

# 2004 Montana Student Affairs Conference

## May 24, 2004

### **SUMMARY**

The senior Student Affairs Officers (SAO's) from the four campuses of the UM system and the four campuses of the MSU system decided in July 2003 to plan a conference at MSU-Bozeman for all student affairs staff across the Montana University System. The conference occurred in May 2004 with over 230 attendees from the 8 campuses, plus attendees from several community colleges, tribal colleges, and private colleges across Montana. Courtney Stryker (Dean of Students, MSU-Bozeman) and Eric Murray (Dean of Students, UM-Western) were elected conference chairs and planned the conference between July 2003 and May 2004.

The conference had two foci. First, it provided an opportunity for staff from similar departments to network, share best practices, and learn from their colleagues during a morning session. Second, nine interest sessions were presented during the afternoon. Staff had the opportunity to attend two of the nine interest sessions. Topics were determined by a survey conducted earlier in the year by each of the SAO's and each topic was facilitated by an SAO. The agenda for the conference is attached and lists the interest sessions.

### **EVALUATION**

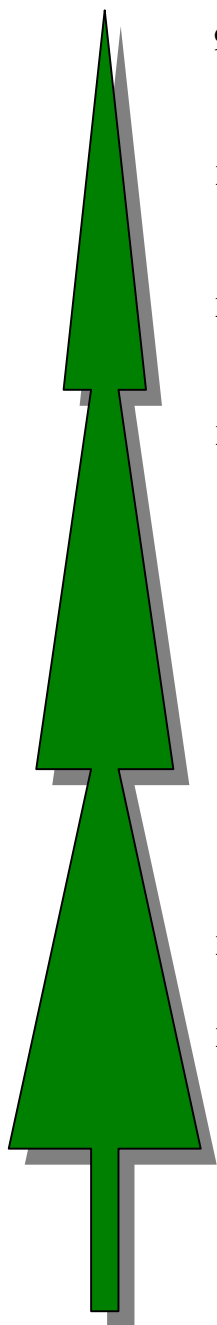
Evaluations of the morning and afternoon sessions were collected on the day of the conference. Overall, the reports from the attendees indicate that they were very pleased with the conference structure, the opportunity for professional development, and the style in which the conference was presented. Over 67% of the conference participants rated the day 'good' or 'excellent', while an additional 24% rated the experience as 'acceptable' (refer to the attached evaluation summary). In light of the two conference goals stated above, conference participants listed networking and the interest group sessions as the most valuable components of the day. Conference attendees noted the attendance at the conference by Commissioner Stearns, Associate Commissioner Barber, and Regent Roehm and indicated the level of commitment their participation demonstrated toward the interests and efforts of student affairs professionals across the state. Finally, nearly 100% of the conference evaluations supported continuing a statewide student affairs conference.

The SAO's from the UM & MSU campuses also evaluated the conference during the July Regents meeting. It was agreed that the conference would continue on an "every-other-year" basis with the next one occurring at UM-Missoula in May 2006. Other suggestions for format and content were given and will be incorporated when planning begins in July 2005.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Montana Student Affairs Conference was a regular fixture in the professional development plan of the campuses in the previous decade. As the system became more unified, the conference wasn't continued. After this summer's experience and the overwhelmingly positive support for the conference, the SAO's believe that the statewide student affairs conference is necessary and important to the continued success of each campus, the professional development of our student affairs staff, and to our mission of becoming a unified university system.

# 2004 Montana Student Affairs Conference Agenda



- 9:00 AM**                      **Registration and Display Table Set-up**  
Registration Kiosk, South Entrance of Strand Union Building (SUB)  
Table set-up in SUB Ballroom A
- 10:00 AM**                      **Welcome from MSU-Bozeman (Ballroom A)**  
Geoff Gamble, President  
Allen Yarnell, Vice President – Student Affairs
- 10:10 AM**                      **Time with the Commissioner of Higher Education (Ballroom A)**  
Sheila Stearns, Commissioner  
Roger Barber, Deputy Commissioner
- 11:00 AM**                      **Functional Group Break-Outs**  
This is a time to meet with colleagues in your area-all meetings will be in the SUB:
- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Academic Support Services                                     | (273)        |
| Admissions & Enrollment Services                              | (106e)       |
| Career Services   | (276)        |
| Counseling  | (276)        |
| Deans of Students/Conduct                                     | (275)        |
| Dining  | (Ballroom C) |
| Disability Services   | (271)        |
| Financial Aid   | (Ballroom C) |
| Health Services   | (272)        |
| Housing/Residence Life  | (Ballroom B) |
| Orientation   | (Ballroom B) |
| Service Learning – Community Involvement                      | (275)        |
| Special Interests (Int'l Students, Am. Indian Interests, etc) | (274)        |
| Stud. Activities, Govt, Stud. Unions, Intramurals             | (Ballroom D) |
- 12:00 PM**                      **Lunch (Ballroom A)**  
You may continue to meet with your functional area during this time.
- 1:00 PM**                      **Interest Groups (Session 1)**  
This is a time to meet with colleagues about issues of importance to you. These topics will repeat at 2:00pm. All rooms are located within the SUB.
- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Future Trends in Student Affairs   | (Ballroom B) |
| Retention: Best Practices & Planning   | (Ballroom C) |
| Inter-Campus Collaboration   | (274)        |
| Emergency Management   | (275)        |
| On-Campus Partnerships   | (271)        |
| Understanding Students' Needs  | (272)        |
| Defining Student Affairs Success: Assessment,<br>Program Review & Strategic Planning | (276)        |
| Issues Surrounding Student Diversity   | (273)        |
| Student Employment Practices   | (Ballroom D) |
| Indian Education for All Act   | (106e)       |
- 2:00 PM**                      **Interest Groups (Session 2—Same Rooms as Above)**
- 3:15 PM**                      **Break (Southwest Lounge)**
- 3:30 PM**                      **Interest Group Reports and Summaries (Ballroom A)**
- 5:00 PM**                      **Have a safe trip home!**

STUDENT AFFAIRS STATE CONFERENCE EVALUATIONS-2004  
SUMMARY DATA

			1- poor	2- fair	3- acceptable	4- good	5- excellent
OCHE	2						
MT-TECH	8	Q#1	4	8	28	39	15
UM-MISS	27	Q#2		2	20	52	10
MSU-BZN	21	Q#3	1	8	19	44	18
UM-Helena	5	Q#4		6	14	45	25
UM-Western	9	Q#5	2	6	27	53	7
MSU-Bill	3						
MSU-GF	5						
MSU-Northern	9						
TOTALS	89		7	30	108	233	75
			<b>1.5%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>16.5%</b>

***Representative Comments***

Q#1-WAS THE CONFERENCE OF THE QUALITY YOU EXPECTED?

Yes, maybe stretch over two days

Q#2-WHAT ASPECTS OF THE CONFERENCE WERE MOST VALUABLE?

Networking, interest groups

Q#3-WHAT ASPECTS OF THE CONFERENCE WERE LEAST VALUABLE?

Structural problems, having no specific facilitators for breakout sessions