



Date: February 15, 2017

To: Board of Regents

From: Daniel J. Bingham, Ph.D.
Dean/CEO, Helena College University of Montana

Subject: Campus Report for March 9-10, 2017, Board of Regents Meeting

- Helena College will be undergoing the Year Seven Peer Evaluation through NWCCU in April. The Self-Evaluation report has been completed and posted on the Helena College website.
- Helena College Faculty recently underwent an Armed Intruder training put on by the Montana Highway Patrol and Helena Police Department. The training consisted of class time Power Point presentation, hands on work, and live scenarios training and was very well received by those who attended. Other HC employees will also receive the training in the near future.
- The Helena College Safety Committee is currently updating the College's Emergency Action Plan. The new Emergency Action Plan is anticipated to be rolled out to the campus community in March 2017.
- Dr. John Hartman has been selected for a second term as the Chair of the Montana Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS), as well as being appointed to the national ACS Project SEED committee—a very select group of ACS members dedicated to ensuring that students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds have opportunities to experience the challenge and rewards of chemically-related sciences.
- The Helena College Foundation, Inc., held their 2nd Annual "Show Helena College Foundation Some Love" event to raise money to provide Helena College students with scholarships and further the mission of Helena College. The Alumni organizations from both MSU and UM donated Cat and Griz gear for door prizes, and representatives attended and participated. This event signaled the kickoff for a fundraising raffle which will award two grand prizes. Working with the flagships, raffle tickets will feature either MSU or UM and are being sold in the Helena College Bookstore and Leslie's Hallmark. On August 1, a winner will be drawn from the MSU tickets and another from the UM tickets. Each winner will receive admittance for two to the President's box for the homecoming game along with game memorabilia. The College and the Foundation greatly appreciate the generosity of the two Presidents, the Alumni groups, and all the staff who have contributed.
- Helena College has almost completed a quiet testing room remodel that will provide four individual quiet accommodated testing rooms with seven additional testing spaces while still maintaining an open computer lab space.

- A lot of planning and design went into the project for making the accommodated rooms as sound proof and comfortable as possible for our students. I believe the end result is an excellent room Helena College now has for testing for the certain accommodations needed by some of our students. We also provided a more inviting, functional open computer lab for the rest of the student body here at Helena College.
- Helena College has assigned a task force to redesign the website to make it more user-friendly for students, employees, and community members. As well, the IT department has begun detailing a comprehensive list of things that must be done prior to the upcoming domain name change from www.umhelena.edu to reflect the current Helena College name. The plan is to roll out both the new website and the new domain name in the Fall of 2018.
- Helena College Advising Committee is a newly formed institutional committee aimed at finding successful advising balance and evolving with the new definitions of advising. This committee is composed of selected individuals from all areas that advise students, spanning TRIO to faculty to student support specialists.
- The General Transfer Degree option for the 2016-17 catalog seems to be going well and meeting the needs of our students; more concrete evidence will be known in the coming years with not yet known completion rates.
- Helena College Student Government Association is now officially a part of the Montana Associated Students (MAS).
- Helena College recently completed a transaction with the City of Helena and the Helena Fire Department to take possession of a fully-functioning, used but in excellent condition, fire engine for the Helena program. This apparatus replaces an aging engine with more up-to-date technology.
- The Helena College Welding program recently acquired a new Orbital welder to allow students to learn to use equipment that is in wide use in certain sectors of private industry.
- The Welding program also is refurbishing a beloved local icon—a playground slide in the shape of a rocket from the 1960s space race. Helena College Writing students are conducting an oral history project in association with the rocket slide refurbishment, and the documented history will be archived in the Montana Historical Society.
- Helena College Library and IT staff, in collaboration with academic libraries throughout the state, successfully implemented the new statewide ExLibris Unified Resource Management (URM) tool. This tool enables Alma for behind the scenes resource management as well as Primo for streamlined user searching of all combined resources. Instrumental in this endeavor was our new Treasure State Academic Information and Library Services (TRAILS) academic library consortium comprised of sixteen academic libraries throughout the state.
- The Helena College Diversity Committee hosted a Lunar New Year celebration at both campuses, with a large number of elementary children and community members attending the event on January 27th. Participants joined a Dragon parade, learned to do Chinese calligraphy, played Mah Jong, observed a martial arts demonstration, and heard a presentation by a Helena College faculty member who hails from Hong Kong. A Diwali celebration is planned for the fall of 2017.