



Montana University System

Minutes **Montana Board of Regents** Conference Call Meeting April 2, 2025

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

Meeting Convened at 2:02 pm

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

Comments by Chair Buchanan | 00:01:01

Chair Buchanan congratulated Regents Folkvord, Hoyer, and Mortenson on their successful and positive confirmation hearings at the legislature.

INFORMATION | 00:02:10

a. MSU Presidential Search Update (no action taken)

Chair Buchanan said this meeting was an opportunity to move forward in the MSU presidential search process that began shortly after President Cruzado announced her plans to retire last August. He reviewed the extensive presidential search process, beginning with the seating of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee under the leadership of Commissioner Christian and with the assistance of consultants Greenwood Asher & Associates. He said the committee held several listening sessions on campus to make sure the members had a thorough understanding of the MSU community's expectations of the next president.

Chair Buchanan said the Search Committee used the information gathered in the listening sessions to build a position profile. He said two candidates were chosen from an exceptional pool of applicants to visit campus and interview with various constituencies. Chair Buchanan added that the Search Committee carefully considered all the comments that were received, and he noted that he was confident in the integrity of the process.

Public Comment

No public comment was received.

Executive Session | 00:05:56

- MSU Presidential Search



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The Board convened an executive session. Chair Buchanan determined the discussion of the Search Committee's recommendation 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 the executive session.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm

APPENDIX A

From: [Gary M. Garland](#)
To: [Casanovas, Jasmine](#)
Subject: Written Public Comment
Date: Monday, March 31, 2025 3:58:01 PM

Hi Jasmine,

I would like to submit a written public comment for the Regents.

Has consideration been given to reorganizing the senior leadership of the MSU system? A thought that I and some of my co-workers have is that having the President of the system also acting in the capacity of Chancellor of the Bozeman campus puts a bias towards the Bozeman campus, causing an overall detriment to the affiliate campuses. This detriment becomes most apparent through program duplication. Would it be more efficient to have the President's office and senior system leadership be based in a more neutral location such as Helena? This would allow them to focus more on the system as a whole, removing the bias towards a particular campus. Plus, it would give the benefit of being near the seat of government for advocacy with the state leadership. Perhaps as time goes on, additional leadership or decision making functions common to all the campuses could be consolidated into this office, easing the financial burden of having certain senior staff on the affiliate campuses in particular. I realize this would be a major undertaking, but felt it would be good to at least bring up the idea for consideration, especially in light of how often we hear the term "One MSU".

Gary Garland