



**Minutes  
Montana Board of Regents  
March 14-15, 2024**

**Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Meeting convened at 8:35 a.m.

Regents Present: Joyce Dombrowski, Chair, Todd Buchanan, Vice-Chair, Casey Lozar, Loren Bough, Jeff Southworth, Dean Folkvord, and Garret Yeager. Ex officio members present included Commissioner of Higher Education, Clayton Christian and Superintendent of Public Instruction Elsie Arntzen, represented by Christy Mock-Stutz. Governor Greg Gianforte was excused.

Welcome and Comments by Chair Dombrowski | *00:01:17*

Chair Dombrowski welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked UM Western Chancellor Reid and the staff for their hospitality. She welcomed Dr. Tyler Seacrest and Dr. Brian England, the faculty representatives attending the meeting. Chair Dombrowski introduced and welcomed the recently appointed Regent, Dean Folkvord. She expressed her appreciation for the continued partnership with tribal colleges and their participation in Board of Regents meetings. She introduced Chief Dull Knife College President Eva Flying. Chair Dombrowski spoke to the high priority the Board has given to student wellness, mentioned the UM Western Student Wellness Center, and thanked Regent Yeager and everyone involved in getting the project off the ground. She then gave an agenda overview.

Welcome by Chancellor Reid | *00:08:47*

Chancellor Reid welcomed everyone to the meeting and to UM Western. He expressed his appreciation to the faculty, students, and staff for their hard work in bringing this meeting together. He said UM Western strives to meet the needs of the state and region by providing access to postsecondary education, workforce development, community engagement, cultural enrichment, and student research. He highlighted some of the businesses and places to visit in Beaverhead County, adding that Beaverhead County is the largest cattle producing county in Montana, which provides the opportunity to partner with numerous local ranches to provide students with real world opportunities and businesses with experienced graduates.

Chancellor Reid highlighted some of the construction, renovation, and campus improvements that will be taking place over the next couple of years and thanked the legislature and Board for funding approval for these projects. He spoke about the new \$5 million stadium under construction that will house football on UM Western's campus. Chancellor Reid thanked the Board for the funding approval for the new Student Wellness Center that will provide invaluable services to students.



Chancellor Reid discussed the ongoing fundraising efforts for the Experience One Campaign and shared that UM Western has been rated the best college in Montana for 2023 by BestColleges.com. He announced that UM Western, along with Western Washington University and University of Colorado Boulder, have received an NSF grant to create an innovative curriculum that provides a virtual learning experience in Greenland.

Chancellor Reid recognized Dr. Christian Gilde, Dr. Erik Guzik, and Dr. Christian Byrge for the research they are conducting on Artificial Intelligence. He announced the opening this fall of the Canvas Early Learning Center on campus and discussed the opportunities it will provide. He said UM Western is working with its tribal college partnerships to create programs that address the indigenous teacher shortages on reservations. He spoke about several students highlighting their leadership roles, successes, and accomplishments at UM Western. He concluded by giving a detailed overview of the development of the next strategic plan at UM Western for 2026-2033.

Approval of Minutes | 00:34:37

- January 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes

With no corrections offered, the minutes were approved as distributed.

Commissioner's and System Report | 00:34:57

Commissioner Christian thanked Chair Dombrowski and the Board for their attendance and Chancellor Reid for hosting the meeting. He welcomed Regent Folkvord and thanked him for dedicating his time to serve on the Board. He welcomed Provosts Mokwa and Lawrence, who represented MSU and UM leadership. He shared some history of the UM Western campus and commented on what a thriving institution it is today. Commissioner Christian spoke about the implementation of the central application system (CAS) and acknowledged that regular meetings were taking place between OCHE staff and campuses to ensure a smooth rollout system-wide.

- Central Application Planning | 00:39:51

Scott Lemmon, Director of Admissions and Enrollment Strategy, gave a brief update on the MUS Resident Student College and Career Readiness Portal, outlining current initiatives and future updates to the website including a specific focus on financial aid awareness and literacy. He said there would be more to follow in upcoming meetings. Director Lemmon also presented on the status of a statewide migration to the CAS and the work that is being done across multiple campuses to ensure a smooth transition.

Ed Brown from MSUB and Shannon Marr from GFC, both admissions directors at their respective campuses, shared updates on the work they are engaged in with OCHE leadership to help in the transition to the CAS next year. The timeline and strategy for rollout was discussed. Discussion followed.

- Government Update | 01:08:51



Commissioner Christian spoke about the FAFSA simplification process and acknowledged that the federal government has encountered delays and challenges. Still, he trusts that, in the end, it will be a more straightforward process that will award more money to students. He explained that this is important because Pell Grants are the most significant need-based aid available in Montana, and increases will help Montana students regarding access and affordability.

Deputy Commissioner for Government Relations and Communications, Galen Hollenbaugh, provided an overview of the FAFSA simplification goals which include a simpler, shorter form, increase in aid, and increase in eligibility. He highlighted some changes in the Pell eligibility formula. He said the federal rollout of this simplified process was delayed and has faced several challenges but stressed that students should fill out the form. He said the delay in transfer of application data to campuses is causing stress to financial aid offices. Deputy Commissioner Hollenbaugh said OCHE staff has been in communication with high schools with updates and that all MUS campuses have the technology necessary to receive and begin processing the data as soon as it is released. He stated that emails have been sent out to students that have completed the central application, encouraging them to complete the FAFSA. He noted despite the challenges, the changes are going to be beneficial to Montana students.

- Perceptions of Higher Education | Full Report | *01:17:44*

Crystine Miller, Director of Student Affairs & Student Engagement, and Ciera Franks-Ongoy, Perkins Equity & Compliance Manager, presented survey findings from just over 1,000 Montana households. With financial support from the Lumina Foundation, OCHE surveyed Montanans on their perceptions of higher education to help identify barriers to realizing value and to inform strategies that can enhance the value of a postsecondary education for residents and for the state. The survey gathered insights from a sample of Montanans representative of the state's population across region, town size, income levels, education levels, age, race, and gender. In 2021 and again in 2023, the survey findings suggest that Montanans overwhelmingly value higher education because of its career and wage benefits to individuals and its benefit to state and community workforce and economic development. Director Miller added that Montanans also report that there are significant barriers to realizing this value. She said findings from the survey along with data on college experience, wage outcomes, employment, and workforce provide a framework to define and enhance the value that Montana's public postsecondary institutions can provide to Montanans, their communities, and state workforce development efforts.

Interim Deputy Commissioner Thiel, spoke to the Headwaters Technology Hub grant application which included eight organizations submitting separate grants that would show how a \$75M investment would help Montana to develop global companies focused on optics and photonics. He said these applications focused on workforce development in manufacturing, photonics, STEM, purposed optics and photonics engineering degrees, business development, venture development, and investment in technology testbeds. He announced that more than 170 organizations around the state have made specific commitments to the Headwaters Technology Hub. Mr. Thiel



thanked the federal delegation and the entire team involved in this project. He added the first site visit with the EDA will be in April.

Interim Deputy Commissioner Thiel provided a brief Career & Technical Education (CTE) update, reporting that campuses recently participated in CTE events throughout the state, and the Governor has made CTE a priority. He said Director Jacque Treaster and her team at OCHE had coordinated work on CTE with OPI and other institutions to develop shared resources to spread awareness of various ways for students to pursue CTE. He announced CTE enrollment in Montana is at an all-time high, with more than 3,300 students participating this past year. He thanked all the teams involved in CTE and the great work they do.

- Campus reports | *01:46:04*
- Introductions | *01:47:23*

Deputy Commissioner Hollenbaugh introduced Leanne Kurtz, OCHE's Communications Director. Chancellor Reid, UM Western, introduced Tia Brown, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance. Provost Lawrence, University of Montana, introduced Jay Stevens, Vice President for People and Culture. Provost Mokwa, Montana State University, thanked Dr. Chris Fastnow for her service as Director of Office of Planning and Analysis and introduced Dr. Jason Browning, Chief Data Officer, Dr. Steve Swinford, Vice President for Student Success, and Dr. Tracy Dougher, Vice Provost for Curriculum, Assessment & Accreditation.

Commissioner Christian reported on the work being done in preparation for the upcoming 69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session.

Remarks by Governor Gianforte (or Designee) | *01:57:30*

Dylan Klapmeier, Governor Gianforte's Education & Workforce Policy Advisor, provided a written update to the Board, which is attached in Appendix A.

Remarks by Superintendent Arntzen (or Designee) | *01:57:50*

Christy Mock-Stutz, Assistant Superintendent, spoke about the Figure it Out program, which is working with five schools across Montana to bring student leaders together to discuss issues they see in their schools. She said the Montana Aligned to Standards Through-Year Pilot Assessment received a waiver from the US Department of Education, adding that 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students do not need to take the Smarter Balanced Assessment. Those students will be in a pilot program that breaks up the summative end of year assessment into smaller testing windows throughout the year providing immediate feedback for teachers. These tests meet the federal reporting requirements. Ms. Mock-Stutz said OPI is working on a data monitoring project that will be consolidating and simplifying systems and providing data to other partners. She gave an update on the Teacher Residency Program, reporting that it is in its second year, is open for recruitment for next year, and has received a good number of interested students with space for 60 teacher residents. Ms. Mock-Stutz said Superintendent



Arntzen attended a ceremony for cadets in the 50<sup>th</sup> class of the Montana Youth Challenge Academy in Dillon and said OPI had over 200 educators in attendance at its Indian Education for all Best Practices Conference.

Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee | 02:06:29

**CONSENT | 02:08:28**

**Staff Items:**

- a. Request for Approval of University System/Employee Intellectual Property Joint Participation Under MUSP 407-Lawrence; Montana State University ITEM 211-1002-R0324 | Attachment #1

**Emeriti Faculty:**

- b. Six; UM Missoula ITEM 211-1003-R0324
- c. Mills; UM Missoula ITEM 211-1004-R0324
- d. Dell; MSU Billings ITEM 211-2701-R0324
- e. Snyder; MSU Billings ITEM 211-2702-R0324
- b. Vettel-Becker; MSU Billings ITEM 211-2703-R0324
- c. Dratz; MSU Bozeman ITEM 211-2011-R0324

**ACTION | 02:17:47**

- a. Honorary Doctorate, UM Missoula ITEM 211-1007-R0324

Provost Lawrence, University of Montana Missoula, presented the request to award an honorary doctorate to Lily Gladstone.

- b. Honorary Doctorate, UM Missoula ITEM 211-1008-R0324

Provost Lawrence, University of Montana Missoula, presented the request to award an honorary doctorate to Carol Murray.

- c. Honorary Doctorate, MSU Bozeman ITEM 211-2002-R0324 | Attachment #1

Provost Mokwa, Montana State University Bozeman, presented the request to award an honorary doctorate to Paul Wiley.

- d. Honorary Doctorate, MSU Bozeman ITEM 211-2003-R0324 | Attachment #1

Provost Mokwa, Montana State University Bozeman, presented the request to award an honorary doctorate to I-Ho Pomeroy.



e. Request to Plan Proposals Supporting Documentation

Interim Deputy Commissioner Thiel explained the process for review of request to plan proposals. Representatives from each campus gave brief presentations of their items.

Provost Eskandari, MSU Billings, presented the request to plan proposal to consolidate the Department of Health and Care Services and the Department of Health and Human Performance into the new Department of Health Sciences and Human Performance.

Provost Lawrence, University of Montana, presented the request to plan proposal to consolidate the Learning LAB Preschool with the Institute for Early Childhood Education.

Provost Lawrence, University of Montana, presented the request to plan proposal to establish the Indigenous Research and STEM Education Center.

Interim Provost Hardy, Montana Tech, presented the request to plan proposal for a Certificate of Applied Sciences in Smart Manufacturing Technology.

Interim Provost Hardy, Montana Tech, presented the request to plan proposal for a Certificate of Applied Sciences in Broadband Technology.

Interim Provost Hardy, Montana Tech, presented the request to plan proposal to establish a Center for Education and Ecosystem Studies.

Provost MacLean, UM Westen, presented the request to plan proposal for a Bachelor of Science degree in Farm and Ranch Management. Discussion followed.

Provost MacLean, UM Western, presented the request to plan proposal for a minor in Strength and Conditioning.

**INFORMATION | 02:52:12**

**Policy Items:**

a. Proposed Revisions to Board Policy

1. Distance Education Policies | 303.7 | 303.7.1 | 303.7.2

Susan Balter-Reitz, Director of Online Initiatives, previewed the proposed revisions to distance education policies and the tuition and fees for distance education policies. Discussion followed.

2. Tuition and Fees for Distance Education | 940.2 | 940.3

Interim Deputy Commissioner Thiel explained these policies provide campuses flexibility in setting non-resident tuition for online programs to be competitive nationally. They would also provide certain fee waivers for students who are enrolling in an online-only modality. Discussion followed.



**Academic Review Items:**

b. Academic Approval Memo

Interim Deputy Commissioner Thiel explained these are all the items, requests and plans for new programs that have reached the next stage of development for final approval.

**Strategic Priority Items:**

c. AIMA Recommendations | Attachment #1

Angela McLean, Director of American Indian Minority Achievement and K–12 Partnerships, said American Indian student success across the MUS continues to buck national trends. She credited the strong leadership of the AIMA Council members who come from all levels of MUS campus leadership as well as K-12 partners across the state. Director McLean discussed the new AIMA recommendations. The recommendations specifically refer to the constitutional mandate in Article 10 as well as updates which include growing the American Indian voice in leadership searches and creating plans using Apply Montana and FAFSA data to better support American Indian students on MUS campuses. Discussion followed.

d. College Access Updates

Director McLean outlined the three federally funded college access programs housed at OCHE: Montana GEAR UP, Montana Educational Talent Search and Montana Educational Opportunities Center. She indicated that these programs employ 19 team members across the state who ensure that College Application Weeks, FAFSA Month, Decision Day and other college access efforts happen every year. Director McLean said that in addition to the College Access events, the Montana GEAR UP program has been responsible for the free statewide ACT and Pre ACT as well as considerable investments in Montana's 1-2-Free program. Director Mclean said the GEAR UP grant competition is open and will be competitive. She indicated that the statewide initiative support will look different in the new grant, but if funded, will continue to help support 1-2-Free. Discussion followed.

e. MUS Teaching Scholars

Crystine Miller, Director of Student Affairs and Student Engagement, announced this year's selected MUS Teaching Scholars. She said the program started in 2019 and was developed to acknowledge and elevate high-quality teaching in the MUS. Director Miller said a theme is chosen each year that highlights the trends in university teaching or particular areas of interest. She said the selected teachers mentor their colleagues in their teaching practices which is intended to spread the good practices throughout the system.



Sue Balter-Reitz, Director of Online Initiatives, said this year's theme was Artificial Intelligence in the classroom, explained why it was chosen, and described the topics in which the Teaching Scholars will be leading fellow faculty. Discussion followed.

Regent Yeager concluded the ARSA committee portion of the agenda by recognizing student leaders from across the state. He noted that the student leaders are trying to revitalize statewide student government and stressed the importance of such an organization.

Budget, Administration and Audit Committee | 03:39:58

### CONSENT

#### Facility Items:

- a. Request for Authorization to Grant Utility Easements for the Mark and Robyn Jones College of Nursing Facility at Great Falls; MSU Bozeman ITEM 211-2004-R0324 | Attachment #1
- b. Request for Authorization to Grant Utility Easements for the Facilities Yard and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Tunnel; MSU Bozeman ITEM 211-2005-R0324 | Attachment #1
- c. Request for Authorization to Grant Utility Easements for the Athletic Training Facility; MSU Bozeman ITEM 211-2006-R0324 | Attachment #1
- d. Request for Authorization to Grant Utility Easements for a Private Hotel on Campus; MSU Bozeman ITEM 211-2007-R0324 | Attachment #1
- e. Request for Authorization to Complete Repairs to the Atkinson Quadrangle Student Housing Buildings; MSU Bozeman ITEM 211-2008-R0324 | Attachment #1
- f. Request for Authorization to Design and Construct Roof Replacements for the Grant Chamberlain Student Apartment Buildings; MSU Bozeman ITEM 211-2010-R0324 | Attachment #1
- g. Request for Authorization to Execute a Lease Renewal with the University of Hawaii; UM Missoula ITEM 211-1010-R0324

### ACTION

- a. Request for Authorization to Construct Main Campus Parking; UM Missoula ITEM 211-1005-R0324 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

Shauna Lyons, MUS Director of Budget & Planning, requested Board approval for the construction of an additional parking option on the University of Montana campus. Lyons noted the request is part of the overall student life master plan. Discussion followed.





- b. Request for Authorization to Plan and Design the Clapp Building Renovations; UM Missoula ITEM 211-1006-R0324 | Attachment #1

Director Lyons requested Board approval for the planning and design of renovations to the Clapp Building at the University of Montana. She provided a funding summary and initial plans for the renovations. Discussion followed.

- c. Request for Authorization to Plan and Design the Flathead Lake Biological Station Water and Sewer Systems; UM Missoula ITEM 211-1009-R0324

Director Lyons requested Board approval for the planning and design of the water and sewer systems at the Flathead Lake Biological Station. She noted this project is the next phase of a current project at FLBS for the water treatment plant. Discussion followed.

- d. Request for Authorization to Construct Campus Storage Building; UM Western ITEM 211-1601-R0324 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

Director Lyons requested Board approval for the construction of a campus warehouse facility at UM Western. She provided details on the need for this project to be completed for the larger renovations to begin in Block Hall. Discussion followed.

- e. Request for Authorization to Design the Renovations of Main Hall; MT Tech ITEM 211-1504-R0324 | Attachment #1

Director Lyons requested Board approval for planning and design of renovation of Main Hall at Montana Tech. She noted the building has not had any major improvements since it was constructed in 1900 and provided a funding summary and initial renovation plans. Discussion followed.

- f. Request for Authorization to Design the Renovations of Engineering Hall; MT Tech ITEM 211-1505-R0324 | Attachment #1

Director Lyons requested Board approval for planning and design of renovations at Engineering Hall at Montana Tech. Lyons provided a funding summary and initial renovation plans. Discussion followed.

- g. Request for Authorization to Design Infrastructure Improvements, Safety Improvements, and Research Facilities; MSU Agriculture Experiment Station ITEM 211-2301-R0324 | Attachment #1

Director Lyons requested Board approval for planning and design of several infrastructure improvements at the Red Bluff Research Ranch and BART Farm. She provided a funding summary and initial improvement and renovation plans.



h. Request for Authorization to Design the Agricultural Research Labs; MSU  
Agricultural Experiment Station ITEM 211-2302-R0324 | Attachment #1

Director Lyons requested Board approval for planning and design of new research labs and additional renovations at the agriculture research centers as part of the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station. She provided a funding summary and initial improvement and renovation plans, including the sites involved. Discussion followed.

**INFORMATION**

a. Performance Funding Allocations, FY25

Deputy Commissioner for Budget and Planning, Tyler Trevor, gave a presentation on Performance Funding with a high-level overview of the metrics used at each campus to allocate funds. He said the metrics are measured annually, compared to a three-year average, and each campus's success is based upon improvement over the three years. He said there are opportunities for campuses that fall short of targets to participate in system initiatives. Deputy Commissioner Trevor provided an overview of the performance funding dashboards and the detailed information it contains. Discussion followed.

b. 2027 Biennial Budget Development

Deputy Commissioner Trevor reminded the Board that the budget is in the development process for the next legislative session and gave a high-level overview of the influencing factors and timeline of the budget development process.

c. Long-Range Building Program (LRBP), 2027 Biennium

- LRBP Process and Planning

Deputy Commissioner Trevor explained the LRBP process for developing MUS project priorities, explained how projects are ranked, and shared detailed data for LRBP capital project funding over the past 25 years, including data comparing capital project funding across the system.

- Preliminary Consolidated LRBP List

Deputy Commissioner Trevor explained projects fall into the consolidated LRBP capital projects category based upon two criteria-- new square footage with a construction cost over \$250,000 or any renovation or construction project costing over \$2.5 million. He shared the consolidated list of projects from the campuses, the cost, and what category they fall into and gave a detailed overview of the projects on the list. Discussion followed.



- Major Maintenance: UM | MSU

Deputy Commissioner Trevor shared the major repair projects list, noting that these projects have a cost below \$2.5 million dollars and do not add new square footage.

d. UM Residence Hall Proposal

Deputy Commissioner Trevor explained the legislature provides authority to the MUS to build and renovate academic space and the BOR has sole authority over revenue generating space. He reminded the Board that they received a very detailed presentation on this proposal in January.

President Bodnar, University of Montana, discussed the proposal for a new 600 bed residence hall, demolition of three existing residence halls, and parking infrastructure. He provided a brief history of the planning, debt restructuring, investments, improvements, and construction proposals that have taken place over the years with the ultimate goal of increasing student success. He acknowledged that the cost is significant and shared the challenges related to parking with the new residence hall and short-term and long-term solutions. President Bodnar discussed the financing for the construction and presented an ideal timeline for the project. Discussion followed.

e. MSU Facility Financing Item

MSU Vice President of Administration and Finance, Terry Leist, discussed the indoor athletic facility, nursing facility, and parking improvements, noting that the parking improvements are currently out for bid. He said that the athletic facility and nursing facility will need financing to bridge the gap between project costs and donations received. Discussion followed.

f. MSU Naming Item

Vice President Leist shared the proposal for the naming of Jones Hall on campus and the process, per board policy, that this proposal will go through. Discussion followed.

Public Comment | 05:39:16

No public comment was received.

Meeting Recessed at 4:35 pm.

**Friday, March 15, 2024**

The Board reconvened at 8:35 am.

Two Year and Community College Committee | 05:42:13



## ACTION

Chair Southworth said there is an advisory board for the \$7 million in funding for CTE and gives Perkins some oversight to assess the needs of Montana high school students.

- a. Request for approval of the Perkins V State Plan; OCHE/MUS ITEM 211-101-R0324 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 | Presentation

Director Treaster presented a Perkins State Plan Update. She said the Perkins State Plan is important in that it sets the state's vision for education and workforce development, describes how OCHE and OPI implement CTE programs, creates strategies on meeting the needs of special populations, and establishes accountability for results. Director Treaster provided the State Plan Timeline, indicating that it would be presented to the Governor in April and submitted on May 10. She listed significant updates to the State Plan, among which is a focus on strengthening industry partnerships. Director Treaster stressed the need for continuing to build CTE awareness.

## INFORMATION

- a. Proposed Revisions to Board Policy
  1. 301.12 - Attachment #1

Interim Deputy Commissioner Thiel said there is still ongoing discussion with campuses on the amendments to this policy. He said the goals of this revision are to include some classes of degree offerings that are not captured in the policy and some changes in definitions used for data tracking.

- b. Charter and Dual Credit Update | Attachment #1

Director McLean stated that the Montana Board of Public Education approved 19 Charter Schools and that more than 2/3 of those approved offer connection opportunities with the Montana University System. OCHE is working to support campuses with seamless connections. Director McLean assured the Board that the purpose of OCHE engagement is to support system-wide mechanisms (agreements and pathways) to best support MUS campus connections with the K-12 Charter Schools. Discussion followed.

- c. Two-Year Leader Panel

Interim Deputy Commissioner Thiel said the mission of Two-Year Colleges is to allow opportunities for all Montanans to access higher education. He highlighted dual enrollment growth, the direction it's going, and opportunities for improvements to better support students' college and career opportunity pathways.



Ron Slinger, President of Miles Community College, said that a business survey conducted indicates workforce development soft skills as being the number one concern. He said MCC has addressed this concern with a one credit course, College Studies 111, that focuses on these soft skills that every graduate will take. President Slinger said this class has students feeling more prepared to enter the workforce with a better understanding of what is expected of them by an employer.

Tom Gallagher, Dean of Missoula College, said Missoula College is helping well qualified high school students to choose pathways that lead to degrees and certificates that improve their social and economic mobility. He gave a detailed presentation on the pathways available to students in Missoula and the surrounding areas. He discussed Missoula College's partnership with Frenchtown High Scholl called the Bronc Fast Track which allows qualifying high school students to earn between 30 and 37 dual credits before high school graduation. He said Bitterroot College had created partnerships with Corvallis and Hamilton high schools. Dean Gallagher discussed the challenges of increasing capacity and developing a business model.

Stephanie Erdmann, Dean of Great Falls College, provided a detailed presentation on the opportunities for dual enrollment offered at GFC that can be taken on campus, online, or through concurrent enrollment. She said GFC has a long-standing partnership with Great Falls Public Schools, adding the next step in the concurrent offerings is to make sure the classes the students choose count toward their future goals. Dean Erdmann spoke to the newest CTE option is for high school students to earn their EMT basic certification.

Interim Deputy Commissioner Thiel expressed the challenges that expanding these dual enrollment pathways face include capacity, having enough faculty with the proper credentials to teach these classes, helping students overcome financial hurdles, how the new charter school process will work, and the changes in financial and business models of these programs. Discussion followed.

d. Bitterroot College - University of Montana Update

Dean Gallagher introduced Kristina Berger, Director of UM Bitterroot College.

Kristina Berger, Director of Bitterroot College, highlighted that the partnership with the University of Montana allows them to offer students the resources of a flagship university while maintaining autonomy as an extension campus to provide accessible, affordable, and relevant education to the Bitterroot Valley. She shared the College's vision is to enhance the community and discussed how they are working toward this goal. Bitterroot College offers both credit and noncredit options for students and they are continually evaluating programs to serve the community more efficiently and effectively. She detailed the partnerships Bitterroot College has with K-12, higher education, and local industry. Discussion followed.



Melissa Ramirez, President of Montana Associated Students, spoke to the student regent process and provided an update on the restructuring of MAS.

Maggie Bell, President of the Associated Student of the University of Montana, President, spoke to the transferring of the MAS account.

Emmett Gesicki, UM Western Student Senate, spoke to his higher education journey that highlighted the positive aspects of affordability and ease of transferability.

Committee Reports & Action | 07:34:15

- Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee

**CONSENT**

**Staff Items:**

- a. Request for Approval of University System/Employee Intellectual Property Joint Participation Under MUSP 407-Lawrence; Montana State University ITEM 211-1002-R0324 | Attachment #1

**Emeriti Faculty:**

- b. Six; UM Missoula ITEM 211-1003-R0324
- c. Mills; UM Missoula ITEM 211-1004-R0324
- d. Dell; MSU Billings ITEM 211-2701-R0324
- e. Snyder; MSU Billings ITEM 211-2702-R0324
- f. Vettel-Becker; MSU Billings ITEM 211-2703-R0324
- g. Dratz; MSU Bozeman ITEM 211-2011-R0324

A motion for approval of consent items a.- g. was made by Regent Yeager; motion passed (7-0).

**ACTION | 07:35:07**

- a. Honorary Doctorate, UM Missoula ITEM 211-1007-R0324

A motion for approval of action item a., ITEM 211-1007-R0324, was made by Regent Lozar; motion passed (7-0).

- b. Honorary Doctorate, UM Missoula ITEM 211-1008-R0324

A motion for approval of action item b., ITEM 211-1008-R0324, was made by Regent Lozar; motion passed (7-0).

- c. Honorary Doctorate, MSU Bozeman ITEM 211-2002-R0324 | Attachment #1



A motion for approval of action item c., ITEM 211-2002-R0324, was made by Regent Bough; motion passed (7-0).

- d. Honorary Doctorate, MSU Bozeman ITEM 211-2003-R0324 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item d., ITEM 211-2003-R0324, was made by Regent Bough; motion passed (7-0).

- e. Request to Plan Proposals Supporting Documentation

A motion for approval of action item e., Request to plan proposals, was made by Regent Yeager; motion passed (7-0).

- Budget, Administration and Audit Committee | 07:38:30

### CONSENT

#### Facility Items:

- a. Request for Authorization to Grant Utility Easements for the Mark and Robyn Jones College of Nursing Facility at Great Falls; MSU Bozeman ITEM 211-2004-R0324 | Attachment #1
- b. Request for Authorization to Grant Utility Easements for the Facilities Yard and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Tunnel; MSU Bozeman ITEM 211-2005-R0324 | Attachment #1
- c. Request for Authorization to Grant Utility Easements for the Athletic Training Facility; MSU Bozeman ITEM 211-2006-R0324 | Attachment #1
- d. Request for Authorization to Grant Utility Easements for a Private Hotel on Campus; MSU Bozeman ITEM 211-2007-R0324 | Attachment #1
- e. Request for Authorization to Complete Repairs to the Atkinson Quadrangle Student Housing Buildings; MSU Bozeman ITEM 211-2008-R0324 | Attachment #1
- f. Request for Authorization to Design and Construct Roof Replacements for the Grant Chamberlain Student Apartment Buildings; MSU Bozeman ITEM 211-2010-R0324 | Attachment #1
- g. Request for Authorization to Execute a Lease Renewal with the University of Hawaii; UM Missoula ITEM 211-1010-R0324

A motion for approval of consent items a.-g. was made by Regent Southworth; motion passed (7-0).

### ACTION | 07:39:15

- a. Request for Authorization to Construct Main Campus Parking; UM Missoula ITEM 211-1005-R0324 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

A motion for approval of action item a., ITEM 211-1005-R0324, was made by Regent Yeager; motion passed (7-0).



- b. Request for Authorization to Plan and Design the Clapp Building Renovations; UM Missoula ITEM 211-1006-R0324 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item b., ITEM 211-1006-R0324, was made by Regent Bough; motion passed (7-0).

- c. Request for Authorization to Plan and Design the Flathead Lake Biological Station Water and Sewer Systems; UM Missoula ITEM 211-1009-R0324

A motion for approval of action item c., ITEM 211-1009-R0324, was made by Regent Lozar; motion passed (7-0).

- d. Request for Authorization to Construct Campus Storage Building; UM Western ITEM 211-1601-R0324 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

A motion for approval of action item d., ITEM 211-1601-R0324, was made by Regent Yeager; motion passed (7-0).

- e. Request for Authorization to Design the Renovations of Main Hall; MT Tech ITEM 211-1504-R0324 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item e., ITEM 211-1504-R0324, was made by Regent Bough; motion passed (7-0).

- f. Request for Authorization to Design the Renovations of Engineering Hall; MT Tech ITEM 211-1505-R0324 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item f., ITEM 211-1505-R0324, was made by Regent Southworth; motion passed (7-0).

- g. Request for Authorization to Design Infrastructure Improvements, Safety Improvements, and Research Facilities; MSU Agriculture Experiment Station ITEM 211-2301-R0324 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item g., ITEM 211-2301-R0324, was made by Regent Lozar; motion passed (7-0).

- h. Request for Authorization to Design the Agricultural Research Labs; MSU Agricultural Experiment Station ITEM 211-2302-R0324 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item h., ITEM 211-2302-R0324, was made by Regent Yeager; motion passed (7-0).

- Two-Year and Community College Committee | 07:44:38





**ACTION**

- a. Request for approval of the Perkins V State Plan; OCHE/MUS ITEM 211-101-R0324 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2 |

A motion for approval of action item a., ITEM 211-101- R0324, was made by Regent Southworth; motion passed (7-0).

Meeting Adjourned at 10:36 am.

Approved by the Board of Regents on

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clayton T. Christian  
Commissioner of Higher Education  
and Secretary to the Board of Regents

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joyce Dombrowski  
Chair, Board of Regents

# Appendix A

To: Board of Regents  
From: Dylan Klapmeier, Governor's Education Policy Advisor  
Date: March 14, 2024  
Re: Governor's Office Update to the Board

Hello Regents,

I apologize that I was unable to join you for the March 2024 Board of Regents meeting at UM Western as I was sick. I plan to join you at your May meeting at MSU Northern and look forward to seeing you then. Below is the update that I planned to offer:

"Thank you, Chancellor Reid, for hosting us. It's great to be back here on the beautiful UM Western campus. This is the culmination of a very busy week with the Education Interim Committee and Interim Budget Committee for Education meeting the last few days in Helena.

I want start by congratulating the MSU men's basketball team on their victory in the Big Sky tournament last night and we wish them the best as they advance.

I also want to recognize Regent Dean Folkvord. The Governor was pleased to appoint Mr. Folkvord to the Regents earlier this year and we appreciate his willingness to serve the Montana University System. Regent Folkvord brings to the Board decades of experience in agriculture, business, and personal experience with the MUS. We are confident that he will be a productive member of this Board. Congratulations on your appointment and thank you for your service, Regent Folkvord.

As I said, it's been a busy week in state education policy with our legislative partners. It was great to hear updates from OCHE staff and education partners about the successful implementation of a variety of MUS initiatives, legislation, and pilot projects, many of which we'll hear in more detail over the next couple of days. With your colleagues on the Board of Public Education meeting next Monday, the Governor's office is particularly pleased to see the ongoing collaboration between high school, college, and industry workforce development programs.

We rounded out Career and Technical Education Month in February with the Governor's office and OCHE announcing that a record 3,300 students took CTE courses for college credit last year.

We're making gains in data sharing and data modernization with the Education and Workforce Data Governance Committee agreeing to move forward with an updated data dictionary last week.

Many of the charter schools approved by the Board of Public Education have an early college component that has involved the Digital Academy and several MUS campuses across the state.

The final crossover work that I want to share with the Regents is the opportunity for our colleges of education to take advantage of alternative teacher certification that was passed last legislative session. I would encourage the colleges of education to seek participation in alternative teacher licensure and endorsement through the Board of Public Education to attract students to the colleges of education who maybe already have an undergraduate degree in say history, biology, or English and are interested in teaching if it is made easy and inexpensive for

them. Last session saw record efforts made towards teacher recruitment and retention and we have to keep being creative with incentives.

In the last few weeks and months the Perkins committee, the Headwaters Tech Hub, and the WIOA committee have drafted federal plans with diverse intergovernmental and industry coordination that will expand education, training, and economic development in Montana. I want to congratulate all of the folks who have dedicated the better part of a year on these projects.

All this to say, there is a lot going on in education policy at the state level and the Governor appreciates the coordination that is occurring.

To close, I would be remiss if I didn't share that the Governor's Budget Director officially approved the House Bill 5 Gallatin College proposal a few weeks ago. I want to thank President Cruzado, Commissioner Christian, and their staff for diligently working to address policy and budget questions that the Governor's office had. We look forward to seeing Gallatin College become a hub for workforce development, CTE, online learning, and alternative student support in our state. We're confident that with your strong community support, you will be successful. Congratulations!

Thank you and I'm looking forward to our discussions these next couple of days."