

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**STATE OF MONTANA**

**JUDY MARTZ  
GOVERNOR**



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January 15, 2003

Richard Roehm  
Chairman, Board of Regents  
2500 Broadway  
Helena, MT 59620-3101

Dear Richard:

Due to the legislative session and other activities here, I cannot attend the upcoming Board of Regents meetings on January 16 and 17<sup>th</sup>. However, in my absence I request that this letter be distributed to the Board, expressing my opinion as an ex-officio member of this Board, involving the subject of the search for a new Commissioner of Higher Education.

I believe that before the Board begins a search for a new Commissioner, we need to agree on what it is we are searching for. In the process of doing this, I think the Board needs to have a discussion on the roles and responsibilities of the Office of the Commissioner.

- 1) How do other states fulfill this role?
- 2) What changes would we, as the Board of Regents, like to see in the University System, and what role would the Commissioner's Office have in them?

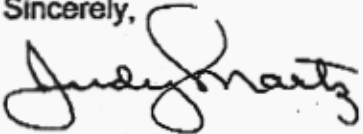
After we have agreed on the appropriate structure, we can then discuss how to achieve it.

I believe that the best way to answer these questions is for the Board to form a task force, which is assigned this responsibility. This Board of Regents Task Force would ideally be made up of regents, students, executive branch designee(s), legislative branch designee(s), business leaders, etc., who could meet and participate in a dialogue on how the administrative part of the system should look. Perhaps we can build upon the work already begun by the Joint Subcommittee on Post-Secondary Education Policy and Budget.

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The Board of Regents has a tremendous opportunity to facilitate a broad ranging discussion through reassessing the structure of the Commissioner's Office, and in the process, reach out and include many groups that may have felt left behind. I know that the dialogue that formulates common goals is good for the students, the employees, and the state of Montana.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter, and I would hope you will receive my suggestions in a positive manner in which we can move forward.

Sincerely,  
  
JUDY MARTZ  
Governor