



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Board of Regents

MINUTES Montana Board of Regents Regular Meeting

November 15-16, 2007

Thursday, November 15, 2007

The meeting convened at 1:10 PM

Roll Call indicated a quorum present a.

Regents Present: Lynn Hamilton chair, Steve Barrett vice chair, Todd Buchanan, Clayton Christian, Lila Taylor, Janine Pease, Kerra Melvin, Superintendent Linda McCulloch *ex officio*, and Sheila Stearns *ex officio*. Policy Advisor for Education Jan Lombardi represented Governor Schweitzer *ex officio*.

Regents Absent: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Regent Barrett to Approve the September, 2007 minutes approved unanimously.

Motion by Regent Pease to approve the October 16, 2007 Conference Call minutes approved unanimously.

President Gamble provided a preview of their TV ads highlighting students. He indicated they also had radio spots that would be aired. He introduced Kirk Miller, Superintendent of Bozeman Public Schools, and member of the Montana Board of Public Education.

Commissioner Stearns introduced Kathy Crego, who is taking the lead in the search for a new Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs. Ms. Crego requested everyone to provide her with names of those they would consider to be good candidates for the position.

SYSTEM ISSUES

ACTION

Policy 301.5.5, Approval of Policy to Identify Equivalent Courses. **ITEM 137-107-R1107**

Discussion highlights:

- Restructuring Part II, 1995, had recommended common-course numbering, but it was not implemented apparently due to lack of resources
- Common-course numbering of courses is not an end in itself
- The initiative hinges on the expectation of significantly similar outcomes in courses, regardless of teaching styles
- Following this expectation, common numbering of the most frequently taken and transferred courses will simplify transfer for students and advisors
- Faculty must play a key role in the process

UM Provost Royce Engstrom commented on his experience with common-course numbering in South Dakota. He recommended that the policy recognize and address primarily equivalency (which he thought the policy does), that the councils focus on foundational skills courses, that there be a fairly formal annual review process in place, and the scope be limited to "frequently transferred" courses.

Motion by Regent Barrett to approve **ITEM 137-107-R1107** passed unanimously with the following considerations and amendment to the Policy adding that equivalency will be periodically reviewed (§ 1. a.)

INFORMATION

- a. SB 16 update (Changed to Legislative Referendum 118) (6 mill levy)
Commissioner Stearns announced that the Secretary of State has assigned a referendum number (LR 118) to the 6 mill levy referendum for support of the university system. She noted that a ballot issue committee is being organized and will hold an exploratory meeting on Saturday, November 17, on the MSU-Bozeman campus (at

the committee's expense). She stated that two Montana business leaders have agreed to serve as co-chairs of the committee: Larry Simkins, CEO of Washington Corporation, and Sherry Cladouhos, CEO of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Montana. Catherine Swift, Chief Legal Counsel, explained the restrictions on state employee activity in legislative ballot issues and candidate races.

c. Enrollment Update – *Item c. was taken out of order due to schedule revisions*

Associate Commissioner Tyler Trevor reported that although Montana is at the cusp of a projected decline in enrollment over the next ten to twenty years, the 2007 fall census is the higher-ever fall enrollment for the Montana University System. Most of the growth is in the two year system which includes the community colleges.

DISCUSSION

Governor Schweitzer arrived at the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

c. Collaboration with K-12, and Kindergarten to College update – *Taken out of order*

The Governor addressed issues related to the so-called Generation Y, which is the first generation in several to be "we" oriented. His points were:

- They are accustomed to collaboration, and they are aggressive in seeking information.
- If educational institutions do not react quickly to their needs, they will find the information they want somewhere else in the world using the web.
- The Governor urged higher education to create a model that stays in front of these young people, which is digitally interactive and accessing information at any given moment
- He urged K-12 leaders to let students obtain dual credit without imposing unnecessary barriers.

Bozeman Superintendent Kirk Miller and Steve Meloy, Executive Director of the Board of Public Education, expressed concern over licensure of college faculty to teach dual credit courses. Regent Barrett commented that taking two years to settle that issue defeats the flexibility recommended by the Governor.

Chair Hamilton noted the arrival at the meeting of State Senator Bob Hawks of Bozeman.

a. Student Loan Program issues.

Vice Chair Barrett reported that the task force charged by Regent Hamilton to make recommendations on the board's connection to and communications with the Montana Higher Education Assistance Corporation (MHESAC), is making progress on the issue raised by the Governor's Office and Regent Hamilton. Regent Barrett, on behalf of the task force, will prepare a report for the next board meeting.

Superintendent McCulloch reported that the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) has identified the qualifying areas of teacher shortages for the Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program approved in the last legislative session. OPI will verify and prioritize the applications for assistance and then present them to the Commissioner for processing.

b. Summary of Listening Sessions.

Commissioner Stearns summarized the results of the 2007 fall listening tour taken by her and at most sites, Associate Commissioner Mick Robinson, and significantly, with at least one regent present at each of 48 sessions at 18 sites around the state. She stated that the comments were diverse, but that one underlying theme was a more coherent, well-understood delivery of two-year education statewide. The Commissioner and staff will present additional analysis and conclusions to inform the board's planning decisions for the 2011 biennium.

d. Employee Recruitment and Retention follow-up – PEPB (Post-secondary Education Policy and Budget Committee). Kevin McRae, MUS Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations, reported staff has the opportunity on December 13 to make a presentation to the PEPB on MUS issues identified by a task force that affect recruitment and retention.

INFORMATION continued

b. Campus Reports. (Also see written reports)

- Voluntary System of Accountability *College Portrait*.

UM President George M. Dennison demonstrated electronically the "VSA College Portrait" developed by the higher education organizations such as the National Association of Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC). Um-Missoula is serving as a demonstration site, and has partially completed the required information. The project still plans to add a calculator to the site, giving a student a very good idea of financial

aid available, and the costs to attend. Although labor intensive, the cost for the program is relatively inexpensive. The intention is for adoption by most colleges and universities in the country. Regent Pease inquired about outreach to the Council of Independent Colleges for possible adoption of the same template. President Dennison replied that is the intention of NASULGC.

Regent Hamilton inquired about reporting of campus safety and security data, and how or if it relates to reporting recent arrests of several student-athletes at UM. President Dennison responded:

- UM has a committee charged to deal with any campus incident and how to report it to the public
- Committee immediately begins proceedings under the Student Code of Conduct. If it determines there is risk or threat to the campus, the student is suspended.
- Recruiters apply the same academic personal standards to athletes as to all other students.
- Only felonies show up on law-enforcement background checks.
- UM maintains a high level of academic progress for athletes and has not/will not lost athletic scholarships based on academic performance.
- UM will expand its mentoring program for student-athletes.
- The presidents review these issues and related challenges with the commissioner, with other campuses and community leaders, and at a national level. Student success and good citizenship are high priorities. Bench marks will be reviewed for adequacy, and changed if necessary.
- Although the recent arrests in Missoula are very serious, it appears that athletes are scrutinized more closely than non-student athletes who are arrested for similar offenses.

Regent Hamilton charged Commissioner Stearns and Presidents Dennison and Gamble to return to the board with information that would help the board make sure it is asking the right questions and getting the best information to make the campuses and communities safe places for students and citizens. She requested a report at the January 2008 meeting of the board.

Regent Buchanan requested detailed measurements for screening, indicating the high concentration and visibility of incidents gives the public the right to inquire. He noted that the concern in his community, Billings, has been very high, and members of the public have raised many questions to him as a member of the board. The progress of the campuses in recruiting good students and good citizens must be constantly evaluated.

President Dennison mentioned that Professor Steve Running was honored as a member of the committee of scientists recently honored with a Nobel Peace Prize, along with former vice president Al Gore, for their work studying and publicizing global climate changes.

Chancellor Gilmore reported that Dr. Marisa Pedulla has been chosen as the Montana Professor of the Year by CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education).

d. Meeting Schedule and locations for 2008 / 2009.

Commissioner Stearns will call the Regents to check availability to extend the January 10 meeting into January 11, 2008.

CONSENT

- a. Appointments to the Fire Services Training Advisory Council. **ITEM 137-2002-R1107**
- b. Appointments to Local Executive Boards. **ITEM 137-111-R1107**

Motion by Regent Melvin to approve all Consent Items passed unanimously.

The meeting recessed at 5:05 p.m.

Friday, November 16, 2007

The meeting reconvened at 8:40 a.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTION

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

ACTION

The chair requested public comment prior to action on each item throughout the meeting. Unless noted, no comment was received.

- a. Revisions to Policy 301.10, General Education Block Transfer Policy. **ITEM 137-101-R1107**
- b. Revisions to Policy 303.3, Program Review, to eliminate the section on "underutilized" programs. **ITEM 137-102-R1107**

Committee Motion by Regent Hamilton approved unanimously.

- c. Composition Placement, a new policy for the Montana University System. **ITEM 137-104-R1107**

Regent Hamilton moved approval of Item c. and Regent Barrett seconded.

- Regent Pease expressed concern that the policy could be a discouraging barrier for American Indian students. She read a letter of concern and opposition from Mr. Larry Blacksmith, an officer of the Montana Indian Education Association.
- Superintendent McCulloch indicated several concerns she has with the policy, but stated the K-12 community will follow it if approved by the board.
- Regent Barrett indicated Items a., b., and c. do not create anything new, but rather clarify and simplify for students, advisors, and what currently happens on campuses.

Motion approved 6-1 with Regent Pease voting against.

- d. Revisions to Policy 301.15, Mathematics Proficiency Admissions Standards for Four-Year Programs, to set a proficiency standard that allows for provisional admissions. **ITEM 137-105-R1107**

Motion by Regent Hamilton for approval of Item d., seconded by Regent Taylor passed 5-2 with Regents Pease and Christian voting against.

- e. Remedial Coursework, a new policy for the Montana University System. **ITEM 137-106-R1107**

Committee Motion by Regent Hamilton for Approval of Item e.

Discussion centered on whether remedial courses should count toward graduation and the cost of these courses to students under the new policy. Jan Clinard, Director of Academic Initiatives for OCHE, clarified that except for credits earned under a Governor's Scholarship, remedial courses are approved classes authorized by the campus. They do qualify for financial aid if the student is making progress under financial aid guidelines. MSU Provost Dave Dooley argued that remedial course credits should count toward graduation. Regent Barrett stated his belief that allowing remedial credits to count toward graduation devalues the college degree. UM President George M. Dennison agreed. Montana Tech Chancellor Frank Gilmore noted that allowing elective credits for remedial courses would require increasing the allowable hours in a program, and UM President Dennison noted that board policy currently prohibits remedial coursework at the four-year campuses. Governor's Policy Advisor for Education Jan Lombardi noted that adult education programs and some community colleges offer remedial courses without charging tuition.

Motion passed 4-3 on a roll call vote with Regents Melvin, Pease, and Taylor voting against. The Board expects regular reports showing the number of students taking remedial courses, and the average number of credits being taken.

Level II Items

- f. Center for Native Health Partnerships, Montana State University-Bozeman. **ITEM 136-2005-R0907**
g. Astrobiology and Biogeocatalysis Research Center, Montana State University-Bozeman. **ITEM 136-2006-R0907**
h. ~~The Energy Institute, Montana State University-Bozeman. **ITEM 136-2002-R0907**~~

President Gamble withdrew Item h. from the Agenda.

- i. ~~Certificate in Practical Nursing and Associate of Applied Science degree in Registered Nursing, Associate of Applied Science degree in Practical Nursing and an Associate of Science degree in Registered Nursing, Montana State University-Billings College of Technology. **ITEM 136-2703-R0907**~~
j. ~~Associate of Applied Science degree in Power Plant Technology, Montana State University-Billings. **ITEM 136-2705-R0907**~~

Chancellor Sexton withdrew Item j. from the agenda.

- k. Associate of Applied Science degree in Medical Billing and Coding, Montana State University-Great Falls College of Technology. **ITEM 136-2853-R0907**
l. Certificate of Applied Science in Computer Server Administration, Montana State University-Great Falls College of Technology. **ITEM 136-2855-R0907**
m. Undergraduate Honors Program, Montana Tech of The University of Montana. **ITEM 136-1503-R0907**
n. Associate of Applied Science degree in Welding Technology, The University of Montana-Helena College of Technology. **ITEM 136-1905-R0907**

Committee Motion by Regent Hamilton to approve Items f., g., i. with title change, and k. – n. approved unanimously.

INFORMATION

Regent Hamilton summarized the following reports presented in committee.

- a. Academic Program Review reports for 2006 – 2007.
- b. Diversity Report, Montana University System – DEFERRED.
- c. Indian Education for All, the tribal histories project.
- d. Update on Practical Nursing program at Flathead Valley Community College.

CONSENT

Level I memorandum.

Committee Motion by Regent Hamilton to accept the Level I memorandum passed unanimously.

WORKFORCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

INFORMATION

- b. Protein-based Materials for Energy Production and Medicine: Transitioning from the University to the Private Sector Mark Young, MSU-Bozeman.

MSU Professor Mark Young gave a PowerPoint presentation on research in the molecular delivery of various medical treatments and evaluations, and on the creation of renewable hydrogen. He emphasized the value of involving undergraduate and graduate students in the research, leading many to high-level science careers.

STUDENT REPORTS

The following students gave campus reports:

Tegan Molloy, President of ASMSU
Dustin Leftridge, President of ASUM
Pearl Brower, Business Manager of ASMSUN
Chris Mjelde, President ASMT
Zachary Abels, Vice President ASMSUB
Roy Tisdell, President ASMCC
Taylor Nahrgang, President ASUMW

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:30 p.m. and reconvened at 1:20 p.m. Members of the board had lunch and informal conversation with leaders of Montana Associated Students (MAS).

Commissioner Stearns showed a television spot created by ESPN featuring Governor Schweitzer, President Dennison, and President Gamble inviting former Montanans to return home to establish businesses or establish their professions. ESPN did not intend to use it on the network, but it was scheduled to be shown at all Bobcat-Grizzly game sites around the country.

WORKFORCE COMMITTEE continued

- a. 2-Yr. Council Report.

MUS Director of Two-Year Education and Workforce Development Arlene Parisot presented a report on deliberations of the Two-Year Council.

STAFF AND COMPENSATION ACTION

- a. Revisions to Policy 801.1, Sabbatical Assignment. **ITEM 137-103-R1107**
Motion by Regent Christian, seconded by Regent Barrett to approve Item a. passed unanimously.
- b. Revisions to Policy 711.3, Multiyear Contracts for non-tenure-track faculty. **ITEM 137-112-R1107**

Item b. removes multiyear contracts from a pilot program, making it a permanent policy. It also changes the maximum number of years from 3 to 5. Any contract can be terminated for cause. Comments and clarifications in discussion:

Would the policy change the ratio of tenure-track to non-tenure tract faculty? President Dennison replied that UM maintains an internal limit on the ration and thus it will not be affected by a change in this policy. Kevin McRae noted that if there is no just cause for termination, the campus would have to buy out the balance of the contract. After discussion of amending the proposed policy to include a sunset provision, the board rejected the idea, instead favoring regular review and evaluation.

Motion by Regent Barrett, seconded by Regent Melvin to approve Item b. passed 6-1 with Regent Taylor voting against.

CONSENT

Staff Items

- a. OCHE. **ITEM 137-100-R1107**
- b. UM Missoula. **ITEM 137-1000-R1107**
- c. MT Tech of UM. **ITEM 137-1500-R1107**
- d. MSU-Bozeman. **ITEM 137-2000-R1107**
- e. MSU-Billings. **ITEM 137-2700-R1107**
- f. MSU-Great Falls. **ITEM 137-2850-R1107**

Motion by Regent Christian, seconded by Regent Barrett to approve all staff items passed unanimously.

Labor Agreements/Other

- a. Faculty, Montana Tech of UM. **ITEM 137-109-R1107**
- b. Classified Staff, MSU-Northern. **ITEM 137-110-R1107**

Motion by Regent Christian, seconded by Regent Melvin to approve Items a. and b. passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE, BUDGET AND AUDIT OVERSIGHT

CONSENT

- a. Placement of Radio Transmitter NW of Polson; UM-Missoula. **ITEM 137-1002-R1107**
- b. Extend Authorization to Construct a Clean Room in the EPS Complex; MSU-Bozeman. **ITEM 137-2003-1107**
- c. Purchase of Property, 664 South 6th East; Within Property Acquisition Zone; The University of Montana-Missoula. **ITEM 137-1003-R1107**
- d. Increase in Project Authorization for Phyllis Washington Education Center; The University of Montana-Missoula. **ITEM 137-1004-R1107**

Committee motion by Regent Barrett to approve all Consent items passed unanimously.

INFORMATION

- a. Audit Reports.
 1. MSU-Billings Foundation – June 30, 2007 – Unqualified.
 2. UM-Western Foundation – Dec. 31, 2006 – Unqualified.
 3. MSU-Bozeman Foundation – June 30, 2007 – Qualified.
Item a. 3. pertained to a gift and whether it should be valued at fair market or another measure.
 4. UM-Missoula Foundation – June 30, 2007 – Unqualified.
 5. Montana Tech Foundation – June 30, 2007 – Unqualified.

ACTION

- a. Acceptance of Report of Advisory Panel on MSU Agricultural Issues with Responses; MSU-Bozeman. **ITEM 137-2001-1107**

MSU President Gamble in committee stated for the record his commitment to rectify the lapse of communication with the agencies on the part of his administration, to include the agencies at the beginning of the budget process and to help them through to the end of the process. He assured the regents and agencies that it is not his intention to pull funding from the agencies, and will instead work with them to get full funding for their needs, including backfilling as necessary.

- c. Sale of Commercial-Local Lot in Havre; MSU-Northern. **ITEM 137-2801-R1107**
- d. Adopt Policy 940.14 – Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program. **ITEM 137-108-R1107**
- e. Increase in Project Authorization for an East Addition to Washington Grizzly Stadium; The University of Montana-Missoula. **ITEM 137-1005-R1107**

Committee motion by Regent Barrett to approve Items a., c., d., and e. passed unanimously.

- b. Authorization to Finalize the South Campus Master Plan; UM-Missoula. **ITEM 137-1001-R1107**

Rosi Keller, UM gave a presentation on the public process used to reach this point in the plan.

Committee motion by Regent Barrett to approve Item b. passed unanimously.

INFORMATION continued

- c. Enrollment Update.

Item c. was reported under System Issues.

- d. FY 2008 Projected Campus Revenues Shortfalls and Proposed Action Steps.

Regent Barrett reported that FY 2008 Projected Campus Revenues, Shortfalls, and Proposed Action Steps were discussed in detail in committee. President Gamble and MSU-Northern Chancellor Alex Capdeville reiterated steps they have taken to address negative fund balances and to prepare for anticipated declining enrollment beyond the level budgeted contingency.

- e. Update – Montana University Research and Education Network.

Regent Barrett noted the plan reported on in committee would allow the use of the \$1.1 million from the Legislature for part of the network.

- f. Revisit Indexing of Fees; UM-Missoula.
- g. Recipients of the Governor's Best and Brightest Scholarship.
- h. 2011 Biennium Budget Planning Timeline.
- i. 2011 Long Range Building Program Planning Timeline.

Items f., g., h., and i. were covered in committee.

- b. Update – MSU-Northern Negative Fund Balance Plan.

Regent Barrett gave a brief overview of the report presented to the committee.

University Trust Lands Report

Tom Schultz, Division Administrator, Trust Lands Management Division of the Department of Natural Resources, and Conservation reported to the board about MUS lands under the department's supervision and stewardship. The university system owns a total of 172,293 surface acres and 244,347 mineral acres in trust. Income is earned from grazing leases, commercial and industrial leases, timber harvesting, sale of minerals, recreational use, oil and gas leases, and some sale of lands.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Leif Wickland of Belgrade commented on the fees associated with the Montana Family Education Savings Program.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Posted on

Approved by the Board of Regents on

December 18, 2007

(Date)

(Date)

Sherry Rosette
Board Secretary

Lynn Morrison-Hamilton
Board Chair

The next Board meeting will take place on January 10, 2008 in Helena.