



Minutes
Montana Board of Regents
July 12, 2024

Friday, July 12th, 2024

Meeting convened at 9:06 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, and Superintendent of Public Instruction, Elsie Arntzen, represented by Christy Mock-Stutz. Governor Greg Gianforte, represented by Dylan Klapmeier, was excused.

Welcome and Comments by Chair Buchanan | 00:02:15

Chair Buchanan welcomed the members of the Board, welcomed new student regent Raina Mortenson to her first meeting, and previewed the agenda.

Approval of Minutes | 00:3:32

- May 15-16, 2024, Meeting Minutes

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

Commissioner's and System Report | 00:03:49

Commissioner Christian congratulated new Chair Todd Buchanan and recognized new student regent Raina Mortenson.

Commissioner Christian announced that OCHE has submitted a proposed budget, LRBP priorities, and MUS legislative initiatives to the Governor's office. He recognized the work being done on the Tech Hub, gave a brief funding update, and thanked everyone involved with the Tech Hub.

Interim Deputy Commissioner of Academic, Research & Student Affairs, Joe Thiel, said the recent funding is an initial investment and there will be future federal funding opportunities. This investment will be used to build collaboration and training spaces for technology development, explore opportunities to attract new businesses to Montana, and create and enhance training pathways with the tribal colleges. Discussion followed.

- Introductions | 00:16:41

University of Montana President, Seth Bodnar, introduced Dr. Matthew Fete, Dean of the College of Health.

Remarks by Superintendent Arntzen (or Designee) | 00:19:22



Christy Mock-Stutz, Assistant Superintendent, said the Superintendent will be meeting with the Montana High School Association regarding Title IX and has been working on an education funding report to present to the legislators as they work on school funding. She concluded with an assessment update. Discussion followed.

Budget, Administration and Audit Committee | 00:24:42

CONSENT | 00:24:42

Staff Item:

- a. Staff Item; MSU Bozeman ITEM 213-2000-R0724
- b. Staff Item; UM Missoula ITEM 213-1000-R0724

Facility Item:

- c. Request for Authorization to Grant a Utility Easement to the City of Bozeman for the Domestic Water Main Upgrade Near College Street & 11th Avenue; MSU Bozeman ITEM 213-2002-R0724
- d. Request for Authorization to Increase Spending Authority for Campus Lighting Upgrade Project; UM Western ITEM 213-1601-R0724 | Attachment #1

Other Item:

- e. Request for Approval of University System/Employee Intellectual Property Joint Participation under MUSP 407-Nugent; MSU Bozeman ITEM 213-2001-R0724 | Attachment #1

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

ACTION | 00:25:52

- a. Request for Authorization to Increase the Sustainability Fee; UM Missoula ITEM 213-1001-R0724 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3 | Attachment #4

Deputy Commissioner for Budget, Administration & Planning, Tyler Trevor, gave an overview of what student-driven fees are and the policy regarding these fees, noting that the sustainability fee hasn't been increased since 2013. This request is to increase the current fee from six dollars to nine dollars. Deputy Commissioner Trevor explained what these fees will be used for. Discussion followed.

A motion for approval of action item a., ITEM 213-1001-R0724, was made by Regent Dombrowski; motion passed (7-0).



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

- b. Request for Authorization to Construct a New Residence Hall; UM Missoula
ITEM 213-1002-R0724 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Attachment #3 |
Attachment #4

Deputy Commissioner Trevor said this request is for approval of construction and a financing plan for a new 600 bed residence hall at UM Missoula. He said the funding will come from housing, operating, plant funds previously issued by bond proceeds, and new bonds. He said the debt capacity of UM to take on these new bonds was assessed, and the conclusion was that it will not affect the university's credit rating. Discussion followed.

A motion for approval of action item b., ITEM 213-1002-R0724, was made by Regent Lozar; motion passed (7-0).

Public Comment | 00:48:10

No public comment was received.

Meeting Recessed at 9:56 a.m.

Approved by the Board of Regents on

Date

Date

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

Todd Buchanan
Chair, Board of Regents