozeman ITEM 218-2010-R0525 | Attachment #1

Director Stevenson presented this request. The roof, siding, and related exterior systems at the Molecular Biosciences Building have reached the end of their useable life. MSU has proactively completed maintenance and repairs to extend the maximum life of the systems. Following evaluation and recommendation by an architecture firm, MSU has confirmed the need to complete major maintenance replacement of the roof, siding, and other related systems. The work will be paid for using physical plant funds from maintenance and research accounts.

- k. Request for Authorization to Purchase the Nopper Complex Located at 900-920 Technology Boulevard in Bozeman, MT; MSU Bozeman ITEM 218-2011-R0525 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment # 3

Director Stevenson presented this request with MSU VP Terry Leist. MSU has leased the facility from Advanced Technology, Inc. (ATI) and it is occupied by several MSU entities including Human Resources, Financial Services, University Communications, Spectrum Lab, University Information Technology and Library records. The lease commenced in 2017 with the term expiring 8/31/2027, with no options to renew. The property is 59,076 SF and the current base rent is \$9.41/PSF or \$555,905.16 annually. Additionally, MSU is responsible under the lease terms for all O&M costs and capital improvement costs. Since lease commencement in 2017, approximately \$6,578,816



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has been spent on operational and capital improvements. Per the Lease, if the property is purchased by MSU prior to lease termination, the cost will be \$6,244,127 if the sale is completed by 8/31/2025.

- I. Request for Authorization to Repair the Atkinson Quadrangle Student Housing Buildings; MSU Bozeman ITEM 218-2012-R0525 | Attachment #1

Director Stevenson presented this request. The nearly 90-year-old Atkinson Quadrangle buildings require major maintenance repairs to ensure continued occupancy and extend the buildings' useful life. MSU has proactively completed annual maintenance fixes on the historical facilities over the last several years to extend their useful life. Based on the evaluation and recommendations provided by licensed architects and engineers, MSU has identified a need to repair utility piping, foundations, fire escapes, and exterior components to preserve the buildings and ensure safe occupancy for existing residents. No additional operations and maintenance funding will be requested because of this project.

- m. Request for Authorization to Plan and Design a Gallatin College Building; MSU Bozeman ITEM 218-2013-R0525 | Attachment #1

Director Stevenson presented this request. MSU received legislative funding and project authority during the 68th Legislative Session for a new Gallatin College facility. The State of Montana contributed \$23.5 million in the long-range building program; MSU successfully fundraised the remaining \$22.5 million to complete funding for the \$46 million building. MSU is requesting planning and design authorization for the new building, which will accommodate Gallatin College's academic and workforce training programs. The proposed work will be paid for long-range building funds. No additional operations and maintenance funding will be requested with this design authority. Discussion followed.

- n. Request for Authorization to Amend Ground Lease for Campus Hotel; MSU Bozeman ITEM 218-2014-R0525 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

MSU VP Terry Leist presented the details for this item. The BOR approved the ground lease with CH BZN Hotel 1, LLC in May 2023. As a result of significant economic changes in construction costs and interest rates since the original ground lease was approved and signed, the developer has proposed to change the construction financing limit from a "not to exceed 60% loan-to-cost" to a "not to exceed 70% loan-to-cost", exclusive of any financing against philanthropic contributions. To partially offset the lost revenues and use of land being leased, MSU proposes to change the ground lease rent payable to MSU after the 2nd and 3rd anniversaries of the hotel opening from \$1 to \$60,000 per year. This item also requests the delegation of authority to the Commissioner of Higher Education to modify timelines and other provisions necessary to accommodate changing market conditions.

- o. Request for Authorization to Construct an Addition to the Bio-Research Building; UM Missoula ITEM 218-1003-R0525 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3



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Director Stevenson presented this request. The BOR authorized the University of Montana to spend up to \$600,000 to plan and design the addition to the Bio-Research Building in July 2023. Bids for this project were received, and Jackson Contracting was the apparent low bidder with a price of \$5,314,500. A twelve-month construction period is expected. Construction work would not begin until the Governor signs HB5. Funding for this construction will come from a mixture of private grant funds and University funds.

- p. Request for Authorization to Remodel the Women's Basketball Locker Room at Adams Center; UM Missoula ITEM 218-1004-R0525 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3

Director Stevenson presented this request. The BOR previously authorized \$5,500,000 in improvements to locker rooms for student athletes at Adams Center in November 2021 (Item 197-1005-R1121) with the understanding that each new locker room remodel would come before the BOR for approval. The women's basketball locker room is phase 3 of a multi-phased modernization effort for student athletes, so their facilities stay current with other NCAA colleges to help with recruitment and retention. Funding for this construction will come from private funds.

- q. Request for Authorization to Plan and Design Renovation of the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Complex (HPER); MT Tech ITEM 218-1502-R0525 | Attachment #1

Director Stevenson presented this request. The renovation focuses on optimizing existing spaces to better serve students by converting the underutilized pool into a multi-purpose auxiliary gym, constructing dedicated women's varsity locker rooms, expanding the athletic training room, improving storage solutions, and increasing office capacity to support coaching and administrative needs. The planning and design costs will be financed by private foundation funds. Discussion followed

- r. Request for Authorization to Distribute Timber Sales Revenue OCHE/MUS ITEM 218-102-R0525 | Attachment #1

Director Lyons requested that the Board approve the use of timber sales revenue as allowed by policy for the 2027 biennium.

Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee and Action | 03:20:20

CONSENT | 03:20:28

Emeriti Faculty:

- a. Natale; UM Missoula ITEM 218-1001-R0525
- b. Coffin; UM Missoula ITEM 218-1002-R0525
- c. Munday; MT Tech ITEM 218-1503-R0525
- d. Granger; MT Tech ITEM 218-1504-R0525
- e. VanDaveer; MT Tech ITEM 218-1505-R0525



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- f. McDonald; MT Tech ITEM 218-1506-R0525
- g. Cook; MT Tech ITEM 218-1507-R0525
- h. Cruzado; MSU Bozeman ITEM 218-2001-R0525
- i. Gosswiller; MSU Bozeman ITEM 218-2002-R0525
- j. Mast; MSU Bozeman ITEM 218-2003-R0525
- k. Fleming; MSU Bozeman ITEM 218-2004-R0525
- l. Callis; MSU Bozeman ITEM 218-2005-R0525
- m. Quetchenbach; MSU Billings ITEM 218-2701-R0525

Tenure Faculty:

- n. MT Tech; ITEM 218-1500-R0525
- o. UM Western; ITEM 218-1600-R0525
- p. Helena College; ITEM 218-1900-R0525
- q. MSU Bozeman; ITEM 218-2000-R0525
- r. MSU Billings; ITEM 218-2700-R0525
- s. MSU Northern; ITEM 218-2800-R0525
- t. Great Falls College; ITEM 218-2900-R0525

ACTION | 03:22:10

- a. Request to Plan Proposals | Executive Summary | Supporting Documentation

Bob Mokwa, MSU Provost, presented the request to plan proposal for a Bachelors of Science in Agricultural Sciences, a Masters of Agriculture in Professional Horsemanship, and a Masters of Science in Agricultural Sciences.

Tim Elgren, Montana Tech Provost, presented the request to plan proposal for standalone Masters degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Civil Engineering.

- b. Request for Authorization to form the College of Science at the University of Montana | ITEM 218-1010-LII0525 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

Adrea Lawrence, UM Provost, presented the request for authorization to form the College of Science at the University of Montana. She gave a detailed overview of the process involved in creating the College of Science along with the staffing requirements that will be needed. Discussion followed.

INFORMATION | 03:40:21

Policy Items

- a. Authorization to Withhold Registration, Transcripts and Diplomas from Students Policy Revision | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

Interim Deputy Commissioner Thiel explained this is a policy update to bring the Commissioners directive into board policy.

Academic Review Items



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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.

b. Degree Approval Tracking

Interim Deputy Commissioner Thiel explained this is the process on how decisions are made on academic program approvals along with academic program reviews within the MUS. He shared a chart displaying the history of academic programs over the past 10 years. Discussion followed.

Strategic Priority Items

c. 2024-25 Accreditation Overview and Panel

Dr. Susan Balter-Reitz presented an overview of the NWCCU Accreditation process. This presentation was followed by a panel discussion featuring three Accreditation Liaison Officers: John DeBoer, University of Montana, Tracy Dougher, Montana State University, and Kathleen Thatcher, MSU Billings. The panelists provided insight into how their campuses have used the NWCCU process to improve student outcomes and to strengthen their institutions. Dr. Balter-Reitz concluded the panel with a short explanation of the April 2025 Executive Order on Reforming Accreditation to Strengthen Higher Education and this orders potential impacts on accreditation. Discussion followed.

d. Seamless System LMS Project

Dr. Susan Balter-Reitz, Director of Online Initiatives, reported on the status of the Single LMS implementation across the state. As of this report, all state institutions had begun teaching in Canvas (the LMS that was chosen in the state's RFP process in Fall 2023). Dr. Balter-Reitz also addressed the possible uses of the single system. The report concluded with a thank you to the teams across the state who were able to implement this major project in such a short time frame.

e. MUS Research Panel

Interim Deputy Commissioner Thiel provided an update on where the research enterprise currently sits and the growth over the past few years. He provided an update on the federal funding pause, indirect cost caps, and grant cancellations and their collective impact to the MUS. He provided an overview of the federal scientific agencies' proposed budgets.

Alison Harmon, MSU Vice President for Research and Economic Development, spoke about the impacts on the research enterprise and the strategic planning being done to accommodate the changes in grant funding. She gave a detailed overview of how indirect costs are spent. She shared goals and plans of moving forward with indirect costs to align with research priorities to make sure every dollar is used to best support research. She highlighted priorities they will focus on moving forward along with the growth that's happening in the research enterprise.



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Scott Whittenburg, UM Vice President for Research and Creative Scholarship gave an update on how UM has been impacted by the changes with federal funding and explained the three ways federal funds are sent and where the funds go. He said it is expected at the national level that only future awards will be affected, not existing awards and that most of the current grants and awards are multi-year, giving them time to strategically plan for the future. He shared UM and nationwide indirect cost rates. Questions and discussion followed.

Two-Year and Community College Committee | 04:59:22

INFORMATION | 05:02:14

a. Sprint Update

Angela DeWolf King, OCHE Director of Transfer and Special Projects, provided an update on the MUS Sprint Degree project. DeWolf King shared some outcome characteristics for the project and explained how these added to the original goals of the project. She also shared some of the ongoing pros and cons of the accelerated degree program.

b. Transfer Report

Director DeWolf King provided an update on the transfer student project. Throughout the last academic year, DeWolf King has been visiting all Montana campuses to engage in listening sessions on the topic of transfer students. DeWolf King shared what she learned during those visits from a student, faculty, and staff perspective.

c. Education Design Labs Year One Report and Panel | Attachment #1

Angela McLean facilitated panel discussion on the Education Design Labs project. Panel members included Quincie Jones, Executive Director of Career & Technical Education, GFC MSU; Leonard Hilton, Structural Welding Cohort Graduate, GFC MSU & ADF International Welder; Brian Tucker, Career Coach & Structural Welding Instructor, GFC MSU; Trevor Floerchinger, Production Manager, ADF International.

Public comment | 06:23:19

Trey Magnuson, UM Director MUSSA, spoke about the importance of MUSSA and provided an update on the action items they have been working on. He provided a survey update.

Lenny Triem, ASMSU President, shared a detailed overview of why he supports the purposed tuition increase.

Terry Leist, MSU Vice President of Administration and Finance, thanked the Governor's office for their funding support during the legislature and shared his appreciation for MSU President Waded Cruzado.

Committee Reports & Action | 06:31:32



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- Budget, Administration and Audit Committee | 06:31:48

CONSENT | 06:32:05

Facility Items:

- a. Request for Authorization to Remodel Law 225 Classroom at the School of Law; UM Missoula; ITEM 218-1005-R0525 | Attachment #1
- b. Request for Authorization to Construct Major Maintenance Repairs for Taylor Hall; MSU Bozeman ITEM 218-2008-R0525 | Attachment #1
- c. Request for Authorization to Construct an Outdoor Classroom at the American Indian Hall; MSU Bozeman ITEM 218-2009-R0525 | Attachment #1
- d. Request for Authorization to Grant a Utility Easement to Project Telephone Company, Inc.; MT Agricultural Experiment Station ITEM 218-2301-R0525 | Attachment #1
- e. Request for Authorization to Renew a Grazing Lease on Behalf of MAES (Montana Agricultural Experiment Station) in Madison County; MT Agricultural Experiment Station ITEM 218-2302-R0525 | Attachment #1
- f. Request for Authorization to Renew an Agricultural Lease on Behalf of MAES (Montana Agricultural Experiment Station) in Judith Basin County; MT Agricultural Experiment Station ITEM 218-2303-R0525 | Attachment #1

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

ACTION | 06:32:51

- a. 2027 Biennial Budget Recommendations; OCHE/MUS ITEM 218-101-R0525 | Budget Building Blocks
 - o Tuition | Campus Tuition & Fee Schedules
 - o Fees
 - o State Funding Allocation
 - o Performance Funding

A motion for approval of action item a., ITEM 218-101-R0525, was made by Regent Southworth; motion passed (7-0).

- b. Request for Authorization to Increase the Recreation Fee in Support of Student Wellness Center Programming; MSU Bozeman ITEM 218-2006-R0525 | Attachment #1
- c. Request for Authorization to Increase ASMSU Fee to Support the Campus CatTracks Shuttle System; MSU Bozeman ITEM 218-2007-R0525 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action items b.- c., was made by Regent Hoyer; motion passed (7-0).



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- d. Request for Approval of the FY 2026 Tuition Rates for Dawson Community College; ITEM 218-201-R0525 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item d., ITEM 218-201-R0525, was made by Regent Bough; motion passed (7-0).

- e. Request for Approval of the FY 2027 Biennium Tuition and Mandatory Fee Rates; Miles Community College ITEM 218-400-R0525 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item e., ITEM 218-400-R0525, was made by Regent Southworth; motion passed (7-0).

- f. Request for Approval of the FY2025 Tuition and Mandatory Fee Rates; Flathead Valley Community College ITEM 218-301-R0525 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item f., ITEM 218-301-R0525, was made by Regent Dombrowski; motion passed (7-0).

- g. Presidential Hire, Montana State University; OCHE/MUS ITEM 218-104-R0525

A motion for approval of action item g., ITEM 218-104-R0525, was made by Regent Bough; motion passed (7-0).

- h. Staff Item; OCHE/MUS ITEM 218-100-R0525 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item h., ITEM 218-100-R0525, was made by Regent Dombrowski; motion passed (7-0).

- i. Request for Authorization and Approval to Proceed with Major Repair Projects Authorized by the 69th Legislative Session; OCHE/MUS ITEM 218-103-R0525 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item i., ITEM 218-103-R0525, was made by Regent Hoyer; motion passed (7-0).

- j. Request for Authorization to Construct Major Maintenance Repairs for the Molecular Biosciences Building; MSU Bozeman ITEM 218-2010-R0525 | Attachment #1
- k. Request for Authorization to Purchase the Nopper Complex Located at 900-920 Technology Boulevard in Bozeman, MT; MSU Bozeman ITEM 218-2011-R0525 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment # 3
- l. Request for Authorization to Repair the Atkinson Quadrangle Student Housing Buildings; MSU Bozeman ITEM 218-2012-R0525 | Attachment #1
- m. Request for Authorization to Plan and Design a Gallatin College Building; MSU Bozeman ITEM 218-2013-R0525 | Attachment #1



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A motion for approval of action items j.- m., was made by Regent Folkvord; motion passed (7-0).

- n. Request for Authorization to Amend Ground Lease for Campus Hotel; MSU Bozeman ITEM 218-2014-R0525 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

A motion for approval of action item n., ITEM 218-2014-R0525, was made by Regent Dombrowski; motion passed (6-0). Regent Bough abstained.

- o. Request for Authorization to Construct an Addition to the Bio-Research Building; UM Missoula ITEM 218-1003-R0525 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3
- p. Request for Authorization to Remodel the Women's Basketball Locker Room at Adams Center; UM Missoula ITEM 218-1004-R0525 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3
- q. Request for Authorization to Plan and Design Renovation of the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Complex (HPER); MT Tech ITEM 218-1502-R0525 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action items o.- q., was made by Regent Southworth; motion passed (7-0).

- r. Request for Authorization to Distribute Timber Sales Revenue OCHE/MUS ITEM 218-102-R0525 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item r., ITEM 218-102-R0525, was made by Regent Folkvord; motion passed (7-0).

- Academic Research and Student Affairs Committee | 06:40:20

CONSENT | 06:40:34

Emeriti Faculty:

- a. Natale; UM Missoula ITEM 218-1001-R0525
- b. Coffin; UM Missoula ITEM 218-1002-R0525
- c. Munday; MT Tech ITEM 218-1503-R0525
- d. Granger; MT Tech ITEM 218-1504-R0525
- e. VanDaveer; MT Tech ITEM 218-1505-R0525
- f. McDonald; MT Tech ITEM 218-1506-R0525
- g. Cook; MT Tech ITEM 218-1507-R0525
- h. Cruzado; MSU Bozeman ITEM 218-2001-R0525
- i. Gosswiller; MSU Bozeman ITEM 218-2002-R0525
- j. Mast; MSU Bozeman ITEM 218-2003-R0525
- k. Fleming; MSU Bozeman ITEM 218-2004-R0525
- l. Callis; MSU Bozeman ITEM 218-2005-R0525
- m. Quetchenbach; MSU Billings ITEM 218-2701-R0525

Tenure Faculty:

- n. MT Tech; ITEM 218-1500-R0525
- o. UM Western; ITEM 218-1600-R0525
- p. Helena College; ITEM 218-1900-R0525



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- q. MSU Bozeman; ITEM 218-2000-R0525
- r. MSU Billings; ITEM 218-2700-R0525
- s. MSU Northern; ITEM 218-2800-R0525
- t. Great Falls College; ITEM 218-2900-R0525

A motion for approval of consent items a.- t., was made by Regent Mortenson; motion passed (7-0).

ACTION | 06:41:29

a. Request to Plan Proposals | Executive Summary | Supporting Documentation

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

b. Request for Authorization to form the College of Science at the University of Montana | ITEM 218-1010-LII0525 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

A motion for approval of action item b., ITEM 218-1010-LII0525, was made by Regent Doumbrowski; motion passed (7-0).

Appeal

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

Election of Officers | 06:44:03

Commissioner Christian discussed the process according to Article IV of the BOR by-laws.

Regent Southworth made a nomination for Regent Buchanan to serve as Board Chair; motion passed (7-0).

Regent Mortenson made a nomination for Regent Bough to serve as Vice Chair; motion passed (7-0).

Meeting Adjourned at 4:49 pm.



Montana University System

Approved by the Board of Regents on

7/28/2025

Date

CTC

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

7/28/2025

Date

TB

Todd Buchanan
Chair, Board of Regents

APPENDIX A



**GREAT FALLS
COLLEGE**

**MONTANA STATE
UNIVERSITY**



OTTER PRIDE 2024



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It has been an exciting year for students, staff and faculty of Great Falls College!

Our commitment to fostering community and collaboration has been evident in the revitalization of common spaces, such as the Weaver Library, now a vibrant hub for student life. The next steps include the relocation of support centers like the Military Family and Native American Enrichment Centers, all designed with input from our diverse community.

These initiatives align with the college's ongoing commitment to innovation and community engagement, as evidenced by the introduction of new programs such as veterinary technician, substance abuse and addictions counseling, office support and management and early childhood education. These programs address critical needs and expanding opportunities for students in Great Falls and beyond while helping employers fill workforce voids.

Dr. Stephanie Erdmann
Dean/CEO, Great Falls College



Otter Statistics

14:1 | **100+** | **13**
STUDENT : FACULTY | ONLINE CLASSES | AVG. CLASS SIZE

20+ DEGREE PROGRAMS

BUSINESS & ACCOUNTING | EDUCATION | HEALTH PROFESSIONS
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY | TRADES | TRANSFER PATHS

8+ | **550+**
WORKFORCE & TRAINING CAREER PROGRAMS | HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN DUAL ENROLLMENT

8-WEEK ADVANTAGE

CLASSES OFFERED IN 8-WEEK SESSIONS FOR GREATER FLEXIBILITY

54%

GENERAL EDUCATION STUDENTS PURSUE A 4-YEAR DEGREE
Saving \$\$ by starting here and finishing at a four-year school

260 | **1782** | **18+**
AVG. # OF GRADUATES EACH YEAR | AVG. TOTAL ENROLLMENT | STUDENT CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

50%

OF TUITION COSTS VS. 4-YEAR MONTANA SCHOOLS

6 STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS

ACADEMIC SUCCESS & ACCESSIBILITY | C.A.R.E. PROGRAM
MILITARY FAMILY CENTER | NATIVE AMERICAN ENRICHMENT CENTER
STUDENT FOOD PANTRY | TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE CENTER



New programs at Great Falls College

Veterinary Technician

Beginning in August 2024, Great Falls College will be offering the state's only veterinary technician program. The innovative program will allow students to stay in their hometowns and take the classroom portion through online lectures, with approved veterinary partners helping students with the hands-on portion of the program.

"We think it's a career that will travel well. If you get your license, you can pretty much get a job anywhere." - Dr. Mikell Bodner, Skyline Veterinary Clinic and Great Falls College Advisory Board member

Substance Abuse and Addictions Counseling

In fall 2022, the college began a substance abuse and addictions counseling program. Graduates take an exam to become certified as licensed addictions counselors. In spring 2024, there were 43 students enrolled in the program with 10 scheduled to be the first graduates of the program.

"The most rewarding thing about this job is being afforded the opportunity to see people learn how to live life in a more productive manner and watching them grow." - George Meadors, licensed addiction counselor and Great Falls College Advisory Board member

Office Support and Management

Great Falls College started a new program in office support and management in 2022. The one-year program prepares graduates to work as office clerks in a variety of organizations, and the two-year program prepares students to plan and oversee the work of office staff members. There are 15 students in the two new programs and another 28 in the traditional accounting program.

"It has everything I need to know to be working in business office administration." - Sandra Ortiz, office management and supervision student

Early Childhood Education

In spring 2024, the college welcomed its first class of Early Childhood Education students. Working closely with Great Falls Public Schools, several of the courses will be available through dual enrollment and in working closely with the University of Montana Western, graduates of this two-year degree will be able to transfer and earn a K-12 teaching degree. The first class of students in January 2024 had 11 students who will help address the childcare shortage in Great Falls.

Workforce Development and Training

Great Falls College's Career and technical education department continues to focus on developing programs in partnership with the community to close workforce gaps for industry while training future employees in high-demand, high-wage career fields through programs such as:

Structural welding: a seven-week course designed and taught by industry to prepare students for entering the workforce. Each class has been full beginning with the first class in July 2023.

Certified Nursing Assistant: these monthly classes have helped 289 people become certified since the program's inception in 2021. Students have gone on to receive other medical certifications, including Home Health Aide and Medication Aide I and II.

Commercial Driver's License: the program has helped 66 drivers obtain their permit and 31 students get their Class A license to fill a critical shortage of qualified commercial drivers in the community.

Future Build: an 8-week, job-focused education and training program for at-risk youth and young adults living below the poverty line or re-entering society from the justice system who are interested in construction trades training and job-related skills.

Reach out to the Career and Technical Education department for more information at 406.268.3734 or cte@gfcmu.edu or visit www.gfcmu.edu/cet.



Student and Alumni Highlights



I was drawn to the health information technology program because I was already coding in the field and as I was looking to transition into a manager or leadership role, I knew I needed to advance in my education. The program did really well in preparing me for my current role.

Elise Davis, Health Information Manager at Barrett Hospital in Dillon



The schedule was very open to what I needed. I could do online classes or in-person classes.

Chris DiSalvatore, network support and security



So, my husband is military, and I need a job that can travel. Cybersecurity is great. The job market is great. The pay is great. I feel like I can find a job anywhere.

Megin Bowshhler, cyber security



I was working as a CNA, and I fell in love with the respiratory therapists when I would follow them around doing their rounds and watching what they did, how they did things, the way they interacted with their patients. I was like that's what I want to do. Great Falls College was an option for me because it was remote. It allowed me to stay home and still raise my family.

Taryn Bauwens, respiratory therapy



After I did all of my classes with Great Falls College, I felt successful and prepared to start on my career path.

Eryn Frahm, Great Falls College graduate who then pursued her bachelor's of education from Montana State-Northern on the Great Falls College campus



I wouldn't want to be doing anything else; this is where I want to be. This is a field that I can see myself in for a very long time.

Katie Tabaracci, dental assisting



As far as jobs go, the possibilities are endless.

Leah Sanchez, trades



The thing that I like about this program specifically is that they do a good job of getting us out into all the different options that you have as a physical therapist assistant. I think they do a really good job of that and showing you just how broad of a spectrum there is in the therapy world, and what we can do.

Jesse Grabowska, physical therapist assistant



Moving here and going to school was tough. I have a family of three kids and a husband. Moving away from our support system was hard. If you want something, and you have the determination to do it, nobody can take your education away from you.

Kyani St. Goddard, dental hygiene



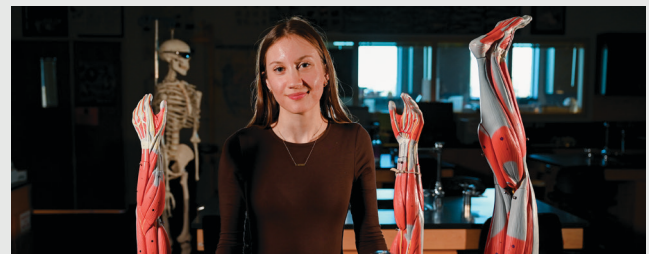
I like the atmosphere. It's a really, really nice campus. There's a lot of one-on-one time with my instructors. I really appreciate that. There's a lot of classes that they have us take like blueprint reading, the CAD classes. It helps us not only understand welding but other things around the field too.

Issac Kloppel, welding



The best part of this program so far has been getting to know all the students around me and getting to build a family. I feel like you don't really get that often with other universities, but here at Great Falls, you really get that home feel.

Jacob Turner, registered nursing



I want to become a nurse so that I can help other people. I have had a great experience at Great Falls College so far. The teachers, my peers are very welcoming and supportive. I have had good experiences with admissions and the counselors here. They have helped me and guided me and convinced me to come back to school, which I'm very thankful for.

Jaida Bynum, nursing

I chose Great Falls College because the proximity to where I was living was good, and in-state tuition is nice. The program's going great. The first year, first semesters were a little tough, pretty demanding. But we're on the homestretch here this last semester and feeling good about the prospects job wise. I've already set up a few interviews and I still have about four months, five months until the program is over. And I believe some of my classmates already have offers on the table for them.

Ismail Baied, dental hygiene

ONE.TWO. FREE!

LEARN, GROW & EASE INTO COLLEGE.

Studies show that freshmen who took dual enrollment classes have a higher retention rate (**84% vs 68%**) and higher grade-point averages (**3.1 vs 2.8**) than freshman who do not take dual enrollment classes.

Dual Enrollment at Great Falls College offers high school students a seamless transition to college, saving time and money.

Students from across northcentral Montana can access dual-enrollment classes either at their high school, online or on the Great Falls College campus.

With the 1-2-Free program, students enjoy their first two classes free and subsequent classes at 50 percent off tuition (although some courses require fees).

In the 2022/2023 school year, 550 dual-enrolled students attended GFC, with some even earning college degrees before high school graduation. For example, 10 welding students saved over \$2,200 each. Obtaining a certificate or associate degree through dual enrollment can shorten general education coursework by one or two years.



Otter Honors 2023

Celebrating outstanding faculty and students of Great Falls College.

DEANS AWARD WINNERS



Teaching Excellence

Marla McFerrin
Surgical Technology



Staff Excellence

Ben McKinley
Plant Operations and
Maintenance



Outstanding Adjunct Faculty

Joleen Cordeiro
Business, Trades and
Technology

STUDENT LEADERS



Great Falls College's Newman Civic Fellow

Dan Harvey



Great Falls College's Service Leader of the Year

Savana Jensen

STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

Biology: Jaida Bynum

Business & Accounting: Alissa Doland

Computer Technology: Ben McEwen

Dental Assistant: Caylee Jones

Dental Hygiene: Reilly English

English: Shana Fronsee

Fine Arts & Education: Bayley Keele

Health Information & Coding: Wesley Hough

Health Information Technology:
Tammy Munly

History & Cultural Studies:
Karson Stensland

Industrial Technician: Dan Harvey

Mathematics: Elliot Roberts

Natural Sciences: Leslie Babb

Paramedic: Morgan Krzys

Practical Nurse: Elizabeth Rosells

Physical Therapist Assistant: Evelyn Soto Acuna

Registered Nurse: Stephanie Oswell

Respiratory Therapist: Christal Korman

Social Sciences & Communication:
Jeremy Dickman

Welding & Fabrication: Nathan Bring

Welding Tech & Fabrication: Justin Chambers



Development Board members serve as community advocates of Great Falls College.

The Development Board is an advisory group that serves Great Falls College in its non-grant fundraising plans to support the priorities of the college. Development Board members are also community advocates of the college, connecting the community to the programs, trainings and educational opportunities offered by the college.

Front row (left to right): Dr. Stephanie Erdmann, Great Falls College CEO/dean; Dr. Toni Sawhill, Great Falls College math faculty; Terrilynn Dahl, retired Great Falls Public Schools teacher; and Lois Spencer, Stephen J. Spencer, DDS business manager.

Back row (left to right): Brian Hoven, Hoven Equipment owner; Randy Williams, Stockman Bank vice president branch manager; Heidi Hockett, Touro Montana director of community affairs; Mike Osweiler, D.A. Davidson senior vice president of business operations; Dwight Holman, Holman Aviation owner; Scott Thompson, Great Falls College executive director of community relations; Casey Schreiner, Alluvion Health chief strategic officer; and Kristi Voboril, executive assistant to the CEO/dean of Great Falls College.

Not pictured: Micah Jam, technical services manager at Calumet Specialty Products; Glenn Bliss, General Distributing owner; Ron Nelson, Front Range Law attorney; Shawn Ostberg, 5 Gen general manager; Tom Jacobson, High Country Strategies founder; and Trevor Floerchinger, ADF Group production manager.

Great Falls College is giving its common spaces face-lifts to promote more family and togetherness.



The Weaver Library

In the summer of 2023, the beautiful Weaver Library got an injection of life when the college brought in study nooks, more comfortable seating equipped with charging stations and standing desks to make it more of a hub for student life.

"Gone are the days of the quiet library," said Ashlynn Maczko, Weaver Library director. "We want to hear collaboration."

The college also moved the Academic Success Center, which offers free tutoring, and Accessibility Services into the Library. The Office of Student Engagement also moved next door to the Weaver Library.

The effort was part of the Facilities Master Plan, a four-step process that was the result of contributions from

every area of campus staff and faculty while also incorporating student input.

The Military Family Center and Native American Enrichment Center

During the summer of 2024, the Military Family Center and Native American Enrichment Center will move from the B-Wing down to more of the heart of campus in the old dental clinic.

Both centers make use of old faculty offices to be study rooms disconnected from the main rooms of the centers.

The new centers, designed with the help of student, faculty and staff feedback, will share a kitchen, and the study rooms will be part of the new centers. The Native American Enrichment Center will have a play space for children.

Student Central & Housing Options

The third phase involves updating Student Central to streamline admissions, advising, the registrar's office, and financial aid. It also includes looking at making the college's beautiful outdoor spaces more of a part of student life.

The final phase is constructing student housing.

"We know that housing is an issue in Great Falls, and some of our programs are the only program of its kind in the state," said Carmen Roberts, executive director of operations. "How do we recruit students if they don't have any place to live?"

Degrees and Certificates

Degrees

Associate of Arts
Associate of Science
Certificate in General Studies
Technical Studies, AAS
Accounting, AAS
Early Childhood Education, CTS, CAS, AAS
Office Support, CAS
Office Management and Supervision, AAS
Substance Abuse and Addictions Counseling, AA
Computer Programming, AAS
Cybersecurity, AAS

Health Professions

Dental Assistant, CAS
Dental Hygiene, AAS

Health Information Coding Specialist, CAS
Health Information Technology, AAS
Physical Therapist Assistant, AAS
Practical Nurse, CAS
Registered Nurse, ASN
Respiratory Therapy, AAS
Surgical Technology, AAS
Veterinary Office, CTS
Veterinary Assistant, CAS
Veterinary Technician, AAS

Trades

Welding Technology and Fabrication, CAS and AAS

AA = Associate of Arts
AAS = Associate of Applied Science
ASN = Associate of Science Nursing
CAS = Certificate of Applied Science
CTS = Certificate of Technical Studies

MEETING YOU WHERE YOU ARE

Great Falls College offers courses and programs in a variety of formats. Some courses can be completed 100% online, while others may be fully face-to-face or offer a combination of different ways to participate.



On-Site

Take classes in person at the Great Falls College campus. Many on-site courses are technology-enhanced, giving students access to high-quality instruction and resources.



Online

Online classes can be taken anywhere! Fit class time into your schedule with no scheduled meeting times. Online courses are not self-paced but do offer flexibility for busy people. Many instructors also offer optional virtual help sessions for students who want extra support.



Live Online

Live Online classes are 100% online using video conferencing tools on scheduled days and times, offering students live instruction without being in a physical classroom. Instructors and students interact live as if in a traditional classroom but may be conveniently located anywhere.



Blended

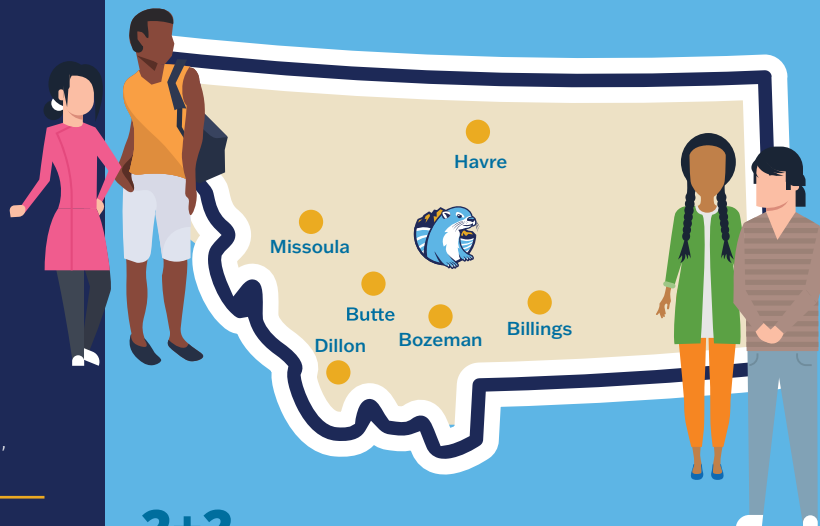
Blended courses offer a combination of reduced live instruction time and the flexibility of online work. The live portions of the course take place on scheduled days and times, either on-site or live online. The rest of the class time takes place entirely online.



HyFlex

HyFlex courses are the most flexible courses model. Students choose how they attend and participate. Join the scheduled time in-person on campus or participate fully online if attending the live sessions is not an option. Some classes also offer live online participation through video conferencing tools.

WHERE WILL YOU GO FROM HERE?



2+2

Start here and **move** to a four-year university after completing your General Studies certificate or Associate degree with concentration areas in:

Business and Accounting • Computer Technology Education • Fine Arts and Humanities • Health Professions • Science, Math and Engineering • Social Sciences

Or **start** here and **stay** here to complete your bachelor's degree through distance programs in:

Social Work • Criminal Justice • Psychology • Business • Accounting • Education • Cybersecurity

1+3

Start here for a year and **transfer** to receive your bachelor's in **Engineering**.

OTHER PATHWAYS

In addition to the pathways listed, our Advising and Career Center helps students tailor their own plans for transfer. Call us at 406.268.3700, text 406.412.3735 or email admissions@gfcmsu.edu.



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