



MINUTES

Montana Board of Regents
The University of Montana-Missoula
Missoula, MT
November 20 & 21, 2008

Thursday, November 20, 2008

The Board convened at 8:00 am.

Roll call indicated a quorum present.

Regents Present: Stephen Barrett Chair, Clayton Christian Vice Chair, Lynn Morrison-Hamilton, Lila Taylor, Todd Buchanan, Janine Pease, Mitch Jessen, Commissioner Sheila Stearns *ex officio*, Superintendent of Public Instruction Linda McCulloch *ex officio*. Jan Lombardi represented Governor Schweitzer.

Regent Buchanan moved approval of the minutes of the September 22, 2008 Conference Call meeting and the September 25-26, 2008 meeting. Motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner's Report

- Fall Enrollment Update
- Indian Education for All
- Campus Reports (Report Only)

Commissioner Sheila Stearns said her office and the regents received a letter from Senator David Wanzenried in which he requested the Board of Regents make a specific recommendation to the legislature one way or another regarding the proposed Bitterroot Valley Community College.

Commissioner Stearns explained a letter received from Senators Rick Laible and Bob Hawks sent on behalf of the Education and Local Government Interim Committee. The purpose of the letter was to notify the regents and commissioner's office of a change in the legislative budget discussions related to the unified budget of the Board of Education. The letter stated that, by presenting the unified budget request to the Joint Appropriate Subcommittee on Education, the Board of Education will be able to discuss the long-range planning components and coordinated policies and programs included in the budget as well as potential areas of shared budget and accountability measures.

The Six-Mill Levy summary was given by Commissioner Stearns. She reported that forty-one counties in Montana passed the measure and fifteen did not. The Commissioner's office would be looking carefully to see if there are patterns in those counties that did not pass the levy. SilverBow, Hill and Glacier counties passed the levy by the largest percentages.

Tyler Trevor, Associate Commissioner, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) presented the fall enrollment update. He explained the update is significant because Montana has hit the highest enrollment of students in its history. There was an overall increase of 1.2% at the institutions, which included the community colleges. The enrollment



for first-time freshmen increased 4% fall of 2008.

Two-Year Education / Making Opportunity Affordable Project

Deputy Commissioner Mary Sheehy Moe explained the motivation for the creation of the Making Opportunity Affordable Project (MOA) was the concern of national higher education organizations that the United States is no longer the global leader in educational attainment. Montana must produce more college graduates at a time when we will have fewer high school graduates. Montana's MOA strategy is to use our capacity in the two-year colleges to increase productivity throughout the system and to use two-year education as a portal to higher educational attainment.

The next phase in the MOA process involves planning for change which will require commitments from the states involved. Some commitments may include:

- Conducting of policy audits, both regental and statutory
- Creation of collaborative approaches by community, tribal, and community/technical colleges
- Building of networks to make opportunity affordable
- Looking at students' college-going patterns – where, why, persistence rates, costs, and time to degree
- Enhancing cost-effectiveness
- Creation of new models to serve more students

Regent Hamilton requested clarification on the policy audit referenced. Deputy Commissioner Moe responded it would include looking at statutes enacted by the legislature and policies adopted by the regents that have had an impact on two-year colleges and analyzing whether the impact was intended and positive.

Bitterroot Valley Community College (BVCC) District Proposal

9:00 – 9:30	Presentation of Report
9:30 – 10:00	BVCC Trustees Elect Response
10:00 – 10:15	Campus Comments
10:15 – 10:45	Public Comment
10:45 – 11:50	Board of Regents Comments and Discussion

Regent Barrett explained the process to be used for the presentation and comment period of the BVCC agenda topic and said the Board of Regents would need to make a recommendation to the legislature. He clarified that the Board of Regents recommendation was not binding on the legislature. While the legislature makes the final decision, the legislature will seriously consider the recommendation of the Board of Regents. Regent Barrett stated that if the BVCC were to be legislatively authorized, the passage would authorize the allocation of funds not only in the proposed community college district, but at the state level. For every dollar generated by the citizens of Ravalli County, an additional two dollars would be allocated by the state. The Board will hear from the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, from the campuses, and from the public today but will not entertain a motion on the recommendation until it reconvenes on December 4, 2008. Regent Barrett said regents and OCHE will accept written comments up until December 2, 2008.



It was noted that the following area legislators or legislators-elect were in attendance: Senators Dave Wanzenried , Rick Laible, Cliff Larsen, and Carol Williams as well as Representatives Ron Stoker and Sue Malek .

Presentation of the Report

Deputy Commissioner Moe presented OCHE's analysis of the proposed Bitterroot Valley Community College. She explained the statutory process for the approval of a new community college district, which was enacted in 1971. This is the first time this process has been used. The evaluation criteria for requesting and analyzing this is the same as analyzing new programs throughout the system in which a campus needs to show evidence of needs, specifically an assessment of educational needs and the local demand related to the two-year mission of the Montana University System (MUS). The feasibility of implementation as well as negative impacts that might be involved also needs to be disclosed.

Criterion #1 Evidence of Need

- The MUS already currently has twenty locations of higher education.
- Ravalli County is 18th out of fifty-six counties with residents with at least an Associate's degree.
- The University of Montana-Missoula offered lab technology courses which were highly attended, yet has experienced chronic under-enrollment in other courses offered in Ravalli County.
 - ✓ In the UM-Hamilton Higher Education Center, in the 2007-2008 academic year, out of thirty-three courses offered, nine of the classes were cancelled for insufficient enrollment and seven classes were held with fewer than five Ravalli County students.

Criterion #2 Assessment of Education Needs

- There is a need for a comprehensive, data-driven understanding of the educational needs in Ravalli County.
- OCHE has not received information on what the plans of high school graduates are.
- Enrollment projections data indicates that 2/3 of the Ravalli County High School graduates go to UM-Missoula.
- Proximity to another higher education institution must be considered.
- Budget-driven projections given are not grounded in any certainty that students will actually enroll.
- No academic vision guides the plan; degree programs are not identified. Courses are listed, not programs.
- There is an emphasis on adult education as opposed to higher education degree programs, even though adult education was a low priority in the needs assessments conducted to date.

Criterion #3 – Academic and Business Plan

- The academic plan is too vague to guide realistic planning. Not knowing what the degree programs are puts into question the budget itself.
- The timeline for start-up does not allow necessary time to produce quality framework.
- The staffing model is "top-heavy"; too many administrators and not enough faculty.
- Various aspects of the budget need revision, but a more recent revision has



apparently been made.

Deputy Commissioner Moe reminded the board that there are two decisions to be made:

- Whether to recommend that the legislature approve the establishment of a new community college district, and if so;
- Whether to approve the academic and business plans and budget for implementation of programming in the next biennium.

Deputy Commissioner Moe explained that the flow of planning to implementation begins with the identification of specific needs. From there, the academic plan is developed - the likely projections, and the business plan, including the budget. There is concern that the BVCC-effort group has developed their plan in the opposite direction; beginning with budget and generating enrollment projections and an academic plan from there.

Criterion #4 - Potential Benefits and Negative Impacts

Among the likely benefits of a new community college Deputy Commissioner Moe explained:

- Capability to recruit new business and industry.
- Ability to develop pathways between high school and colleges.
- Source of community development and community pride.

However, a new community college could have negative impacts as well, including:

- Erosion of support for other locally funded services; and
- Adding a 12th institution to those funded with state funds which require reallocating already scarce state resources.

Criterion #5 - Alternatives

- Extension campus/higher education center
- Community college service region
- Distance learning
- Restricted community college authorization

BVCC Trustees Elect Response

The following trustees elect provided testimony: Deborah Rogala, board chair, John Robinson, Patti Furniss, Anna Vee Brandborg, Jack Eggensperger, Dr. Greg Seltzer, and Dr. Doug Bower. *See attachment of written testimony.*

Campus Comments

Diane Oldenberg, Director of the Education Opportunity Center of Montana in Lewistown provided informational testimony on the successful business model used by the Education Opportunity Center of Montana. She stated the value of being a satellite campus of MSU-Northern, including the donation of property, satellite classes and on-line classes.

President George Dennison, UM-Missoula, stated that UM will continue to provide higher education in the Bitterroot Valley as UM-Missoula will continue to provide supplementary offerings.

Public Comments

The following people spoke in support of the Bitterroot Valley Community College-Effort:



Terry Ryan, Representative Ron Stoker, Carlotta Grandstaff, Peter Roston, Chris Love, Sarah Monson, Cathleen Driscoll, Richard O'Brien, Jim Rokosch, Kurt Dauderg, Dalana Wilburn, William Bailey, Dixie Stark, Senator Rick Laible, Patricia Wilson Meakin, Jim Olsen, Mark Shula, Gordon Maus, Laurie Jakober, and Victoria Clark.

In addition:

- Marco Ferro, MEA-MFT, requested the Board of Regents address the impact of the sustainable local revenue; think of the impact this will have on the other two-year institutions in the system; and what is the state's responsibility going to be.

Board of Regents Comments and Discussion

Regent Barrett clarified the board's understanding of the importance of education. The reason the report may seem critical is the reality that there are always more good choices than there are good solutions. Balancing the reality of the budget with what the Montana University System can do will be imperative. The Board of Regents' discussion is not about the value of education, but about how to do what it can with what the university system has.

Regent Jessen referenced the failure of the Six-Mill Levy in Ravalli County and expressed concern that the Bitterroot Valley would not be supportive of future mill levies. Commissioner Stearns clarified that some members of the BVCC-effort did offer to help with the 6-Mill Levy campaign.

Regent Pease stated that college initiatives have occurred in many counties throughout Montana in the past. She expressed the following concerns: allegations that UM has not offered adequate courses in the area; a lack of clarity as to who the BVCC-effort expect their students to be; and what programs of study match the needs in the community. The devotion of the BVCC-effort group is clear, but the fundamental questions still need foundational answers.

Commissioner Stearns clarified that OCHE assisted the BVCC-Effort group throughout the entire election process. The BVCC-effort group had access to the OCHE office staff and their expertise, including the office economist and research staff person.

Regent Christian said he believes in the need; the question is in the balancing of resources. His concern has been about the availability of resources and the allocation of those resources throughout the system.

Regent Hamilton said the adult literacy in Ravalli County is within one to two percent of people throughout the state.

Regent Barrett referenced the group of students they are spending \$5000 on to send to Casper, Wyoming for training because of the short-term training offered there. He clarified that Montana already offers some of the same programs. Regent Barrett expressed concern about the business plan and the fact that it was "front-end loaded."

Senator David Wanzenried said the legislature wanted to know how the Board of Regents anticipated making their recommendation to the legislature.



Regent Barrett responded considerable thought had been given to this, and stated that the board will give a definitive answer. Because the BVCC-Effort proposal comes with price tags, the board's recommendation may also address relevant factors and components.

Senator Wanzenried also asked that the board provide a recommendation as to how to improve the statute, and Regent Barrett replied affirmatively.

Regent Buchanan said this is a difficult decision to make, and it should be. He thinks the statute does need to be overhauled because the regents need to be more involved in the process. Creating a new institution is one of the hardest things asked of the regents, and it has been handled appropriately.

Regent Barrett said OCHE will continue to accept written comments until December 2, 2008.

Public Comment

The following people urged the regents to support increased wages for MUS classified staff: Tom Johnson, Tammy McKee, Claire Kelly, Michelle Crowe, and Candi Holt.

Staff and Compensation Committee

The Staff and Compensation Committee met as a committee as a whole. Action was taken on Friday, November 21, 2008 agenda.

ACTION

- a. Regents Professor; Jakki J. Mohr, UM-Missoula ITEM 141-1003-R1108
- b. Regents Professor; Brett L. Walker, MSU-Bozeman ITEM 141-2007-R1108

INFORMATION

Discussion of MUS Optional Retirement Program and general employee retirement issues – Mick Robinson and Kevin McRae, OCHE

Associate Commissioner Mick Robinson addressed the retirement guidance in BOR policy regarding the Optional Retirement Plan (ORP). The Teachers' Retirement Plan (TRS) and Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) both state specifically the amount of time allowed for a retiree to continue in a post-retirement capacity, whereas this is not defined in the ORP. Mr. Robinson stated the Board of Regents need to provide guidance on the definition of a retiree to employees enrolled in the ORP. This is also an issue affecting the MUS Health Benefit Plan. He reminded the board that many of the post-retirement contracts provide positive value to the campuses.

Kevin McRae, Director of Labor Relations, OCHE, explained the current retirement participation as well as age participation in the plans. He said everyone that was hired into a contract faculty, administrative or professional position since 1993 has no option but to enroll in the Optional Retirement Plan.

Commissioner Stearns explained this is a nationwide issue which re-defines retirement and recommended a conference call of the Staff and Compensation Committee be held and be



devoted to this topic because of the fiduciary responsibility of the Board to review and act on this issue.

CONSENT

Staff Items

- a. UM-Missoula ITEM 141-1000-R1108
- b. Request for Employee Participation in Company under Regents Policy 407; UM-Missoula ITEM 141-1001-R1108
- c. MT Tech of The University of Montana ITEM 141-1500-R1108
- d. MSU-Bozeman ITEM 141-2000-R1108
- e. Professor Emeritus of German: Michael Myers; MSU-Bozeman ITEM 141-2001-R1108
- f. Request for Employee Participation in Company under Regents Policy 407; MSU-Bozeman ITEM 141-2002-R1108
- g. MSU-Billings ITEM 141-2700-R1108
- h. Professor Emeritus of Chemistry: Robert Christeck; MSU-Northern ITEM 141-2801-R1108
- i. Professor Emeritus of Automotive Technology: Robert Miller; MSU-Northern ITEM 141-2802-R1108
- j. Professor Emeritus of Electronics Technology: Lloyd Stallkamp; MSU-Northern ITEM 141-2803-R1108
- k. MSU-GFCOT ITEM 141-2850-R1108

Todd Buchanan voiced a concern about the national financial picture and noted two specific frustrations: first, with a process which has the board voting after the fact on employment matters (contracts or raises) which appear to have been already extended to the employee; and second, with the broader issue of state funding and the overall fiscal impact of what the regents are approving, which result in increases in administrative costs. He foresees a huge decrease in federal funding and is afraid that the university system will need to make deep cuts later if we don't economize now.

Commissioner Stearns responded that the process can change with the award of regents professorship in which they can be handled in executive session prior to the notification of the professor or their families.

Administrative, Budget and Audit Oversight Committee

The Administrative, Budget and Oversight Committee met as a committee as a whole. Action was taken on Friday, November 21, 2008 agenda.

ACTION

- a. New Student Fee for ASMSU Sustainability Activities; MSU-Bozeman ITEM 141-2008-R1108

Students emphasized this is not a new fee and is self-sustaining. This was approved by the students in October 2008.



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

b. Change LRBP Authority Only Project Requests; UM-Missoula ITEM 141 1004-R1108

President George Dennison explained that UM-Missoula would like to request an addition \$2 million in spending authority for the planning of the building project. They will come back to the regents with the plan in two years.

Regent Barrett stated he does not believe the item stated what Dennison was saying and didn't give any indication of the change. He also stated concern of the lack of notification time from UM-Missoula on this.

Catherine Swift noted that the regents have the authority to modify an item.

c. Authorization to Request the Montana Legislature to Re-appropriate Funds to Upgrade Existing Campus Buildings; MT Tech of UM ITEM 141-1501-R1108

Chancellor Frank Gilmore explained the item, they have appropriated over \$17.4 Million for this building thus far over a period of two legislative sessions. This request is to include this request to go forth to the legislature to reappropriate the balance for beginning the renovation of the old Petroleum Building.

Mr. Robinson clarified that the old petroleum building was on the regents' priority list, but was not on the top of the priority list.

DISCUSSION

a. 2011 Biennium Budget Discussion

Associate Commissioner Mick Robinson explained the current budget process. Although the specifics are not available at this time, the Governor's budget currently includes: funding for the WICHE and WWAMI slots; full funding for the Governor's Scholarship Program; base funding has been moved forward; and has increases in the health benefits portion in the pay plan. He clarified that the MUS does not have \$35 Million in new funding, but rather \$11.5 Million. The state funds forty-three percent of the university system costs and what is not funded in the executive budget will need to be funded by tuition or spending reductions.

Governor's Budget Director David Ewer said the revenue estimates now are significantly lower than originally projected due to the state of the economy. Regarding possible tuition increases, he urged the Board of Regents to do the best they can with what they have. He asked for careful deliberation and consideration to keep tuition affordable. Mr. Ewer noted that pay plan increases will be modest.

Regent Hamilton stated the need to develop a responsible base that would go forward. She voiced concern about the effect of lower state funding and resulting tuition increases will have on students. She stated that the students have been marginally funded.

President Dennison responded that during the time he has been here, enrollment has increased in the two-year institutions, and the costs have also increased tremendously. He said the state should assume the larger share in the cost of educating students.



Mr. Robinson told the group that to the extent of the discussions with the budget office so far, the projected funding level will require a tuition increase just to maintain the current level of services.

INFORMATION

- a. Audit: MSU-Billings Foundation June 30, 2008 – Unqualified Opinion

Associate Commissioner Robinson said every time an unqualified audit opinion is received, they bring it to the regents as an informational item.

- b. Updated Campus Metrics
- c. UM-COT Facility; UM-Missoula - R. Durringer and M. Headley

Vice President Bob Durringer and Mark Headley gave a presentation on the UM South Campus College of Technology Building, which is the first building slated to be built on the south campus. They explained the south campus master plan.

- d. Annual Report – Recipients of Governor’s Scholarship; OCHE

A summary of the report was distributed to the board members.

CONSENT

- a. Authorization to Modify ITEM 141-1901-R0708 – Accept the Donation of Real Property; UM-HCOT ITEM 141-1901-R1108

This item is to authorize the University of Montana-Helena College of Technology (UMH), to accept the donation of Lot 8 of Block 43 of the Broadwater’s Second Addition to the City of Helena in place of the previously approved Lot 7 of Block 43 of the Broadwater’s Second Addition to the City of Helena of from the Salvation Army, a California non-profit corporation.

- b. Policy Changes to Governor’s Scholarship; OCHE ITEM 141-102-R1108

The Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program (MGSLP) and the Governor’s Scholarship Advisory Council are recommending 4 administrative changes to Board Policy 501.3. The first 3 changes are housekeeping in nature and better clarify the intent of the Council. The first change clarifies the relationship between the MUS Honor Scholarship and a Governor’s Scholarship; the second change makes it clear a merit student must complete, not just take, 24 credits or more each year; and the third change eliminates the date for an extension request. The final change improves the administrative process for re-awarding reverted scholarships.

- c. Appointments to Student Loan Advisory Council; OCHE ITEM 141-103-R1108

The Board of Regents of Higher Education appointed the following nominees to three year terms beginning January 1, 2009 and ending December 31st, 2011, to the Student Loan



Advisory Council: Mick Hanson, Director of Financial Aid for the University of Montana; Brandi Payne, Director of Financial Aid for the Montana State University of Bozeman; Rosie Jamison, Market Manager for U.S. Bank – Student Banking Division; and Bob Cerkovnik, Senior Vice President at First Interstate Bank.

Friday, November 21, 2008

The Board Reconvened at 8:30 AM.

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee met as a committee as a whole and took action.

ACTION

New proposed Board of Regents' Policy 324.1 – High School Student Identification Number OCHE ITEM 141-101-R1108

Tyler Trevor explained this is a critical step to be taken in the data streams with the capability of tracking students from the K-12 system. It is critical that the MUS follow students with the unique identifier. This is the policy that requires the university system to begin collecting the identification numbers. The MSU is currently looking at the capacity to house the numbers. This initial step has been reviewed with campus academic officers.

Regent Hamilton moved approval of ITEM 141-101-R1108. Motion passed 7-0.

Level II Items

- a. Master of Arts in Art History, MSU Bozeman ITEM 140-2005-R0908
- b. Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Food and Bioenergy Systems, MSU-Bozeman ITEM 140-2006-R0908

Provost Dooley said this program is designed to work with their current size of faculty and will admit between four to five students per year. The total enrollment will be a maximum of eight to ten students per year, which is appropriate due to the intense level of interaction needed between students and faculty. This was created by merging student interest with the national need to create degrees in sustainable program areas.

Regent Hamilton moved approval of items a & b. Motion approved 7-0.

INFORMATION

- a. Report on project; Partnering for Student Success: A Retention Plan for the University of Montana –INFORMATION ITEM

Provost Engstrom explained the strong focus on student retention in the collaborative discussions, which involved faculty as well as staff. The goal of UM is to improve student success and for UM to reach the top quartile of public institutions. The report focused on six key issues: preparing K-12 students; transitioning to college; integrating the early college



curriculum; engaging students; strengthening student support; and emphasizing faculty & staff development. They are currently in the implementation phase of this project.

President Dennison clarified that if the students in that program can not complete the program in the designated number of years, then UM covers their tuition in the final portion.

Regent Hamilton asked if they have gathered the information on why some of the students do not complete the programs in four years.

Provost Royce Engstrom responded the reasons fall into 3 categories– financial difficulties, social difficulties, and academic difficulties.

Steve Meloy, Executive Director of Board of Public Education, noted that school counselors are eager to participate and requested consideration of including the involvement of school counselors in this.

Deputy Commissioner Moore explained the result of the internal reviews which have been reviewed by the campuses. She said the review of academic programs is guided by Board of Regent Policy 303.3. Each campus reviews all of its programs at least once every seven years. The results of these internal reviews are presented at the November meeting. It is clear that each campus takes this responsibility seriously – especially as resources are limited.

b. Program Reviews ~ Division of Biological Sciences, Economics - UM-Missoula
INFORMATION ITEM

External reviewers contributed to the thorough appraisal of the Division of Biological Sciences. As a result, some programs will be combined, some will be eliminated, and others will be renamed. The campus will advance Level I and Level II proposals for these changes as appropriate.

The review process for the Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Economics also utilized external reviewers. The decision concerning the future of both programs is to retain them as they are.

c. Program Reviews ~ Nursing, Pharmacy Technology, Surgical Technology - UM
Missoula COT INFORMATION ITEM

Three programs were reviewed – Nursing (AAS in Practical Nursing and AS in Registered Nursing), Pharmacy Technology, and Surgical Technology. All programs are doing well and will be retained.

d. Program Reviews ~ Department of Cell Biology and Neuroscience, Department
of Microbiology, Department of Health and Human Development, Global
Studies Minor, School of Architecture - MSU Bozeman INFORMATION ITEM

MSU elected to combine the review of the Department of Cell biology and Neuroscience and the Department of Microbiology into a single review and made use of external reviewers. The review decision is to retain these programs.



In 2007, the Department of Health and Human Development had a total of 565 undergraduate students and 82 graduate (MS) students. Based on internal review that noted steady growth in enrollment over the last five years and thorough departmental strategic planning efforts, the decision is to retain these programs.

The review of the Global Studies Minor resulted in a recommendation to retain the program with minor adjustments to make it better fit students' needs.

The Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Design and the Master of Architecture are to be retained. The School of Architecture was formally granted a six-year term of accreditation from the National Architectural Accrediting Board in July 2008.

- e. Program Reviews ~ Associate of Science Degree, Emergency Medical Services Paramedic: Associate of Applied Science, Fire and Rescue Technology: Associate of Applied Science, Interior Design: Associate of Applied Science, Medical Billing Specialist: Certificate of Applied Science – MSU Great Falls
COT INFORMATION ITEM

Five programs were reviewed – the AS Degree, EMS Paramedic – AAS, Fire & Rescue Technology – AAS, Interior Design – AAS, and Medical Billing Specialist – Certificate of Applied Science. All programs are to be retained, but the Fire and rescue Technology Program is to be reviewed again in three years in order to track progress of recent significant changes.

- f. Program Reviews ~ Health Promotion, Bachelor of Science; Civil Engineering Technology, Bachelor of Science; Civil Engineering Technology, Associate of Applied Science; Civil Engineering Technology, minor Industrial Technology (Teaching), Bachelor of Science; Industrial Technology (Non-Teaching), Bachelor of Science; Biology - MSU-Northern
INFORMATION ITEM

Seven programs were reviewed – Health Promotion (BS), Civil Engineering Technology (BS,AAS, and minor), the BS in Industrial Technology (teaching and non-teaching), and the BS in Biology. All programs are to be retained, but enrollments are to be monitored closely, and targeted marketing efforts will be implemented and impacts assessed. The Industrial Technology degree has been tasked to consolidate courses into a focused core.

- g. Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) Accreditation Site Visit to MSU-Billings. October 13-15, 2008

Chancellor Sexton will prepare a response to the accreditation report and will make a step-by-step action plan.

- h. NWCCU Focused Interim visit to Miles Community College, October 23, 2008

President Hicswa reported that MCC has implemented response to the two issues.

- i. Distance Learning Campus Collaboration (MSU & MSU Billings)



Tom Gibson, Director of Distance Learning, OCHE, explained the efficiencies used to better serve the students. The collaborative process was used to make distance learning seamless and more affordable to students. This allows students to begin an engineering degree from MSU-Bozeman at MSU-Billings. Prior to this, the students had to take extra time to complete their degrees if they transferred to MSU-Bozeman. This allows a two-year transfer student to transfer to Bozeman seamlessly. Dr. Gibson noted that the students will be taking these courses from MSU-Bozeman, but at the Billings COT rate. This is very competitive in-state, but not as competitive for out-of-state students.

j. Transferability Progress Report

Deputy Commissioner Moe presented the faculty learning outcomes councils, which included: disciplines, prefixes and council leader contact information. A Transferability Initiative newsletter has also been created.

Regent Pease asked what kind of report they consider making to the legislature. Dr. Moe responded that there will be at least twelve disciplines completed and possibly more. This makes the pathway from high school to college more seamless and easily understood. The process and examples will be demonstrated to the legislative Joint Appropriations Subcommittee.

k. College Portrait Report

Deputy Commissioner Moore said participation has been voluntary and that it is a transparency issue. This allows students and parents to have a trustworthy source. UM-Missoula, MSU-Bozeman and MSU-Billings are already participating in this.

Commissioner Stearns said the rest of the campuses will all be participating in this in the near future. Most accredited colleges throughout the country are gradually being added to this.

President Dennison said this was developed for four year schools and does not know yet if two-year institutions will be included at some future time or not.

CONSENT

Level I Memorandum CONSENT ITEM

Regent Barrett moved approval of Level I Memorandum. Motion passed 7-0.

Committee Report: Staff and Compensation Committee

ACTION

Commissioner Stearns explained the Regents Professorship and the importance of it. This is a promotion to a category rarely awarded to a full professor. This is a professor that is recognized nationally and internationally and is a moment of celebration and recognition.

- a. Regents Professor; Jakki J. Mohr, UM-Missoula ITEM 141-1003-R1108



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Provost Engstrom introduced Professor Jakki Mohr as a professor who excels in both teaching and research, has earned UM's highest award from students, been professor of the year and whose textbook is used nationally

- b. Regents Professor; Brett L. Walker, MSU-Bozeman ITEM 141-2007-R1108

Provost Dooley introduced Professor Brett Walker. He has high levels of achievement and has received recognition nationally and internationally in Japanese history and culture. Professor Walker has provided outstanding leadership as chair of the history teachers.

Regent Christian made motion to approve items a & b. Motion passed 7-0.

INFORMATION

Discussion of MUS Optional Retirement Program and general employee retirement issues – Mick Robinson and Kevin McRae, OCHE

CONSENT

Staff Items

- a. UM-Missoula ITEM 141-1000-R1108
- b. Request for Employee Participation in Company under Regents Policy 407; UM-Missoula ITEM 141-1001-R1108
- c. MT Tech of The University of Montana ITEM 141-1500-R1108
- d. MSU-Bozeman ITEM 141-2000-R1108
- e. Professor Emeritus of German: Michael Myers; MSU-Bozeman ITEM 141-2001-R1108
- f. Request for Employee Participation in Company under Regents Policy 407; MSU-Bozeman ITEM 141-2002-R1108
- g. MSU-Billings ITEM 141-2700-R1108
- h. Professor Emeritus of Chemistry: Robert Christeck; MSU-Northern ITEM 141-2801-R1108
- i. Professor Emeritus of Automotive Technology: Robert Miller; MSU-Northern ITEM 141-2802-R1108
- j. Professor Emeritus of Electronics Technology: Lloyd Stallkamp; MSU-Northern ITEM 141-2803-R1108
- k. MSU-GFCOT ITEM 141-2850-R1108

Regent Barrett moved approval of Items b & f. Motion passed 7-0.

Regent Hamilton moved approval of Items e, h, i, and j. Motion passed 7-0.

Regent Barrett moved approval of Items a, c, d, g, and k. Motion passed 5-2, with Regents Taylor and Buchanan voting no.

Kindergarten to College

- Dual Enrollment and Class 8 Licensure Issues



Tom Gibson stated the MUS continues to work with OPI on Class 8 licensure in the accrediting and licensing of faculty in an expeditious manner.

Director Steve Meloy said the distance learning and postsecondary dual credit license was assigned to the Board of Public Education and the new rule will be enforced beginning fall of 2009. It is now at the Office of Public Instruction with implementation responsibilities. He stated we need to do what is right for students.

- College Readiness

The purpose is to provide a high level overview of college-readiness of Montana High School Students. Montana students scored above national averages on SAT and ACT tests in 2008.

Sample questions:

1. Montana's averages look good, then why do approx one-third of entering freshmen require some form of remediation;
2. Why do so many high school students take the MUSWA when ACT and SAT now offer writing assessments;
3. How does Montana's college continuation rate compare to the percent of students taking admission exams; and
4. How do other states leverage entrance exams to increase college participation rates and preparation?

Regent Pease suggested taking this list of questions to the K-College workgroup meeting.

President Dennison stated there are one time only funds in a UM budget initiative to work with ten to twelve school districts to find out what kinds of programs and assessments are used throughout the public K-12 schools. They look at how the course taking patterns of high school students match up with how the students do when they get into college. He stressed the importance of working together on the outcome assessments.

The regents agreed to refer the list of questions to the K-College committee.

- Electronic Transcript Pilot Project

Tyler Trevor said this is to implement an electronic transcript program that would go from kindergarten through higher education on a state-wide basis. This would allow for a seamless transfer of transcripts from K-12 to the university system in addition to going from university to university. This can also provide data that could answer questions such as what kind of course work best prepares students for college. The three phases involved include: Phase 1: data entry; Phase 2: moving that data around from school to school; and Phase 3: addresses questions such as math readiness. He said OCHE wants to determine a set of recommendations of what the MUS is concerned about, what the cost is, and what benefits would be. They will begin entering data in December 2008.

- Distance Education



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Tom Gibson gave an update of the continuing growth of distance education, including increases in academic programs and courses.

- Indian Education for All

Deputy Commissioner Moore gave the history of the Board of Regents support, including the American Indian tuition waiver; the Indian Education For All work group; and the focused plan in 2006.

- Recognition of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Linda McCulloch

Commissioner Stearns introduced Superintendent of Public Instruction—elect, Denise Juneau, and the board commended outgoing Superintendent of Public Instruction, Linda McCulloch.

COMMITTEE REPORTS, DISCUSSION & ACTION

Committee Report: Administrative, Budget and Audit Oversight Committee

ACTION

- a. New Student Fee for ASMSU Sustainability Activities; MSU-Bozeman ITEM 141-2008-R1108 Attachment

Regent Hamilton urged caution to the students that when they bring these fees forward, this is a reminder that this is an ongoing fee that will come at a cost for future years as well. She supported the project, but raised concerns of the fee.

Regent Christian moved approval of item a. Motion passed 7-0.

- b. Change LRBP Authority Only Project Requests; UM-Missoula ITEM 141 1004-R1108.

Regent Christian moved approval of item b. Motion passed 7-0.

- c. Authorization to Request the Montana Legislature to Re-appropriate Funds to Upgrade Existing Campus Buildings; MT Tech of UM ITEM 141-1501-R1108

Chancellor Gilmore explained this request is to ask legislature to reappropriate the balance at the completion of the building, which is expected to be approximately \$2 Million.

Regent Christian moved approval of item c. Motion passed 7-0.

DISCUSSION

- a. 2011 Biennium Budget Discussion



INFORMATION

- a. Audit: MSU-Billings Foundation June 30, 2008 – Unqualified Opinion
- b. Updated Campus Metrics
- c. UM-COT Facility; UM-Missoula - R. Durringer and M. Headley
- d. Annual Report – Recipients of Governor's Scholarship; OCHE

CONSENT

- a. Authorization to Modify ITEM 141-1901-R0708 – Accept the Donation of Real Property; UM-HCOT ITEM 141-1901-R1108
- b. Policy Changes to Governor's Scholarship; OCHE ITEM 141-102-R1108
- c. Appointments to Student Loan Advisory Council; OCHE ITEM 141-103-R1108

Regent Christian moved approval of consent agenda. Motion passed 7-0.

- a. Higher Education Opportunity Act – Mick Hanson

Mick Hanson, Director of Financial Aid, UM-Missoula, updated the regents on the passage of the Higher Education Opportunity Act. Pell grant disbursements are 20% higher than this time last year. He stated they expect a \$5-6 Million increase in financial aid for students attending UM-Missoula for next academic year. Ninety percent of public tuition and fees are covered by Pell Grants compared to 80% last year. He noted that no one should ever feel, regardless of how poor their parents are, that they can't go on to higher education. The country needs to provide access to all who want to attend higher education. Students must be at least half-time students in order to qualify for most financial aid.

Commissioner Stearns asked Mr. Hanson asked if this is good that the amount has been increased. On one hand, it is good, but on the other hand, it means students will be graduating with more debt incurred. Mr. Hanson replied that increased access is good as we know students can earn more with a degree.

- b. Montana Student Loan Update – Jim Stipcich

Jim Stipcich, SAF, gave an update on student loans. All Montana federal student loans are being met this year. Private loans have been quite successful, Mr. Stipcich noted, although they have found the cost of the private loans have increased. The United States Department of Education has implemented a "Purchase" program for academic year 2007-09 loans and a "participation" program for academic year 2008-09 loans to ensure access to Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) loans. Additionally, MHESAC can sell loans to the Secretary of Education or other programs in order to ensure availability of loans. The interest rates for student loans have now stabilized. He noted that liquidity is not generally available for new financings overall. Mr. Stipcich will update the regents as information becomes available regarding the availability of student loan programs beyond academic year 2009-2010.



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Supercomputer Presentation – Evan Barrett and Alex Philp

Evan Barrett, Chief Information Office of the Governor’s Office of Economic Development, gave the overview of the history of the supercomputer process in Montana. The Governor’s vision is to improve the technology and infrastructure throughout Montana. Mr. Barrett explained the supercomputer is co-owned by MT Tech and the Department of Administration.

Alex Philp, business owner, explained the desire to employ Montana graduates in his business, which does work for federal, state and private sector where they have to do very high level calculations. The Supercomputer will be valuable in dealing with these very large problems, including usage of the simulation labs and geo-spatial information.

Regent Barrett explained the board would adjourn this meeting until December 4, when it will meet via conference call to take action regarding the BVCC. The opportunity for public written comments on the proposed BVCC-effort which can be submitted up until December 2, 2008.

Regent Christian moved the meeting adjourned until December 4th to conduct a vote on the BVCC. Motion passed 7-0.

Executive Session *UM Alumni Association Board Room*

- Staff; MSU-Bozeman
- Naming of Campus Library
- Litigation Update

Posted on

Approved by the Board of Regents on

Date

Date

Sheila M. Stearns
Commissioner of Higher Education
and Secretary to the Board of Regents

Steve Barrett
Chair, Board of Regents