



## MINUTES

### Montana Board of Regents

Office of Commissioner of Higher Education, Helena

January 13, 2011

**Thursday, January 13, 2011**

Roll call indicated a quorum present.

Regents present: Chairman Clay Christian, Vice-Chair Janine Pease, Regents Lynn Hamilton, Stephen Barrett Todd Buchanan, Teresa Borrenpohl, and Angela McLean. Commissioner Sheila Stearns *ex officio* was also present. Governor Brian Schweitzer, *ex officio*, was represented by Dan Villa by telephone. Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau, *ex officio*, was excused.

Chairman Clayton Christian moved approval of the November 19-20, 2010 minutes. Motion passed 7-0.

Comments by Chairman Christian and Current Issues

Chairman Christian told the board topics included in MUS presentations to the legislative committees will focus on increased enrollment, a decision on tuition rates will not be made until the May BOR meeting, affordability, decreased remediation, increased college participation, the MUS data base, and the shifting of funds in the different budget packages.

Commissioner Sheila Stearns reported that she spoke to the legislature on the value of a college education, referenced the importance of how a full college education experience makes for a fuller experience, and the effect of a robust public university system on the economy.

Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) Requirements for Core Themes *UM President Royce Engstrom and Dean Joe Schaffer, MSU-Great Falls COT*

President Royce Engstrom, UM, gave a presentation on the new NWCCU accreditation standards, saying the accreditation process is the key mechanism to ensure a high degree of quality, and involves an intense peer review process. The five standards NWCCU is now using include: mission, core themes, and expectations; resources and capacity; planning and implementation; effectiveness and improvement; and mission fulfillment, adaptation, and sustainability.

Dean Joe Schaffer explained how the new standards affects campuses by providing a framework for the process for the campus; linking institutional planning with resource allocation; core indicators of institutional effectiveness; and setting key performance indicators for the campus. This aids the campuses with alignment with their strategic plan, mission and vision. MSU Great Falls COT has three main priorities consisting of increasing the number of adult learners, engaging more high school students in college, and to increase transfer activities.



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Dr. Stearns said the mission differentiation work the campuses completed have helped with the accreditation process. She said the accreditation process is a national discussion and that the board will receive material about the core themes of each of the campuses throughout the process.

Deputy Commissioner Sylvia Moore said members of the board will be included throughout the campus processes.

### MUS Website Redevelopment Project – *Tyler Trevor*

Associate Commissioner Tyler Trevor explained this is a new project to utilize the website for increased communication and that will be modeled after best systems across the country. The intent is for the website to be a tool for students, high school counselors, and members of the public. The final product will be shown at the July BOR meeting.

### System and Campus Dashboard Indicators – *Tyler Trevor*

Commissioner Stearns said the dashboard indicators relate to outputs and alignment with the strategic plan and the purpose is to have data of quality and usefulness.

Mr. Trevor said with every strategic plan goal there are campus indicators. He showed several measures of college participation and the data behind the metrics, and what percentage of students in Montana public high school graduates enroll in the MUS in the fall semester immediately following graduation.

Regent Lynn Hamilton recommended putting a narrative summary on the website to help people understand the data more clearly.

### Legislative Session Update

Kevin McRae, Director of Labor Relations and Communication, explained the bill tracking process used by the MUS system office and communicate plans indicating where the impact to the MUS is in the different legislative budgets and decisions.

Deputy Commissioner of Fiscal Affairs, Mick Robinson, explained the base budget the legislature will begin with as compared to the executive budget.

## **INFORMATION**

### a. Progress Report - UM-Missoula Biomass Project

President Royce Engstrom said UM-Missoula is proceeding with this project and are doing due diligence.

Bob Duringer, Vice President for Administration and Finance, UM, gave a progress report on the biomass project. Progress includes: held listening sessions; will hold an answering session February 9, 2011; completed a financial feasibility analysis; worked with the Department of Administration regarding Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds; and have received a planning grant from the Department of Environmental Quality. Mr. Duringer



assured the board UM will comply with the Montana Environment Policy Act (MEPA). He said educational opportunities will be integrated into the project as well.

Regent Barrett requested data on the amount of fiscal savings expected and information about the company's assurances of energy savings. Mr. Durringer offered to write a paper answering the questions and to distribute to the regents.

b. Campus Athletic Reports

Mick Robinson noted that the campus schedules show a positive bottom line, participation rates, and academic information. President Engstrom added that the information focuses on the link of student athletes needing to be students first and also athletes.

Regent Lynn Hamilton asked about Title IX compliance. Commissioner Stearns responded that the campuses periodically examine NCAA and NAIA compliance.

c. Campus Energy Conservation Projects - MSU-Bozeman

Craig Roloff, MSU-Bozeman Vice President of Administration and Finance, reported that MSU has contracted for an audit on energy projects and systems. He noted MSU will have over 100 potential energy conservation projects and will work with a consultant to develop a list of what they believe are the most practical projects to pursue in the near future. At that point, MSU would determine whether or not to proceed with the contract.

The board concurred that they will need to know information regarding the guarantor and specifics in the guarantor arrangement and financial information before proceeding. Mick Robinson agreed to work with MSU in preparation for the March BOR meeting, in clarification of language and in determining exactly what approval is requested. Regent Hamilton recommended referencing the process used at MSU-Northern for a similar project.

d. Governor's Postsecondary Scholarship Annual Report

Deputy Commissioner Moore presented the summary on the governor's postsecondary scholarship report, which has serviced 6700 students since the inception of this scholarship. She noted that the completion rates for students receiving this scholarship will be tracked.

Bruce Marks, Director of Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program (MGSLP) explained the statute requires need and merit-based aid be awarded in equal measures. If need based recipients are not renewing, then that money may be awarded to other recipients, but has to stay within that pool of students and funding pool.

Tyler Trevor noted that Montana would have to double the amount of need-based aid in the state in order to reach the regional average.

e. BOR Policy 806.1, *Supervising Teachers; Payment, Report*

Deputy Commissioner Moore explained that Montana teachers remain at the same salary levels as in past years, and that there is salary competition from the private industry. Dr. Moore said she will take this report to the Council of Deans and bring a proposal, including



fiscal implications, back to the BOR.

f. Level I Memorandum

Dr. Moore pointed out there is one termination of a program included in this document.

g. Level II Memorandum (for action at March BOR meeting)

Regent Steve Barrett told the board he wants the Level II Memorandums to include information on the number of students to be served, amount of tuition involved, whether the program is self-sustainable, and financial implications in all requests. Regent Barrett said he was concerned if there is adequate clinical space for the MSU-Great Falls COT proposal. Regent Buchanan concurred. Dr. Moore will inform the academic officers of the additional information needed.

h. Progress Report - Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)

Deputy Commissioner Moore reported that the new EPSCoR Track I grant is in process of being reviewed by the National Science Foundation (NSF). She noted that Montana's application establishes a new research consortium and the EPSCoR director will report to Moore. Other EPSCoR grants including the Department of Energy EPSCoR grant that is up for renewal will be consolidated under the MUS EPSCoR Director's oversight.

i. Policy 401 Research Reports

- Data Report
- Federal Initiatives Report

*"Annually, at the January regents' meeting, UM-Missoula and MSU-Bozeman, as representatives of the affiliated campuses, shall submit to the commissioner of higher education a report summarizing the research and technology transfer activities for the previous fiscal year." They also "shall coordinate requests for federal initiatives... The report will be submitted to the commissioner's office prior to campus representatives sharing it with Montana's federal delegation and presented to the board annually at the January meeting."*

*"Any proposal included in the federal initiatives request that proposes a subcontract or sub-grant with a non-governmental organization must be approved by the board of Regents in advance of submission to the federal delegation."*

Dr. Moore referenced the UM and MSU data compiled for the annual report and the one-page informational briefs that summarize the benefits of federal initiative requests to the state of Montana.

**CONSENT**

- a. Staff Item; MSU Extension Service ITEM 150-2400-R0111
- b. Staff Item; MSU-Great Falls COT ITEM 150-2900-R0111
- c. Staff Item; OCHE ITEM 150-100-R0111
- d. UM and UM Foundation Operating Agreement; UM-Missoula ITEM 150-1008-R0111
- e. Residence Hall Room Renovation; MSU-Bozeman ITEM 150-2001-R0111
- f. Repair/Replace Residence Hall Roof; MSU-Billings ITEM 150-2701-R0111



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- g. Montana Rural Physician Incentive Program (MRPIP); OCHE ITEM 150-101-R0111

Regent Barrett moved approval of consent items a-g. Motion passed 7-0.

Public Comment Faculty:

Neil Moisey, UM-Missoula, Marvin Lansverk, MSU-Bozeman, and Doug Coffin, UM, spoke on advocacy of the university system, quality of faculty, and the need for funding for higher education.

Montana Associated Students (MAS) Leader Reports

Students Kayla Miller, MSU-Billings, Blake Robertson, MSU-Bozeman, Jenifer Gursky, UM-Missoula, Mike Stihls, MSU-Bozeman, and Janelle Booth, MSU-Bozeman spoke on the value and importance of student involvement with the legislative session.

The board recognized the service and commitment of Regent Janine Pease to the board, whose term expires Feb 1, 2011.

The board recessed for the purpose of executive session at 1:00 PM. The meeting reconvened at 2:00 PM.

Executive Session

- Honorary Degrees; MSU-Bozeman
- Honorary Degree; MT Tech
- Honorary Degree; UM-Missoula
- Personnel Matters

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Approved by the Board of Regents on

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Date

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Date

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

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Clayton Christian  
Chair, Board of Regents