



The University of Montana – Helena

DATE: October 24, 2011

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: Daniel J. Bingham, Ph.D.
Dean/CEO
UM-Helena College of Technology

RE: Campus Update Report for the November 2011 Board of Regents Meeting

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- The Airport campus remodel and roofing project has been completed
 - Donaldson Building is getting an HVAC upgrade from State energy project funds
 - We are developing a plan to move to a VOIP (voice of internet protocol) telephone system
 - UM-Helena's Financial Aid department dispersed \$5.3 Million and packaged over 1800 students for the fall 2011 term with an average of \$3,700 in grant money offered per student. Valerie Curtin, Director of Financial Aid, is currently serving as the Montana Association of Financial Aid Administrators (MASFAA) President and is on the Rocky Mountain Association of Financial Aid Administrators (RMASFAA) Executive Board.
 - The fall 2011 semester has brought a number of changes to the delivery and location of student services on campus. The new Advising, Learning and Career Center (ALCC), formerly the ACCESS Center, will continue to provide academic support for students, but will also now provide a centralized location for the college's professional staff advisors providing academic, transfer and career advising for new and continuing students.
 - Disability and Veterans Services, as well as the college's contracted mental health counselor, will join the new TRIO-Student Support Services program in a brand new space in Room 119 on the Donaldson campus.
 - The Registrar's Office will occupy vacated space in Enrollment Services which will help better facilitate "one stop" delivery of services to students.
 - Full-time academic and student services support will be available at UM-Helena's newly remodeled Airport Campus which houses the college's trades-technology programs.
 - The Career Service Coordinator, Alan Thompson is assisting the Nursing Department with its Career Fair for Practical Nursing students on November 15 where eight employers will be represented. Alan Thompson has also presented career information to students in the high school completion program Access to Success.
 - November will bring several Career Workshops to campus including one on completing state applications.
 - The Director of Student Success, Suzanne Hunger has presented workshops to developmental math classes and first year automotive students. "Dealing with Test Anxiety," "Improving Memory," and "Time Management" have been offered. The 15 – 20 minute workshops will continue in the fall and the topics will include, "Creating a Support System," "Reading a Textbook," and "Developing Positive Habits."
 - The Director of Student Success and the Career Services Coordinator will join the Academic Advisor in kick-off events for spring 2012 advising and registration. The events will be held in the Student

Center on October 31 and on November 7. These professional advisors will assist faculty in the General Education and Technical programs by advising continuing students in groups with cohorts centered on each program.

The advisors, with the help the administrative associate, have developed new forms for advising that stress planning and completion through the use of Semester Goals which are based on the student's earned credits. These goals incorporate advising, transfer, and career plans.

- The Learning Center has provided 601 hours of tutoring for the first half of the semester and has provided 2552 hours of access to computers, tutors, and study areas.
- UM-Helena's Financial Aid department dispersed \$5.3 Million and packaged over 1800 students for the fall 2011 term with an average of \$3,700 in grant money offered per student. Valerie Curtin, Director of Financial Aid, is currently serving as the Montana Association of Financial Aid Administrators (MASFAA) President and is on the Rocky Mountain Association of Financial Aid Administrators (RMASFAA) Executive Board.
- For a fifth consecutive fall term, the college has achieved record breaking enrollment with a headcount of 1,679 students, a 12% increase over the past year with FTE increasing 4% to 1,113. Over the past five years the college has grown at an average rate of 14% per year nearly doubling its headcount enrollment. This year's growth is primarily attributed to continuing growth trends in retention, high school outreach programs, and readmitting students. After a two year decline, part-time enrollment has increased 6% once again representing the majority of students. Applications for admissions once again exceeded 800 received for the fall semester.
- There are now 111 participants in the TRiO program. Several workshops have been held this fall for program participants including scholarship exploration & essay writing and financial literacy workshops. Two financial literacy workshops are scheduled for November and three more workshops focusing on test anxiety as well as test taking strategies prior to final exams.
- Josh Bennett has been promoted to Retail Services Manager with his new responsibilities to include administration of UM-Helena's bookstore and food services. Josh's charge is to continue to develop the college's retail operations in a sustainable manner that expands the quality of service available to our campus community in these areas. With a successful pilot project conducted last spring, be looking for the installation of an espresso counter at the Donaldson Campus as well as potential expansion of food services to the Airport Campus late next spring or fall of 2012.
- The bookstore had a very successful fall semester with laptop sales thriving and a positive response from students to the remodeled bookstore.
- Food services is working on introducing healthier menu options, starting with a new chicken fillet tossed salad. They are also working on bringing in more "grab and go" options for students on a tight schedule.
- Cindy Yarberry, Disability and Veterans Services Office Director, has over 100 students with disabilities registered with her office this semester. She participated in online training about the legalities of online technology in September. Tammy Steckler, Veterans Services Program Coordinator, is assisting about 100 veterans who are receiving G.I. Bill benefits this fall. She is beginning a Veterans Advisory Council in October and has plans to implement a Veterans Student Club as well.