



Date: February 14, 2018

To: Board of Regents

From: Kirk P. Lacy, Ed.D.
Interim Dean/CEO, Helena College University of Montana

Subject: Campus Report for May 23-24, 2018, Board of Regents Meeting

- Helena College Mathematics Instructor Joyce Walborn served as a content expert for Complete College America at the CUNY Academic Momentum Planning Summit in New York. She provided guidance to several institutions that are planning to implement co-requisite support for gateway mathematics courses. She will continue to serve as a consultant to CUNY as they move from pilot to full-scale implementation.
- Helena College kicked off its “Thursdays at Helena College” programming on Thursday, February 1 with Montana historian Ellen Baumler presenting Profiles of African American Montanans. Presentations for this semester include Chinese New Year, an evening of guided acrylic painting, Montana’s Historical Roadside Markers, a Women’s History Month presentation, an informative Q&A session with a certified arborist and more. These events are free, open to the public, and will run through April.
- The Helena College Institutional Effectiveness Committee finalized its review of the 2016 SENSE survey to measure student engagement. Findings in the form of commendations, recommendations, and prioritized proposed action items will be compiled into a report and presented to various campus constituencies to improve upon current practices. Helena College routinely surveys new students alternating with existing students every two years to help spotlight ways the College can improve.
- In January, the BOR approved an updated Mission Statement, which focuses on the high quality of education that Helena College provides to its students. This change allows a cascade of changes throughout the College’s guiding documents—most notably, by allowing the refinement of core themes, but also to align more closely with the newly-developed strategic goals. The focus now shifts to developing work plans for each unit on campus to begin to operationalize the high-level strategic goals. In addition, the College is currently finalizing the core themes, objectives, and indicators for the upcoming Year One NWCCU report. The new core themes represent the deliberate inclusion of student learning outcomes in our official measure of Helena College’s mission fulfillment.
- Helena College has recently undergone a restructuring resulting in a single Associate Dean of Academic & Student Affairs. Other shifts include putting Marketing and IT directly under the Dean/CEO and moving Retail Services under the Assistant Dean of Fiscal & Plant. Helena College is evaluating various vending machine and coded locker options for providing materials to students

within the trades program and is planning to have Retail Services redesigned for the Spring semester of 2018.

- Helena College is in the process of creating a student Food Share. The plan is to install shelves at each campus with signage for people to donate non-perishable food items. Students would then be able to take the food items from the shelves when needed. The system would be run on an honor basis and be clearly marked that there is no guarantee made by the college about the food quality. The College would not provide food for the Food Share.
- The light board built by Helena College is operational and receiving strong support. Helena College Nursing Program is using the light board for many of their courses and faculty from other areas are requesting and getting training in the use of the system. The system was designed and setup to be used both with and without utilizing the light board for recording.