

May 23-24, 2018

ITEM 179-1508-R0518

Request for authorization to adopt “Montana Technological University” as the formal name of Montana Tech with continuing use of the institution’s recognized branded name of “Montana Tech.”

THAT

Montana Tech requests authorization from the Montana Board of Regents to adopt the name Montana Technological University. This renaming implementation process shall be completed no later than June 30, 2019.

EXPLANATION

At the May 2017 meeting, the Montana Board of Regents (BOR) approved Montana Tech as a Special Focus Four-Year University. As a response to its new institutional classification by the BOR, Chancellor Blackletter formed WIRE (Workgroup for Institutional Realignment for Excellence) in late March 2017. The charge given to WIRE was to “define what it means for Montana Tech to be classified as the only Special Focus Four-Year University in the state.” As the workgroup met with a wide range of campus entities to discuss the impact of the new classification, it became apparent that our formal name “Montana Tech of the University of Montana” invoked a regional scope that is not reflective of our role as a Special Focus Institution. It also became apparent that the campus mission, affiliation with the *University of Montana*, and our branded name of “Montana Tech” should not change.

The Chancellor and workgroup spent eight months (October 2017-May 2018) developing this name proposal. The workgroup examined the formal names of peer institutions in the United States with similar scopes and missions. The workgroup then surveyed faculty, staff, Industrial Advisory Boards, and Alumnae/Alumni concerning the name change and formal name options. Next, the workgroup conducted listening sessions with students, student government, faculty, staff, Industrial Advisory Boards, Montana Tech Foundation Board, Alumnae/Alumni, the campus, and the public. Public feedback was also solicited via the local newspaper (the Montana Standard) and the Montana University Website.

The renaming process has been collaborative, involving the students, campus, alumni/alumnae, industry, and the public. Feedback of some form has been received from more than 500 individuals. Community members, faculty, staff, industry, and students have all had multiple opportunities to provide feedback and discuss the campus formal name.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – BOR Policy 219.1 Institutional Mission Parameters
- Attachment 2 – Campus Naming Process Summary
- Attachment 3 – Public Feedback (E-mail)
- Attachment 4 – Public Feedback (Meetings)