



Montana University System

Minutes Montana Board of Regents January 8, 2025

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

Meeting convened at 9:03 am

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

Comments by Chair Buchanan | 00:01:06

Chair Buchanan congratulated the MUS fall graduates. He said the 69th Legislative Session has convened and reviewed the morning's agenda. He congratulated the emeriti faculty who are on the agenda.

Approval of Minutes | 00:03:25

- November 21-22, 2024, Meeting Minutes

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

Commissioner's Report | 00:03:38

Commissioner Christian thanked everyone for their attendance and congratulated the MSU football team for representing Montana. He gave a legislative update and said the MUS is working closely with the Governor's Office and the Legislature to meet the needs of the MUS. He thanked the Governor for making higher education a priority. He said that OCHE staff are tracking the bills that have the potential to impact the MUS.

Deputy Director Hollenbaugh said the MUS's top three priority bills for the session (HB 2, HB 5, and HB 13) have been scheduled for their initial hearings. He reviewed HB 13, the proposed State Pay Plan, discussed Senate rule changes, and provided some upcoming hearing dates. He said that legislative updates will be provided every Friday afternoon. Discussion followed.

- Campus Reports | 00:12:55
- Introductions | 00:13:08

Deputy Commissioner Hollenbaugh introduced the lobbyist for the Montana Associated Students, Emmett Jeschke, lobbyist for the Associated Students of the University of Montana, Hope Morrison, and lobbyist for the Associated Students of Montana State University, Isabel Watson.

MSU President Waded Cruzado expressed her pride in the MSU Bobcats football team having



Montana University System

represented the state so well at the national championship. She introduced the Dean for Global Engagement and International Programs, Dr. Sally Mudiamu, and Dean of the College of Letters and Science, Dr. Will Thomas.

Remarks by Governor Gianforte or Designee | 00:18:57

Dylan Klapmeier, Governor Gianforte's Education & Workforce Policy Advisor, thanked Regent Lozar for his years of service and gave an update on the appointment of a new regent. He thanked President Cruzado for her years of leadership and congratulated the MSU Bobcat football team. He said the Governor's office will be pursuing a bill to change the makeup of the Board of Regents regarding the student regent.

Remarks by Superintendent Hedalen | 00:24:59

Superintendent Hedalen said she is looking forward to improving data systems and protocols to improve student outcomes, with math being addressed right away. She spoke to the collaboration on the planning of high school assessments and working with families to share all the opportunities available to high school students.

CONSENT | 00:27:38

Staff Items:

- a. Staff Item; MSU Bozeman ITEM 216-2000-R0125
- b. Request for Approval of University System/Employee Equity Interest and/or Business Participation Under MUS407; UM Missoula ITEM 216-1003-R0125

Emeriti Faculty:

- c. Mohr; UM Missoula ITEM 216-1001-R0125
- d. Uhlenbruk; UM Missoula ITEM 216-1002-R0125
- e. Tarrant; Montana Tech ITEM 216-1501-R0125
- f. Clouse; MSU Northern ITEM 216-2801-R0125
- g. Wilke; MSU Northern ITEM 216-2802-R0125
- h. Stein, MSU ITEM 216-2012-R0125
- i. Miller, MSU ITEM 216-2014-R0125

Facilities:

- j. Request for Authorization to Grant an Electric Easement to Misson Valley Power for the New Sewer Treatment Plant at Flathead Lake Biological Station; UM Missoula ITEM 216-1004-R0125 | Attachment #1

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

Appeal #1
Appeal #2



Montana University System

Chair Buchanan explained the process related to appeals. He called for a motion to hear the appeals. No motion was made to hear the appeals, and therefore the Commissioner’s decisions were upheld.

Public Comment | 00:30:30

No public comment was received.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:37 am

Executive Session

The Board convened an executive session at 9:44 am. Chair Buchanan determined the matters of the discussion related to matters of individual privacy and the demands of individual privacy outweigh the merits of public disclosure.

Executive Session

- Honorary Doctorate Nomination #1 – MSU
- Honorary Doctorate Nomination #2 – MSU
- Honorary Doctorate Nomination #3 – UM
- Honorary Doctorate Nomination #4 – UM

Executive Session adjourned at 10:25 am.

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