



Minutes
Montana Board of Regents
September 18-19, 2024

Wednesday, September 18th, 2024

Meeting convened at 8:36 a.m.

Regents Present: Todd Buchanan, Chair, Loren Bough, Vice Chair, Joyce Dombrowski, Casey Lozar, Jeff Southworth, Dean Folkvord, and Raina Mortenson. Ex officio members present included Commissioner of Higher Education, Clayton Christian, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Elsie Arntzen (online), and Governor Greg Gianforte, represented by Dylan Klapmeier (online).

Welcome and Comments by Chair Buchanan | 00:00:56

Chair Buchanan thanked everyone for joining the meeting and Chancellor Hicswa for hosting. He shared the board's appreciation for MUSFAR and its members' dedication to student success. He welcomed faculty representative Dr. Suzette Nynas and provided an agenda overview.

Welcome by Chancellor Hicswa | 00:05:05

Chancellor Hicswa welcomed everyone to the MSUB campus. She acknowledged a few faculty members and the recent recognition they have received. She gave an update on MSUB's grant funding and how it is benefiting students. She said MSUB's Foundation giving has increased by 56% raising \$3.9 million which created 307 scholarship awards aimed at attracting and maintaining high-merit scholars for 4 years. Chancellor Hicswa reviewed MSUB's strategic plan to increase campus retention and shared some retention statistics over the past few years. She highlighted some student success stories. She talked about the Belong and Be Well initiative, the Center for Teaching and Learning, and how they are benefiting student success.

Approval of Minutes | 00:26:46

- July 12th, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- July 25th, 2024 Meeting Minutes

With no corrections offered, the minutes were approved as distributed.

Commissioner's and System Report | 00:27:03

Commissioner Christian welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Chancellor Hicswa and her staff for hosting the meeting. He expressed his appreciation to faculty and all they do for student success. He said OCHE is preparing for the 69th Legislative Session with continued work on the biennial budget and initiative requests. He



discussed how OCHE maintains relationships with legislators through various committees during the interim and gave an update on gainful employment, noting that the reporting requirement deadline has been moved to January 15th.

- Search Update | 00:36:49

Commissioner Christian updated the Board on the search for a new chancellor at Montana Tech and new president at MSU.

- MUS Success Agenda | 00:40:56

Commissioner Christian said the MUS Success Agenda is a guide for MUS workplans especially as the system encounters a continually changing environment.

Tyler Trevor, Deputy Commissioner for Budget and Planning, said the Success Agenda is an annual guidepost to show how effective the MUS is and to put recommendations together for improvement and measure progress. He gave an overview of the MUS Strategic Plan which includes Apply Montana and the central application system.

Joe Thiel, Interim Deputy Commissioner of Academic, Research and Student Affairs, provided updates on artificial intelligence, research and development, dual credit, the value proposition of college, and retention and completion.

Deputy Commissioner Trevor said campus stewardship has been added to the MUS Success Agenda and gave a brief overview of its purpose. He then introduced OCHE's new Director of Facilities and Planning, Dan Stevenson.

- Enrollment/FAFSA Update | 00:52:57

Scott Lemmon, Director of Admissions and Enrollment Strategy, gave an update on MUS application and admission numbers for the current enrollment cycle as well as for previous years since the launch of the central application. He also showcased the MUS marketing campaign surrounding FAFSA awareness and completion.

Ange DeWolf-King, Director of Transfer and Special Projects, shared information on FAFSA completion efforts throughout Montana for the 2024-2025 FAFSA cycle. Director DeWolf-King said the MUS was awarded \$470,000 by the US Department of Education to assist in raising FAFSA submissions and completions through the summer of 2024. She shared several examples from campuses highlighting these efforts. Discussion followed.

- Campus Reports | 01:33:33

President Knudson, Dawson Community College, gave an in-person campus report sharing what they are doing to increase stability among faculty, and increasing partnerships across the state.

- Introductions | 01:39:25



Chancellor Hicswa, MSUB, introduced Leslie Weldon, Vice Chancellor of Administrative Service and Finance.

Chancellor Kegel, MSU Northern, introduced Josh Engle, Vice Chancellor of Student Success.

Chancellor Cook, MT Tech, introduced Tim Elgren, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, and Jack Skinner, Interim Dean of the Lance College of Mines and Engineering.

- Remarks by Governor Gianforte (or Designee) | 01:43:46

Dylan Klapmeier, Governor Gianforte's Education & Workforce Policy Advisor, gave an update on the NCAA settlement structure and their efforts to minimize the impacts to Montana student athletes. He provided a Title IX update. He discussed the work the State Workforce Innovation Board is doing to keep students in the southeastern region of Montana. Mr. Klapmeier said the Montana ECS Commissioners met on practices in post-secondary education.

- Remarks by Superintendent Arntzen (or Designee) | 01:51:30

Superintendent Arntzen gave updates on the 2025 Teacher of the Year selection process, ACT scores, through-year assessment results, teacher position openings and opportunities across the state, and ways federal Covid funds are being used. Lastly, she said Montana received a \$50 million literacy grant.

Budget, Administration and Audit Committee | 01:59:20

CONSENT | 01:59:20

- a. Request for Authorization to Enter into Off-Campus Lease with Hamilton Public Schools; UM Missoula ITEM 214-1002-R0924 | Attachment #1
- b. Request for Authorization to Enter into a Parking Easement with Logan Health, Inc. for the Mark and Robyn Jones College of Nursing Facility in Kalispell; MSU Bozeman ITEM 214-2005-R0924 | Attachment #1
- c. Request for Authorization to Renew a Lease on Behalf of MilTech in the AED Building; MSU Bozeman ITEM 214-2006-R0924 | Attachment #1
- d. Request for Authorization to Sell Land at 3848 Fort Circle, Havre to Western Area Power Administration (WAPA); MSU Bozeman ITEM 214-2004-R0924 | Attachment #1
- e. Request for Authorization to Renew a Lease on Behalf of Gallatin College MSU; MSU Bozeman ITEM 214-2007-R0924 | Attachment #1
- f. Request for Authorization to Increase Spending Authority to Construct the Sports and Activities Complex; UM Western ITEM 214-1601-R0924 | Attachment #1



ACTION | 02:00:35

- a. Request for Approval of Montana University System Operating Budgets – FY2025; OCHE/MUS ITEM 214-101-R0924 | Attachment #1

Deputy Commissioner Trevor and Shauna Lyons, Director of Budget & Planning, presented the FY25 comprehensive operating budgets for the Montana University System as required by law. Director Lyons explained the types of funds that comprise the all-funds summary of the MUS. Deputy Commissioner Trevor provided a system-level summary highlighting the history of MUS funding and national comparisons. Director Lyons discussed campus-level analyses of the operating budgets providing metrics, benchmarks, and highlighting revenue, expenditures, staffing, waivers, and enrollment.

- b. Request for Authorization to Name a New Indoor Athletic Center, Kennedy-Stark Athletic Center; MSU Bozeman ITEM 214-2002-R0924 | Attachment #1

Terry Leist, MSU Vice President of Administration and Finance, presented the request to name the new indoor athletic facility the Kennedy-Stark Athletic Center in honor of two donors to the project. Discussion followed.

- c. Request for Authorization to Execute Energy Performance Contracts (EPC) for Multi-Year, Multi-Phased Projects to Address Deferred Maintenance, Reduce Utility Costs and Improve Energy Efficiency; MSU Bozeman ITEM 214-2003-R0924 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

John How, MSU Vice President for University Services, presented Item c. and reviewed the contracts and funding. Discussion followed

INFORMATION | 03:10:37

- a. Budget, Administration & Audit Committee Workplan and Calendar

Deputy Commissioner Trevor spoke to work plan priority areas, including the 2027 biennium, monitoring of legislative priorities, advocacy and communication, and the Board's Infrastructure Committee. Discussion followed.

- b. Enterprise Risk Management | Annual Report

Deputy Commissioner Trevor reviewed the annual report. Discussion followed.

Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee | 03:20:51

Emeriti Faculty:

- a. Mogk, MSU Bozeman ITEM 214-2011-R0924
- b. Pernarowki, MSU Bozeman ITEM 214-2012-R0924



- c. Borkowski, MSU Bozeman ITEM 214-2013-R0924
- d. Hansen, MSU Bozeman ITEM 214-2014-R0924
- e. Parker, MSU Bozeman ITEM 214-2015-R0924
- f. Lee, MSU Bozeman ITEM 214-2016-R0924

Tenure Faculty:

- g. UM Missoula ITEM 214-1000-R0924

ACTION | 03:29:41

- a. Honorary Doctorate, MSU Bozeman ITEM 214-1001-R0924 | Attachment #1

Waded Cruzado, MSU President, presented the request to award an honorary doctorate to Paul Funk.

- b. Request to Plan Proposals | Supporting Documentation

Robert Mokwa, MSU Provost, presented the request to plan proposal for the Institute for National Security Research and Education. Discussion followed.

INFORMATION | 03:39:34

Academic Review Items:

- a. Academic Approval Memo
- b. Academic Priorities and Planning OCHE Executive Summary | Campus Priorities and Planning Statements | Forthcoming Academic Proposal Report
- c. Accreditation Report

Interim Deputy Commissioner Thiel reviewed all three academic review items. He said Item a. is a step in the request to plan process for final approval; Item b. is the process to identify the academic vision and the process to develop upcoming proposals before they come the Board; and Item c. provides information on the status of campuses in the accreditation cycle.

Strategic Priority Items:

- a. Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee 2024-25 Work Plan

Interim Deputy Commissioner Thiel reviewed the 2024-25 work plan. He highlighted student success, research development and innovation, and the seamless system initiative. Discussion followed.

- b. Healthy Minds Study



Dr. Betsy Asserson, Director of Counseling and Psychological Services at MSU, and Crystine Miller, Director of Student Affairs & Student Engagement (co-chairs of the MUS Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Task Force), presented summary data from the system-wide Healthy Minds Study (HMS). The HMS is a validated, national study that assesses student clinical mental health among a non-clinical population and provides student self-reported insight on student mental health experiences, use of services, and impact on academic performance. The data gathered through this study will inform the Task Force's upcoming strategic planning process and inform key recommendations to be presented to the Board of Regents during 2025.

Two Year and Community College Committee | 04:36:12

INFORMATION | 04:37:31

a. Two Year Committee 2024-25 Work Plan

Interim Deputy Commissioner Thiel reviewed the 2024-2025 work plan with focus on dual enrollment, short-term training pathways, accelerated degree pathways, prison education, and transfer student experience.

b. Montana's Future at Work Annual Conference

Dr. Angela McLean, Director of American Indian and Minority Achievement and K-12 Partnerships invited the Regents to the Montana's Future at Work Summit in Big Sky in October.

c. Montana's Workforce Initiatives Update

Director McLean said that Montana residents believe that a college degree provides a path to a better job and greater economic opportunity. She added there are over 200,000 Montana residents with some college, but no degree. She discussed three MUS workforce development programs designed to meet the rapid training needs of employers and students-- Sprint Degree, Year to Career and the CAEL (Council for Adult and Experiential Learning). Director McLean said that because of the short-term credentials offered through Year to Career and Sprint Degrees, students can work while earning an advanced degree and no longer have to make a choice between work or college. She said the Year to Career initiative will launch the data phase of this work in January 2025 in partnership with the national data CoLab, which is a national leader on developing workforce data repositories. Discussion followed.

d. Short-term Education and Training Panel

Vern Gagnon, MSUB City College Dean, discussed short-term flexible training at City College and highlighted many of the opportunities available to students to further their education or careers. He addressed the need to continue to be flexible in adapting curriculum to meet industry needs as they change.



Elizabeth Dove, Accelerate Montana, reviewed the Skills Forward project including advantages and challenges and how to match skill sets to employment and meet industry needs.

Public Comment | 05:34:25

MUS student, Oliver Panther, shared a concern about a bylaw that prohibits certain groups from being able to pursue leadership in student clubs and organizations.

Committee Reports & Action | 05:39:05

- Budget, Administration and Audit Committee

CONSENT

- a. Request for Authorization to Enter into Off-Campus Lease with Hamilton Public Schools; UM Missoula ITEM 214-1002-R0924 | Attachment #1
- b. Request for Authorization to Enter into a Parking Easement with Logan Health, Inc. for the Mark and Robyn Jones College of Nursing Facility in Kalispell; MSU Bozeman ITEM 214-2005-R0924 | Attachment #1
- c. Request for Authorization to Renew a Lease on Behalf of MilTech in the AED Building; MSU Bozeman ITEM 214-2006-R0924 | Attachment #1
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- f. Request for Authorization to Increase Spending Authority to Construct the Sports and Activities Complex; UM Western ITEM 214-1601-R0924 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of consent items a.- f. was made by Regent Dombrowski; motion passed (7-0).

ACTION

- a. Request for Approval of Montana University System Operating Budgets – FY2025; OCHE/MUS ITEM 214-101-R0924 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item a., ITEM 214-101-R0924, was made by Regent Southworth; motion passed (7-0).

- b. Request for Authorization to Name a New Indoor Athletic Center, Kennedy-Stark Athletic Center; MSU Bozeman ITEM 214-2002-R0924 | Attachment #1



A motion for approval of action item b., ITEM 214-2002-R0924, was made by Regent Lozar; motion passed (7-0).

- c. Request for Authorization to Execute Energy Performance Contracts (EPC) for Multi-Year, Multi-Phased Projects to Address Deferred Maintenance, Reduce Utility Costs and Improve Energy Efficiency; MSU Bozeman ITEM 214-2003-R0924 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

No vote was taken on action item c., ITEM 214-2003-R0924, and the item was postponed until a future meeting.

- Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee | 05:42:03

CONSENT

Emeriti Faculty:

- a. Mogk, MSU Bozeman ITEM 214-2011-R0924
- b. Pernarowki, MSU Bozeman ITEM 214-2012-R0924
- c. Borkowski, MSU Bozeman ITEM 214-2013-R0924
- d. Hansen, MSU Bozeman ITEM 214-2014-R0924
- e. Parker, MSU Bozeman ITEM 214-2015-R0924
- f. Lee, MSU Bozeman ITEM 214-2016-R0924

Tenure Faculty:

- g. UM Missoula ITEM 214-1000-R0924

A motion for approval of consent items a.- g. was made by Regent Folkvord; motion passed (7-0).

ACTION

- a. Honorary Doctorate, MSU Bozeman ITEM 214-1001-R0924 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item a., ITEM 214-1001-R0924, was made by Regent Dombrowski; motion passed (7-0).

- b. Request to Plan Proposals | Supporting Documentation

A motion for approval of action item b., Request to Plan Proposals, was made by Regent Folkvord; motion passed (7-0).

Chair Buchanan closed the public portion of the meeting and announced that on Thursday, the Board would be convening in Executive Session at 8:45 a.m. Chair Buchanan said he determined the discussion in Executive Session related to matters of individual privacy and the demands of individual privacy outweigh the merits of public disclosure.



The meeting recessed at 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 19th, 2024

Executive Session

The Board convened an Executive Session at 8:45 a.m. Regents Southworth and Mortenson were not in attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Approved by the Board of Regents on

11/21/2024

Date

Handwritten signature of Clayton T. Christian in black ink.

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

11/21/2024

Date

Handwritten signature of Todd Buchanan in black ink.

Todd Buchanan
Chair, Board of Regents