



**Montana Board of Regents  
Conference Call  
July 10, 2019  
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, July 10th**

Meeting convened at 9:00am

A roll call indicated a quorum present.

Regents Present: Casey Lozar, Chair; Paul Tuss; Bob Nystuen; Martha Sheehy; Brianne Rogers; and John Miller. Regent Joyce Dombrowski was excused. Ex officio members included: Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian; Ex officio Governor Steve Bullock, represented by Ms. McCall Flynn, and Ex officio Superintendent Elsie Arntzen.

Welcome and Comments by Chair Lozar

Chair Lozar welcomed all attendees and introduced, welcomed the new student regent Mr. John Miller. Chair Lozar extended thanks to the Associated Students of Montana and Governor Bullock for their work related to this appointment. Chair Lozar briefly reviewed the meeting agenda items and topics of discussion.

Approval of Minutes

- May 22-23, 2019 Meeting Minutes

A motion for approval of May 22-23, 2019 Minutes was made by Regent Sheehy; motion passed (6-0).

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Christian welcomed all participants. He introduced Dr. Les Cook, Chancellor at MT Tech and welcomed him to his first Board conference call. Commissioner Christian acknowledged and extended thanks to the Legislative Audit Committee for the recent audit conducted for the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE). He noted that he believes the audit accomplished what it should in helping identify areas that need improvements. He reiterated that the OCHE staff is working on adopting the recommendations made and bringing improvements to these areas. Commissioner Christian reaffirmed his commitment to this audit and making the necessary adjustments. Discussion followed.

- Campus Reports
- Other



**CONSENT**

- a. Request for Approval of University/System/Employee Equity Interest and/or Business Participation Under MUSP 407 - Cybulski, Buhl, Whitacre, Child, Johnson, Ettenger, Bess, Livesay, Khalaf, Walsh, Schoener, Miller and future non-management employees; UM Missoula *ITEM 184-1003-R0179 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3*

**Staff Items**

- b. Helena College Staff Item | *ITEM 184-1900-R0719*
- c. MSU Bozeman Staff Item | *ITEM 184-2000-R0719*

A motion for approval of consent agenda items a.-c. was made by Regent Sheehy; motion passed (6-0).

**ACTION**

- a. Level II Executive Summary | Supporting Documentation

Deputy Commissioner Tessman presented a summary overview of these requests. Dr. Jon Harbor, Provost at UM, provided additional information about the proposed retitling of the Department of Health and Human Performance to the School of Integrative Physiology and Athletic Training; retitling the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences to the School of Speech, Language, Hearing, and Occupational Sciences; and the request to establish a Mountain Water Institute. Discussion followed.

A motion for approval of item action A. Level II Executive Summary was made by Regent Tuss; motion passed (6-0).

- b. Request for Authorization to Refund and Restructure Existing Debt and Borrow New Money; UM Missoula *ITEM 184-1005-R0719 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3*

Vice President of Administration and Finance at UM, Mr. Paul Lasiter presented this request before the Board requesting authorization for the University of Montana to amend its bond indenture and execute other required documents in connection with the refunding and restructuring of existing debt, and new money borrowing. Discussion followed. Regent Nystuen and Regent Lozar discussed potential conflicts of interest related to their employment and chose to recuse themselves from voting on this item.

A motion for approval of action item b. ITEM 184-1005-R0719 was made by Regent Tuss; motion passed (4-0); Regent Nystuen and Regent Lozar abstained.

- c. Request for Authorization to lease Bobcat Stadium to the MSU Alumni Foundation (MSUAF) for the construction of Bobcat Athletic Complex, and to enter into an MOU with MSUAF for this project, and approval of related financial plan; MSU Bozeman *ITEM 184-2002-R0719 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2*



OCHE Director of Operations & Administration, Mr. Ron Muffick, presented this request before the Board consistent with the provisions of MCA § 20-25-309, requesting that the Board of Regents of the Montana University System authorize MSU to (1) lease the Bobcat Stadium and surrounding area to the MSU Alumni Foundation for constructing the Bobcat Athletic Complex, (2) enter into an MOU with MSUAF for this project and (3) finalize the MOU and lease with MSUAF to be consistent with the project financing and draft documents provided. Regent Nystuen noted potential conflicts of interest related to his employment and decided to recuse himself from voting on this item.

A motion for approval of action item c. ITEM 184-2002-R0719 was made by Regent Rogers. Discussion followed; the motion passed (5-0); Regent Nystuen abstained.

- d. Request for Authorization to Program and Design Bobcat Athletic Complex; MSU Bozeman *ITEM 184-2001-R0719 | Attachment #1*

OCHE Director of Operations & Administration, Mr. Ron Muffick, presented this request before the BOR consistent with provisions of MCA 20-25-302(6) and BOR Policy 1003.7, the Board of Regents authorizes Montana State University to proceed with programming and design services only for the Bobcat Athletic Complex at MSU. The authorization is for up to \$1,500,000. Regent Nystuen noted potential conflicts of interest related to his employment and decided to recuse himself from voting on this item.

A motion for approval of action item d. ITEM 184-2001-R0719 was made by Regent Sheehy; motion passed (5-0); Regent Nystuen abstained.

Public Comment \*

None.

### **INFORMATION**

- a. Intent to Plan Proposals (May)

***Submitted May 2019 - Expiration January 2021***

**Montana State University**

PhD in Public Policy and Administration

Master of Music with options in Music Technology and Music Education

Master of English – English Education Option

**University of Montana**

B.A. in Nonprofit Administration



PhD in Public Affairs

Master of Physician Assistant Studies

American Indian Governance and Policy Institute

Master of Public Policy

b. National Guard Draft Policy

Deputy Commissioner Tyler Trevor presented this draft policy for a tuition waiver for individuals serving in the Montana National Guard. He discussed the history of veteran waivers and described the coordination efforts with the Department of Military Affairs on these proposed changes. He noted the importance of the National Guard in connection to the state of Montana and explained that this waiver, helps in expanding recruitment efforts in that non-residents who join the Montana National Guard could attend postsecondary education and be eligible for a resident tuition waiver provided that they meet the requirements. Mr. Trevor explained that this is a “last dollar in waiver,” meaning other scholarships and aid is applied first, then the waiver. He noted that the plan is to implement this policy change to take effect for the Fall semester of 2020 to allow for planning time with campuses. Deputy Commissioner Trevor noted that Montana is one of six states that are currently not offering this waiver, which hurts Montana’s ability to compete. Discussion followed.

c. Draft Internal Audit Charter | *Attachment #1*

MUS Internal Auditor, Ms. Diedra Murray, presented the draft charter before the Board. She explained that the charter is an agreement between management, the Board, and internal audit on the role and responsibility of internal audit. She compared charters from around the nation and consulted the International Audit Standards to develop the draft policy. Additionally, this draft was reviewed by UM and MSU internal auditors. She spoke to the importance of having the charter and internal audit add value and improve operations. She reviewed the authority and role of the charter as well as discussed, the importance of independence and objectivity. Ms. Murray detailed the scope of internal audits; described the responsibilities of Internal Audit Directors; and conveyed the importance of quality assurance and improvement program.

d. Public Records Request Policy

Deputy Commissioner Viv Hammill presented this draft policy to the Board noting that the proposed changes are primarily driven by a change in the statute from 2015 related to the types of fees that can be charged for preparing responses. She noted that MUS campuses have been asking for guidance on when and what to charge. She described the proposed changes. Discussion followed. The Commissioner spoke to the importance of Board guidance that can be disseminated across the system.



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

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Meeting Adjourned at 11:13am

Approved by the Board of Regents on

9/11/2019

Date

Handwritten signature of Clayton T. Christian in blue ink.

Clayton T. Christian  
Commissioner of Higher Education  
and Secretary to the Board of Regents

9/11/2019

Date

Handwritten signature of Casey Lozar in blue ink.

Casey Lozar  
Chair, Board of Regents