

The University of Montana Western

CAMPUS REPORT: Board of Regents Meeting (November 20-21, 2014)

Roberta D. Evans, Chancellor (Interim)

People

- Beth Weatherby has been named UMW Chancellor and will begin her duties January 15, 2015. We are excited to have her lead our institution, and we welcome her to Dillon! Vice-Chancellor Susan Briggs, Search Committee Chair, is commended for her outstanding leadership.
- After demonstrating the highest retention rates and enrollment climbs of all units in the Montana University System (74% and 41%, respectively), fall numbers indicate stabilized student FTE of 1410. On Oct. 20, OCHE's Tyler Trevor delivered a great presentation regarding UMW growth.
- ASUMW President Brandon Hanson (a senior studying pre-law) has advanced a statewide agenda of involvement, re-calibrating ASUMW's student participation and faculty mentoring.
- Provost Karl Ulrich and Associate Provost (Interim) Anneliese Ripley managed the NWCCU accreditation process, with Ripley the lead author of the report. The outcome was very successful.
- Delena Norris-Tull, Professor of Science Education, is overseeing CAEP Accreditation for the University, anticipating concurrent national and state team visitors next year.

Programs

- *Dances with Words*, a guest author series created by Professor of English Alan Weltzien, hosted Peter Stark, who read from his new work, *Astoria*, to a packed house. This prominent program—vital both to campus and community—continues with Julene Bair (*The Ogallala Road: A Memoir of Love and Reckoning*) and John Moore (*The Breaking of Ezra Riley*).
- Students in Professor John Hajduk's Post World War II America delivered exceptional performance-based assessment manifest in three episodes of radio broadcasts on KDWG.
- The Bulldog Bash annual dinner and auction for athletics resulted in all-time high revenue, thanks to generous community support in response to exemplary event management by UMW Foundation Executive Director Roxanne Engellant and Athletic Director Ryan Nourse.
- *10-Minute Plays*, a production of student-directed works featuring student actors, was a highly-successful three-night competitive one-act program created by faculty member Larry Brazil.

Projects

- EdReady use in developmental mathematics curriculum for block-based instruction is evolving quickly, thanks to Math Department Chair Eric Wright, along with faculty members Debbie Seacrest, Liz Vandree, and Gail Barnhart. MTDA administrators Bob Currie and Ryan Schrenk delivered campus presentations to Student Success Director Ilene Cohen and her colleagues from TRiO and Tutoring, then met with the Department of Mathematics to refine UMW use cases.
- IT Operations have been reorganized and are advancing under the direction of Chad Baver and Casey Love, Interim Co-Directors. Thanks to UM CIO Matt Riley, Michael Bloom and John Parkey provided external assessments and guidance for server support and malware purchasing.
- A new Athletics website has been launched by IT Specialist Cory Creighton, assisted by Matt Vandree (Sports Info. Dir.), Kent Ord (Dir., Univ. Relations), and Alyse Backus (P.R. Manager).

Promises

- A Chancellor's Cabinet has replaced Senior Staff as a more efficient team leadership approach. Members are Karl Ulrich, Susan Briggs, Faculty Senate Chair Dana Cotton, Ryan Nourse, Kent Ord, Roxanne Engellant, Brandon Hansen and Evans.
- University Council has been recalibrated to bring campus and community leaders together to better understand the impressive successes occurring at the University of Montana Western and to disseminate information broadly. Senior Jesse McCloud was the highlighted student speaker.
- *Building a Culture of Philanthropy* is our campaign to link campus goals to supporters' visions, expanding from the core of campus. The Class of 2015 will deliver the first senior gift in May.