

Budget, Administration, & Audit Committee

FY 2026 Work Plan

CHARGE

(the following items are enacted through recommendations by the committee to the full Board of Regents)

- Establish budget policy and processes for the Montana University System
- Approve annual operating budgets
- Set tuition and fee rates
- Allocate state appropriations to the campuses
- Establish biennial budget requests, priorities, and initiatives
- Approve the Long-range Building Priority list
- Authorize and approve facility construction projects
- Review and evaluate operating budget metrics
- Approve financing plans, including revenue bonds, loans, and student fees
- Review audit reports and findings
- Approve staff and compensation policy and proposals, as well as collective bargaining agreements
- Review and evaluate enterprise risks and strategies

WORK PLAN *(priority areas targeted for FY26)*

1. Budget:

- Conduct further evaluation of the use of waivers and discounts to inform the effort to increase net tuition revenue.
- Assess the usage of BOR designated reserves and provide recommendations for improving the existing structure.
- Delineate budget principles to provide additional direction in the biennial budget development process.

2. Facilities

- Develop six-year Long Range Building Project strategic plan.
- Ensure Board of Regents' understanding and approval of the full scope of infrastructure planning and projects in the MUS.
- Include applicable metrics and benchmarks in the construction approval process.
- Gain a better understanding of how projects connect to facility master plans and institutional mission.

3. Information Technology

- Analyze and review MUS information systems to lay the ground for the direction of system-wide enterprise resource planning.
- Continue to improve and enhance cybersecurity efforts.

4. Enterprise Risk Management (ERM)

- Ensure smaller campuses have the necessary resources to identify risks, as well as address safety/compliance requirements.
- Incentivize campuses to identify shared affiliation and systemwide services through ERM funding opportunities.
- Explore additional ways to tie appropriations to identified risks.

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5. MUS Success Agenda

- Participate in the MUS Strategic Initiatives for FY26, including Resident Student Access and Montana 10.
- Refine short and mid-term goals for resident student access; evaluate annual success metrics.

CALENDAR *(list of annual required committee items)*

September 2025:

- Systemwide/Campus Operating Budget Approval, including:
 - BOR policy 901.15 -- Report on establishment of reserve accounts.
 - BOR policy 940.13 -- Update/report on tuition waivers and discounts
 - BOR Policy 901.11 -- Annual report on negative fund balance

November 2025:

- LRBP Recommended Priorities – Information Only

January 2026:

- Biennial Approval of Operating Agreements with Foundations

March 2026:

- FY26 Performance Funding Allocations
- LRBP Recommended Priorities – Action
- Present Law Budget – Information Only
- Student Driven Fees – Information Only (if needed)

May 2026:

- Present Law Budget - Action
- Student Driven Fees – Action (if needed)
- Annual Building Project Authority Status Report
- Tuition & Fee Increases – FVCC & DCC only
- Legislative initiatives discussion– Exec. Planning Process (EPP)