



The University of Montana-Helena

COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

DATE: August 16, 2010
TO: Board of Regents
FROM: Daniel J. Bingham, PhD
Dean/CEO
UM-Helena College of Technology
RE: Campus Update Report for the September 2010 Board of Regents' Meeting

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- Dr. Nathan Munn, Psychology Faculty and General Education Department Chair, presented "Self Evidence: Cognitive Neuroscience and Consciousness as a Variable" at the international conference Toward A Science of Consciousness sponsored by the Center for Consciousness at The University of Arizona.
 - The Nursing Department has achieved a 100% pass rate on the NCLEX licensing exam for its 2010 LPN and RN graduates.
 - Two faculty members, Dave Jones in Automotive Technology and Michelle Holt in English, were recognized with Excellence in Teaching awards at the NISOD annual conference in Austin, TX.
 - Karen Raphael-Conley, faculty member in Interior Space Planning and Environmental Design, accompanied a group of students to the NeoCon World Trade Fair in Chicago to expose them to innovative design technologies for the future.
 - Mary Lannert and Christy Stergar of Continuing Education attended the LERN Summer Institute in Cleveland on marketing lifelong learning opportunities through continuing education.
 - Faculty members Karl Kruger (Aviation Maintenance), Tom Jungst (Machine Tool Technology) and Steve Lewis (English) attended professional development training in their various disciplines this summer.
 - UMH Student Center got new carpet and paint over the summer
 - Associated Students of UMH are purchasing new soft furniture for the student center
 - The classrooms on the second floor of the Donaldson campus got new carpet and paint over the summer as well as some minor remodeling to make the classrooms more usable
 - Construction of the Airport campus expansion is underway
 - UMH with the assistance of Missoula has implemented on-line fee payment for students beginning with the Fall semester
 - UMH added a health insurance option for students beginning with the Fall semester
 - UMH implemented a print server management system to track student print usage which includes a 400 page (\$20) per semester printing allowance. Students will have to purchase additional authority to print beyond the 400 pages per semester.
 - UMH purchased several piece of new educational equipment including; welders, lathes, mills and automotive system trainers
 - UMH is implementing a new software system for our Retail Part Sales department that will allow students to experience how real world repair shops work. Students will be able to requests parts

through computers located in the class labs rather than writing them on paper and walking them to the parts window.

- **Tobacco Free Campus** – On July 1st, 2010 UM-Helena joined several other campuses across Montana in adopting a tobacco free campus policy. The college has a vital interest in maintaining a safe and healthy environment for its students, faculty, staff and visitors. Consistent with these concerns and state law, a tobacco free environment has been established to prohibit the use of tobacco products on all campus properties owned, operated or leased by the college. The policy also prohibits any financial connection to the tobacco industry or related corporate sponsorship. The policy was the work of a task force including student, faculty and staff representatives in response to a recommendation brought to the College Council by the Associated Students of the University of Montana-Helena.
- **Enrollment Growth Continues & Summer Pell Grants Increase**– In response to expanded scheduling and course offerings, as well as the availability of additional Pell grant funding from the federal government, UM-Helena experienced a 63% increase in summer term enrollment with 303 students attending. The number of summer attendees receiving Pell grant monies rose 583% from 24 to 164, while total funds disbursed for summer term increased by 859% from \$27,000 to \$258,000. Currently fall semester enrollment is running 18% ahead of last year's record attendance with
- **MUS Student Insurance Plan** – UM-Helena along with MSU Great Falls has joined the MUS Student Insurance Plan consortium. Effective fall 2010 all students enrolled in 4 or more credits are required to maintain health insurance coverage and have the opportunity to purchase the student insurance plan offered through Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Montana. To date the participation rate in the student insurance plan is 13%.
- **Financial Aid Online**– In addition to transitioning from the federal FFLEP to the Direct Loan program, this summer the Financial Aid Office also implemented Financial Aid Self Service (FASS) which allows students to receive and accept their financial aid awards via My UMH, the secure student portal for student transactions on the college's website.
- **Staff Article on New Student Advising Published** – Suzanne Hunger, Director of Advising and Retention, had an article published in the July 2010 edition of *Recruitment & Retention in Higher Education*, a national newsletter on current trends and best practices in enrollment management. The article entitled "Yikes, Applications are Up by 36%: How One College Faced an Enrollment Jump with No Increase in Advisors", details how the college's first semester advising program has evolved to meet increasing enrollment demands based on more efficient use of existing resources.
- **TRIO Student Support Services** - UM-Helena was officially notified by the U.S. Department of Education that our application for a federal grant to administrate a TRIO Student Support Services program was selected for funding. The purpose of this program is to increase the academic success, persistence, graduation and transfer rates of 1st generation, low-income and disabled students at two year colleges. Research on our student population conducted preparing the grant application demonstrates that the need for additional resources to support these students at UM-Helena is great with approximately half our students being the first in their family to attend college, a third meeting the federal definition of low income and one out of every ten having a disability. The grant will provide \$220,000 in funding each year for a period of up to 5 years, the majority of which will support new staff dedicated to providing academic and personal support to 140 student participants each year.