



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education

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Minutes of
Workforce Development Committee
of the Montana Board of Regents
The University of Montana-Missoula
May 31, 2007

The meeting began at 8:15 a.m. with Roll Call and Approval of the March 6, 2007 Minutes. Regents Taylor, Hamilton and Pease were in attendance.

a. Montana Healthcare Workforce Advisory Committee Report and Recommendations

Kristin Juliar, Director of the Montana Office of Rural Health/Area Health Education Center and Chair of the Montana Healthcare Workforce Advisory Committee, presented a status report to the Workforce Development Committee. She provided a background summary and an update on the actions of the committee.

Kristianne Wilson, VP with the Billings Clinic and member of the Workforce Advisory Committee, talked about the significant shortages of healthcare workers in all areas across the board and stated that it will require a significant long-term investment to get these numbers back up to a satisfactory level.

Regent Taylor thanked the committee members for their work and asked Arlene Parisot for comments and recommendations. Dr. Parisot commented on the importance of the healthcare committee as a resource to the Board of Regents (the BOR) in resolving this ongoing problem and recommended a continued commitment. Roger Barber suggested the healthcare committee assist in shaping budget initiatives for the board.

Ms. Jewell talked about the six recommendations which were presented at the BOR at the March meeting. She stated that because there are so many issues and needs on all levels, it is hard to condense them down into just a short list but it certainly is a good start.

The committee recommended approval by the Board.

a. Measures for MUS Two-Year Programs

Tyler Trevor, Director of Institutional Information & Research for the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, presented a report on the accountability measurements for MUS two-year programs. Regent Hamilton commented on the importance of the accountability measures being consistent in all programs throughout the state, whether they are programs in two-year or four-year institutions. Mr. Trevor agreed on the point of consistency and assured the committee that they are doing everything possible to address this issue.

Dr. Parisot stated that the Department of Labor also has employer satisfaction measures and that this is the one issue in the past which has prevented Montana from obtaining grants. Regent Pease asked how other states deal with this problem and Mr. Trevor responded that they are either identical to Montana or they have significant resources in workforce information systems.

Mr. Trevor and Dr. Parisot responded to questions from the Regents and members of the public.

The committee recommended approval by the Board.

INFORMATION

a. Perkins State Plan Summary

Arlene Parisot presented a summary report on the Perkins State Plan. She reported that the 60th Legislature did pass the Perkins bill for the state plan. She explained the major components of the Perkins IV plan and told the committee that it is very similar to the Perkins III plan. A national consultant who is very well versed in the national issues assisted the state in completing the 2007 transitional plan that was submitted to the U. S. Department of Education on May 7, 2007.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.