



MINUTES
Montana Board of Regents
March 11, 2021

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Meeting convened at 9:02AM.

Regents Present: Casey Lozar, Chair; Bob Nystuen, Brianne Rogers, Joyce Dombrowski, Todd Buchanan, Loren Bough, and Amy Sexton. Ex officio members included: Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian; and Ex officio Superintendent Elsie Arntzen. Ex officio Governor Greg Gianforte was excused.

Comments by Chair Lozar

Chair Lozar welcomed all attendees to the meeting. He welcomed the newest members of the Board, Todd Buchanan and Loren Bough, whose nominations were confirmed by the Senate last month. He noted that each of them brings a wealth of knowledge and experience as well as new perspective to this Board. Chair Lozar extended thanks and appreciation to former regent Paul Tuss for his decade of service on the Board and devotion to the MUS and its students. He extended congratulations to Regent Amy Sexton, the student regent, on her successful senate confirmation hearing. Casey provided a brief overview of the agenda, noting that the virtual setting for today's meeting is Helena College.

Approval of Minutes

- January 5, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

A motion for approval of the January 5, 2021 meeting minutes was made by Regent Bough; motion passed (7-0).

Welcome by Dean Bauman | Presentation

Dean Sandy Bauman of Helena College extended a virtual welcome to all attendees. She shared a video highlighting campus updates and recent physical upgrades to campus spaces, including the newly remodeled student center located at the Airport Campus, with efforts continuing this summer on the Donaldson Campus. Dean Bauman discussed investments in classroom upgrades and program redesign work for better in-person and online delivery. She provided updates on projects that were funded through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief funds. Funded projects connect directly to the needs of Montana communities in key areas like CDL Testing, Nursing, Hybrid Automobile Servicing Training, and more. Dean Bauman shared that Helena College received a three-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. These funds are to create a summer bridge program for high school students using filmmaking as a medium to focus on current world issues and helping to build skills associated with college success. She described the new "Become and Alumn" program started in partnership with the Department of Labor, intending to connect information and services with those folks who have some college credit but no college degree.



Commissioner's and System Report

Commissioner Christian extended his congratulations and welcomed the newly confirmed Regents to the Board. He also thanked Dean Bauman for the excellent virtual tour of Helena College. He noted that we are on track to welcome more new leaders soon. He spoke to the searches for the Chancellor position at the University of Montana Western and the position of Dean of Great Falls College MSU. These positions are opening with the upcoming retirements of Chancellor Beth Weatherby and Dean/CEO Susan Wolff, who have served students and the system so well. Search teams will be conducting interviews in March and April and we hope to have candidates for both campuses to present to you for approval at our May Board of Regents meeting.

- COVID-19 Update

Commissioner Christian noted that as we're now half way into spring semester we're happy with the continued level of vigilance and adherence to our MUS guidance and campus protocols, which are still in place. He recognized the efforts of our campuses that are hosting community vaccination clinics and providing nursing and pharmacy students to assist with these complex operations. Their efforts are another great example of the role our university system plays in times of crisis as they provide facilities, strategic planning capacity, technical expertise, training and staffing.

He noted that the OCHE office and our campus administrators continue to be in close contact with local and state health officials and are closely monitoring vaccine availability. Furthermore, campuses are prepared to vaccinate staff and students as quickly as possible as the vaccine becomes available to additional groups. He extended thanks to our students, faculty and staff who are working on the front lines of the pandemic to protect our communities. Commissioner Christian explained that we're working to get through the semester as quickly and responsibly as we can and the continued efforts of each and every one of us will allow us to get there. Each of us as individuals are the best defense against COVID on our campuses, even as vaccines become available.

Deputy Commissioner Brock Tessman extended his thanks to the members of the MUS Healthy Taskforce and spoke to the great partnerships who are working together to combat this issue over the past year including the Governor's office, local state and county health departments, etc. Dr. Tessman provided an updated on the current happenings across campuses in the MUS noting that this spring semester classes are largely being delivered in-person, as are many student elements and activities, with established campus protocols still in place and in effect. Dr. Tessman spoke to the tremendous accomplishment of the amount of in-person teaching and student life experiences the MUS has been able to offer compared to other institutions across the nation. He extended thanks to faculty, staff, and students for stepping up the challenges associated with COVID. He discussed the need to preserve information on lessons learned and adaptations made during the pandemic, as we transition back to normal so that we can retain the innovations that helped us to excel during this trying year. Deputy Commissioner Tessman discussed the role campuses play in the statewide testing effort and now shifting to assisting with the vaccination efforts, noting that a number of



MUS employees and students have been vaccinated in accordance with Governor Gianforte's plan. Dr. Tessman spoke to spring commencement plans, which are underway across the MUS in accordance with local county health department regulations. He also discussed testing as part of the admissions policy to the MUS, where about a year ago, the board voted to suspending ACT testing requirement for students, joining a number of other systems in going "test optional". This decision allowed for us to maintain rigor while providing flexibility to students. Dr. Tessman reiterated the importance of partnerships associated with this topic as ACT is the test that OPI uses to fulfill its federal obligation for K-12 statewide testing; to date we've been able to offer the ACT exam in collaboration for free to Montana high school juniors. In the coming months OCHE will work to get some options before the board as far as standardized testing as we move forward and how we want to handle that. Discussion followed.

- Legislative Update

Commissioner Christian provided an update on the Legislative Session. The Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education voted on the MUS portion of the state budget in February, with funding closely mirroring the amounts in Governor Gianforte's January budget, plus several additions which were heard in Full Appropriations Committee yesterday. Deputy Commissioner Tyler Trevor provided a review on budget-related bills, including HB – General Appropriations Act, HB 13 – State Employee Pay Plan, and SB 110 – Revise state employee and U-system health plan laws for temp state share holiday.

Director Ron Muffick reviewed LRBP bills, including HB 5 – Long-range building appropriations and HB 14 – Long-Range Building Bonding Program. Commissioner Christian noted that four of our priority capital development projects exceeding \$2.5 million had been approved. You've also heard these referred to as our Long-Range Building Planning priorities. He expressed our sincere gratitude to Governor and Budget Director Alme for including these projects in their budget revision and their support in the legislative process. These projects, which will serve Montanans and our economy for years to come. And if passed, we're confident that Montanans will reap the benefits as these facilities in helping further our efforts to build Montana's workforce and respond to industry needs with leading-edge research and workforce education and training.

Commissioner Christian spoke to HB 102, allowing concealed and open carry on Montana University System campuses, which has now been signed into law. He noted that while the Montana University System testified in opposition to this legislation, we are grateful that the Legislature and the Governor allowed us to express our concerns. We're also appreciative of amendments that improved the bill in our view, including extending the effective date to June 1 for the university system to allow us time to adjust our policy and otherwise prepare. The bill was also amended to provide us authority to require proof of firearms training and to exclude firearms at campus athletic or entertainment events. HB102 will allow individuals with valid concealed weapons permits or who meet certain minimum firearm safety training requirements to carry a firearm on campus and keep the firearm in the student housing.



This Board will have important decision-making to do at our May meeting as we establish a policy around the new law. In the meantime, OCHE staff is researching practices in other states that have similar legislation, and I know that I can speak for all of us here in saying that maintaining the safety of our campus communities will be our top priority. For those wondering logistically how this will unfold, it is our intention to create a venue for input from the campuses, students, faculty and staff, from their union representative, and the public before we bring the suggested policy to the ASRA committee. This development is still in the works, but we will likely have a noticed public committee meeting where we can take additional public comment. Chief Legal Counsel Ali Bovington then discussed additional policy bills, including HB 112 – require interscholastic athletes to participate under sex assigned at birth, HB 218 – revise campus free speech laws, and HB 349 – protect freedom of association and speech at public postsecondary campuses.

Deputy Commissioner Tessman provided an update on Community College bills, specifically SJ 15, HB 67, and HB 179. Deputy Commissioner Kevin McRae and Government Relations Specialist Janelle Booth spoke to other bills, including SB 46, SB 247, SB 248, and HB 542. They discussed the general interest and following of vaccination-related bills also. Additional discussion followed. Commissioner Christian extended sincere thanks to our Student Lobbyists: Rachel Schmidt with the Associated Students of Montana State University; Jack Rinck with the Associated Students of the University of Montana; Maggie Bornstein, University of Montana Student Political Action Director; and Montana Associated Students Lobbyist Allison Reinhardt. These student lobbyists have worked shoulder-to-shoulder with our staff lobbying team. Whether they were testifying, researching a bill, or lobbying a legislator, their level of professionalism and dedication was truly impressive. He again expressed thanks to Montana lawmakers for their support of our mission to deliver accessible, affordable, quality education to every Montanan.

Commissioner Christian spoke to the institutions who have publicly reported exploration opportunities by private-sector medical schools. It has been widely reported that Rocky Vista University, a for-profit organization, and Touro College, a non-profit organization, have a level of interest in medical school possibilities in Montana. He explained that as interesting as these developments are it needs to be noted that the Montana University System has no involvement with these organizations or their business, and there are no related Board of Regents decisions that you will be asked to take action on. The OCHE office has performed its role in signing a state authorization form, but we have made no judgments on the merits or wisdom of any medical school ventures because that is not our role.

Commissioner Christian extended congratulations to Regent Nystuen on his retirement from Glacier Bank.

- Campus Reports
- Introductions & Acknowledgements

Commissioner Christian welcomed Ms. Marlys Stark, Administrative Support Manager at OCHE. President Bodnar of the University of Montana welcomed Jenny Petty, Vice President of Marketing and Communications.



Remarks by Superintendent Arntzen

Superintendent Arntzen welcomed Regent Buchanan and Regent Bough to the board. She also extended a welcome to the three new board members serving on the Board of Public Education. She explained OPI's priorities remain focused on the promise to Montana's students and families by giving support to stabilizing school funding (HB 15); ensuring Montana's students with special abilities receive guaranteed funding for educational services (HB 46); supporting special education and at-risk students in treatment facilities with continuity of learning (HB 25, HB 206); and, increasing Internet access for Montana students and schools (HB 181). She extended her appreciation for the collaborative efforts with Legislators to develop solutions in support of Montana students. Superintendent Arntzen discussed her Legislative Priorities Report and recent Legislative Events, including events within the Tribal Caucus and Education Caucus, which meet weekly. She discussed Title IV- A Waiver which provides for flexibilities, which enable schools to operate in response to certain circumstances. OPI is utilizing this waiver to allow for schools to flexibly allocate monies in response to changing needs throughout COVID-19. Superintendent Arntzen reported on the Strategic Assessment Waiver. This waiver request for testing, accountability and reporting was filed with the US Department of Education in February and is intended for the spring 2021 math, reading/language arts, and science assessment. Discussion followed.

Budget, Administration and Audit Committee

CONSENT

Staff Items:

- a. Labor Agreement; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 193-100-R0321 | Attachment #1*
- b. Highlands College Faculty; MT Tech *ITEM 193-1501-R0321 | Attachment #2*
- c. Request for Approval of University System/Employee Equity Interest and/or Business Participation under MUSP 407; UM Missoula *ITEM 193-1007-R0321 | Attachment #1*

Emeriti Faculty:

- d. Swift, UM Missoula; *ITEM 193-1004-R0321*
- e. Madigan, MT Tech; *ITEM 193-1502-R0321*
- f. Welch, MSU Northern; *ITEM 193-2801-R0321*

Facility Items:

- g. Request for Authorization to Amend the Financing Plan for the Construction of the Bobcat Athletic Complex; MSU Bozeman *ITEM 193-2001-R0321 | Attachment #1*
- h. Request for Authorization to Expend \$750,000 of General Spending Authority for Engineering Research Lab Build Out; MSU Bozeman *ITEM 193-2002-R0321 |*



Attachment #1

- i. Request for Authorization to Expend \$900,000 of General Spending Authority for South Campus Infrastructure; MSU Bozeman *ITEM 193-2003-R0321 | Attachment #1*
- j. Request for Authorization to Expend \$1,300,000 in General Spending Authority for Health and Human Development Research Lab Expansion; MSU Bozeman *ITEM 193-2004-R0321 | Attachment #1*
- k. Request for Approval to Proceed with Planning and Design - Steam System Distribution Upgrades and Repairs; MT Tech *ITEM 193-1504-R0321 | Attachment #1*
- l. Request for Authorization to Lease Land to Bozeman Fire Department; MSU Bozeman *ITEM 193-2005-R0321*

INFORMATION

a. State Appropriations – MUS Allocation Process

Deputy Commissioner Tyler Trevor provided a review of the state appropriations process for the MUS. He focused specifically on how the state appropriation is determined, when state appropriations are allocated to campuses and how those allocations are determined, including performance funding. He explained that the legislative appropriations come to the MUS in a lump sum. This lump sum includes the base plus any present law adjustment, including statewide fixed costs, personnel costs, higher ed specific PLA, new space O&M, and pay plan. He explained that state appropriations are allocated via a biennial distribution following the conclusion of the Legislature. The allocation distribution is made in conjunction with setting tuition and fees. Deputy Commissioner Trevor referenced BOR Policy 970.1 – biennial allocation of state funding to MUS, noting its importance to strategic budgeting. Deputy Commissioner Trevor explained that the campus allocation is determined by the base plus any additional funding allocated based on multiple drivers and measures. Deputy Commissioner Trevor reviewed the seven-year history of performance funding within the MUS. Performance funding has been used as incentive funding to improve retention and completion and focus on specific metrics related to each institution's mission. He reviewed the three-step allocation process where Step 1 calculates the total education unit lump sum and Step 2: removal of any special appropriations to create the campus allocation amounts. Step 3 comprises the allocation process based on specific campus metrics. Deputy Commissioner reiterated the goals of performance funding, including increasing degree production, focusing on output and input, and paying for what we value through accountability. He reviewed metrics by institution type, noting that metrics are measured annually and compared to prior three-year averages so that campuses truly compete against themselves. Discussion followed.

b. Student Life Master Plan; UM Missoula *Information Item | Attachment #1*

President Seth Bodnar of the University of Montana presented this information item regarding the Student Life Master Plan that SMA Architects have recently completed. With an emphasis on improving recruitment and retention, this master plan considers



and balances long-term aspirational planning with near-term high-demand projects, such as creating a new dining facility and the renovation and modernization of Knowles Hall, a residence hall in a prime campus location. Discussion followed.

- c. Request for Approval to Revise Language in Board of Regents Policy 713.1 – Workplace safety; Workers’ Compensation; MUS/OCHE *Information Item | Attachment #1*

Deputy Commissioner of Human Resources at OCHE, Kevin McRae, presented an information item to revise Board of Regents Policy 713.1 as recommended by the MUS Workers’ Compensation Committee and the Commissioner of Higher Education. The Board adopted Policy 713.1 in 2003 when the MUS implemented its self-funded Workers’ Compensation Program. The policy has not been updated since 2003. The proposed revision is recommended by the MUS Workers’ Compensation Committee and the Commissioner. This recommended policy revision provides greater clarity of employee expectations, strengthens the emphasis on safety, and replaces passive language with active language for improved readability.

- d. Request for Approval to Create Board of Regents Policy Related to the MUS Compliance Reporting Hotline; MUS/OCHE *Information Item | Attachment #1*

Jessica Weltman, MUS Compliance Officer, presented an information item on behalf of the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) with a proposal to create policy related to the MUS Compliance Reporting Hotline. The proposal would create BOR Policy 211 – MUS Compliance Reporting Hotline. This policy was developed as a part of the Commissioner’s effort to implement the MUS Compliance Reporting Hotline. The Budget, Administration, and Audit Committee was provided information on the intent to develop the MUS Compliance Hotline at the May 11 and September 2, 2020 committee meetings. The compliance hotline went live January 11, 2021. This policy has been reviewed by all campuses via the MUS Compliance Hotline Workgroup, as well as MSU, UM, and MUS legal counsels. By reviewing and approving the policy, the Board confirms the establishment and policy surrounding the MUS Compliance Reporting Hotline.

Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee

ACTION

- a. Request to Plan Proposals *Executive Summary | Supporting Documentation | New Program Tracking*

Dr. Reed Humphrey of the University of Montana presented the request to plan proposal for an Option in Engineering Physics within the Physics B.A. and for a Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Medical Certificate. Dr. Steve Gammon of the Montana Technological University present the request to plan proposal to eliminate the Geophysics Department, and to develop a Certificate in General Studies. Dr. Sandy Bauman of Helena College presented the request to plan proposal for a C.A.S. in Automotive Technology. Dr. Bob Mokwa of MSU Bozeman presented the request to



plan proposal for a Master of Music (M.M) with an option in Music Education. Susan Balter-Reitz of MSU Billings presented the request to plan proposal for an A.A.S. in Diagnostic Medical Sonography and the development of the Institute for Neurodiversity and Applied Behavior Analysis. Discussion followed.

b. Level II Items *Executive Summary | Supporting Documentation*

Deputy Commissioner Tessman spoke to the process related to these submissions. Individual campuses spoke their requests individually, including the University of Montana's request to retitle the Department of Business Technology to the Department of Business and Technology. Montana Technological University's request to retitle the Center for Advanced Mineral and Metallurgical Processing (CAMP) to Center for Advanced Materials Processing. Helena College's request to retitle the Continuing Education, Workforce Development and Community Engagement Division to Community Education Center. MSU Bozeman's request to offer a B.S. in Biomedical Engineering; retitle the Department of Microbiology and Immunology to the Department of Microbiology and Cell Biology; request to offer a Ph.D. in Exercise and Nutrition Sciences; request to offer a M.S. in Cybersecurity. Great Falls College-MSU request to permanently authorize the A.A.S. in Cybersecurity.

INFORMATION

Academic Review Items

a. Academic Approval Memo

Deputy Commissioner Tessman noted this memo contains academic items that we're either delegated from the Board to campuses or proposed educational items to advance to the next steps for approval. He noted that campuses are asked to consistently review current programs to consider if they are still relevant or if they should be considered for moratorium placement. The MUS carefully tracks these programs and placements.

Two-Year and Community College Committee

INFORMATION

a. Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Annual Report

MUS Dual Enrollment Program Manager, Dan Karalus, provided an update to the board on PLA. They reviewed the basic elements of what PLA is, college credit for what you already know through work, life, military experience. They noted that through BOR policy up to 25% of college credits can be obtained through PLA. They discussed PLA activity to date noting that 7,881 students are enrolled with PLA credit for the Spring 2020 semester. They reviewed PLA Demographics and Non-Ap/IB PLA demographics, specifically gender, race and age. In summary they noted for Fall 2019 that 20% of enrolled students had PLA credits; 33% of enrolled veterans had PLA credits and 8% of enrolled students age 25+ had PLA credits. Discussion followed.

b. Dual Enrollment Update



MUS Dual Enrollment Program Manager, Dan Karalus, provided an update to the board on Dual Enrollment. He provided a brief historical overview of Dual Enrollment and how it ties into higher education. He noted that high school students taking college courses who are taught by qualified schoolteachers, delivered in a high school classroom earn both high school and college credit. Mr. Karalus reviewed the MUS student participation numbers noting a 7% increase from 2018-19 to 2019-20. He discussed Dual Enrollment participation, noting that 27% of eligible public high school students participated in DE in 2019-2020. He reviewed the savings associated with Dual Enrollment and the One Two Free program, noting that the average cost per credit is \$16.00. He spoke to the success of Dual Enrollment in that 60% of dual enrollment students enroll in the MUS within 2 years of dual enrollment participation. These students also show higher first term GPAs, higher retention rates, and higher graduation rates. He discussed the impact that COVID-19 has had on dual enrollment, including fewer students and more online students. Discussion followed.

c. GEER Progress Report & Helena College/East Helena Partnership Spotlight | Video

Stephanie Hunthausen, Director of K-12 Partnerships at Helena College, provided an updated on the Montana Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER), specifically the partnership between Helena College and East Helena High School to develop remote learning classrooms and build a pathway for information technology and programming students. They reviewed the project overview and discussed progress to date in designing an Introduction to Computer Science course for EHHS sophomores, offered spring 2021; building remote learning classrooms on each campus, and designing an online Information Technology and Programming pathway.

Public Comment*

Wendi Fawns, Executive Director for Valley Oak, spoke in support of increasing partnerships, communications and collaboration with more non-profits on topics like CTE; 1, 2, Free and support of academic advising outside of traditional hours.

Hunter Spartz, a student at Montana Tech, shared student perspectives in support of a faculty member at MT Tech. He noted that she was a huge attribute and testament to the program and her absence would be detrimental to the program.

Mr. George Warner and Mike Klakken, Mayor of Dillon spoke to an issue with the sale of the Vigilante Field Sale regarding the community's position on the topic and some concerns with the sale and potential construction.

Committee Reports & Action

- Budget, Administration and Audit Committee

CONSENT

Staff Items:

- a. Labor Agreement; OCHE/MUS *ITEM 193-100-R0321 | Attachment #1*



- b. Highlands College Faculty; MT Tech *ITEM 193-1501-R0321 | Attachment #2*
- c. Request for Approval of University System/Employee Equity Interest and/or Business Participation under MUSP 407; UM Missoula *ITEM 193-1007-R0321 | Attachment #1*

Emeriti Faculty:

- d. Swift, UM Missoula; *ITEM 193-1004-R0321*
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Facility Items:

- g. Request for Authorization to Amend the Financing Plan for the Construction of the Bobcat Athletic Complex; MSU Bozeman *ITEM 193-2001-R0321 | Attachment #1*
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- k. Request for Approval to Proceed with Planning and Design - Steam System Distribution Upgrades and Repairs; MT Tech *ITEM 193-1504-R0321 | Attachment #1*

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

- Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee

ACTION

- a. Request to Plan Proposals *Executive Summary | Supporting Documentation | New Program Tracking*

A motion for approval of the request to plan proposals was made by Regent Sexton; motion passed (7-0).

- b. Level II Items *Executive Summary | Supporting Documentation*

A motion for approval of Level II Items was made by Regent Bough; motion passed (7-0).

- Two-Year and Community College Committee

None.



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

- Appeal #1

Chair Lozar explained the process related to the appeal. The request to hear the appeal is denied and the Commissioner's decision is upheld.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:50pm

Approved by the Board of Regents on

5/26/2021

Date

Handwritten signature of Clayton T. Christian in blue ink.

Clayton T. Christian
Commissioner of Higher Education
Board of Regents

5/26/2021

Date

Handwritten signature of Casey Lozar in blue ink.

Casey Lozar
Chair, Board of Regents and Secretary to the

APPENDIX A

3/11/2021

To: Faculty Senate

I am writing to respectfully express my disappointment at the passing of HB 102 that allows concealed carry of firearms without a permit. As a professional nurse educator, I recognize the increased risk for suicide and homicide this policy places on our communities, and more specifically our campus communities. As a private citizen, public health specialist, and member of gun safety advocacy groups, I supported and provided testimony against these types of policies at the Legislature. Our campuses are not a place for weapons, which are contrary to the environments we encourage of safe, supportive exchange of ideas and building of character, knowledge and skills.

While the statistics point to the most risk in the areas of suicide and homicide, especially among the age groups on college campuses, in the nursing profession we have also suffered the grieving of nursing colleagues who have been killed by guns in healthcare settings, and by disgruntled students in academic settings (e.g., University of Arizona, 2002). Finally, rural states have higher domestic violence rates, and Montana is no exception. Our extended campuses have little to no on-site security, and it is not uncommon to have students who are in domestic violence situations.

I urge the Faculty Senate to plea with the BOR to do everything in their power to oppose this bill, to the Supreme Court if necessary. In the interim, we need to plan for the safest policies and procedures to protect the students, faculty and staff of the MUS system, especially the most vulnerable.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:



3/11/2021 | 6:14 AM MST

63CB05E891284A9
Laurie Glover, MN, FNP-BC, Associate Clinical Professor

College of Nursing

From: [Codd, Sarah](#)
To: [Unsworth, Amy](#)
Subject: Oppose Concealed Weapons on Campus
Date: Friday, March 12, 2021 4:12:57 PM

BOR Members,

Please be leaders, as you have been appointed to be, and exert your constitutional rights (see below) and determine the rules around guns on campus. The majority (by far) of students, parents, faculty and staff, do not think campus will be safer with concealed weapons allowed and no permits required.

Constitution of Montana -- Article X Section 9. Boards of education (2) (a) The government and control of the Montana university system is vested in a board of regents of higher education which shall have full power, responsibility, and authority to supervise, coordinate, manage and control the Montana university system and shall supervise and coordinate other public educational institutions assigned by law.

Sarah Codd, PhD
she/her
Professor
Montana State University
Dept. of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
ph. (406) 994 1944
scodd@montana.edu
<http://www.coe.montana.edu/mrm/>

From: [Wettstein, Stephanie](#)
To: [Unsworth, Amy](#)
Subject: RE: Montana BOR Constitutional Duty Concealed Carry
Date: Friday, March 12, 2021 5:00:19 PM

Dear Amy and BOR-

I am vehemently opposed to allowing students carrying guns on campus. There have been a few times in my eight years at MSU that I was fearful of a student in my office due to a disagreement of grades and academic misconduct. Had these students been carrying weapons openly or concealed, my anxiety when engaging with these students would have been exponentially higher. In fact, I wonder if students carrying weapons will discourage faculty from instituting sanctions against students out of fear.

I strongly encourage the BOR to take charge of gun control on campus via the Montana constitution, Article X, section 9 and not allow guns on campus, open or concealed.

Regards-
Stephanie Wettstein

Stephanie Wettstein

Associate Professor | Dept. of Chemical and Biological Engineering | 406-994-5928
Montana State University | Bozeman, MT | stephanie.wettstein@montana.edu

From: [Stacey Hancock](#)
To: [Unsworth, Amy](#)
Subject: Written public comment opposing HB102
Date: Friday, March 12, 2021 1:34:09 PM

Hello,

I was unable to attend the BOR meeting yesterday and would like to submit a written public comment to express my opposition to HB102. I am opposed to this law. My primary reasons for opposing the law are as follows:

- The law states that "zones where guns are prohibited provide an increased risk to the health and safety of citizens..." (Section 3(4)). This statement is simply not true. In fact, studies have shown that the risk of death or injury by firearm, both murder and suicide, increases when guns are present. Montana already has one of the highest suicide rates in the country, and allowing guns on campus will only increase this rate.
- The law continues to prohibit carrying a concealed weapon in buildings used for state or local government offices (Section 10). Our legislators seem to be writing a law that continues to protect themselves from risk of death or injury by firearm in their workplace, but are willing to put all other Montanans at risk.
- Passage of this law will burden the university with the cost of managing guns on campus, such as training, suicide prevention or storage safety in dorms.
- The law is nebulous. Many terms in the law are not well-defined. What does it mean to "carry"? What designates a "holster"? What is the level of "threat of bodily harm" or "self-defense" needed in order to justify drawing a weapon?
- The primary purpose of an institution of higher education is education itself. An effective education includes exploring opposing opinions and other perspectives that one may not agree with. Dialogue that allows for educational growth may be dampened if students and faculty feel like they cannot speak to opposing views without being threatened by violence.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Stacey Hancock
Bozeman, MT

From: [Nora LeDonne](#)
To: [Unsworth, Amy](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Mt Board of Regents
Date: Sunday, March 7, 2021 2:55:04 PM

Hello!

My name is Nora Goodwin, and I have worked with valley oak for some time now. I would like to send a comment for you to read on your online webinar. Thanks!

"I am a high school student who has taken dual enrollment courses at 2 campuses and am participating in the Red Ants Pants Girls Leadership Program. I think there could be more coordination between colleges and high schools so that students were made aware of the educational and leadership opportunities that are out there for them. It would be great to improve communications between high school counselors, scholarship organizations and colleges because even though my experience was smooth, it could be difficult for other kids who don't know about these resources. It can be hard to manage the forms, deadlines, financing, etc. of education, so workshops on how to attend, pay for and manage college life are definitely needed. I am grateful to the nonprofits and educators that helped me navigate my way through high school and on my way to college. Thank You, Nora Goodwin, Junior at Victor High"

From: [Unsworth, Amy](#)
To: [Regent Casey Lozar](#); [Lozar, Casey W](#); [Regent Bob Nystuen](#); [Regent Brianne Rogers](#); [Regent Joyce Dombrowski](#); [Regent Todd Buchanan](#); [Regent Loren Bough](#); [Regent Amy Sexton](#)
Cc: [Christian, Clayton](#); [Stark, Marlys](#); [Unsworth, Amy](#)
Subject: FW: Written Public Comment 3/11/21 Mtg
Date: Monday, March 8, 2021 9:24:08 AM

Members of the Board:

Please note the written public comment below, recently submitted.

Thank you,

Amy Unsworth

Executive Assistant to the Commissioner of Higher Education & Policy Coordinator
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education | Montana University System

aunsworth@montana.edu | 406.449.9127

www.mus.edu | [MUSings Newsletter](#) | [ApplyMontana](#)



From: Veronica G <veronica.goodwin@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 7, 2021 5:55 PM
To: Unsworth, Amy <AUnsworth@montana.edu>
Subject: Written Public Comment 3/11/21 Mtg

We are unable to attend Thursday's Webinar, but would like to contribute to the Written Public Comments:

Two of our children have been fortunate to complete dual enrollment courses while in high school. With the help of educational nonprofits, we were informed of academic and financial assistance resources. We would like to see more coordination between high schools and colleges to increase awareness of the dual enrollment process and other educational opportunities. We also are interested in college financial aid workshops to help students and their families better prepare for college and careers. If these were held outside of normal school hours more parents and students would attend. College campus events could promote dual enrollment and begin the introduction of college life to high school students. Overall we are impressed with the Montana higher education system and are glad our children can participate.

Thank You,

Veronica and Jim Goodwin

(406) 777-7107

From: [Barbara Anderson](#)
To: [Unsworth, Amy](#)
Subject: Public Comment for March 11
Date: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 8:26:35 PM

To: Board of Regents and Board Members

As a quick introduction - I am Barb Anderson, grandparent and legal guardian, along with my husband Tom Anderson, for Quoia Anderson. Quoia graduated from Hamilton High School class of 2020. She is completing her freshman year at the University of Montana in Missoula, doing well despite very few in-person classes and she is on the deans list!!!

We knew she needed financial help to attain her goal (and ours) of a college education. We soon discovered that we started way too late in finding resources. Why? We found there is not much collaboration between high school counselors, colleges and nonprofits. And the importance of planning is realized way too late. Parents/legal guardians and students absolutely need to know that they must start planning in middle school. It's ironic that new parents and even parents-to-be start enrolling their infants in the best pre-school programs, but many of our kids are not being impressed with the importance of pre-planning for college until their senior high school year!

In our case there was one school evening program in our granddaughter's junior year presenting college planning, but I left feeling overwhelmed and frustrated and already defeated. I attended every meeting the school offered. I was always involved, but that was not enough.

My student was given conflicting information from her high school teachers about AP classes and dual enrollment. She relied on her teachers advice. A real understanding could have saved a lot of money. Our granddaughter took a high school class called Personal Finance (Dave Ramsey). Because of that class she is determined to graduate loan-free, but it is a struggle. She did receive the Greater Ravalli Scholarship award and she qualified for the Montana 10 scholarship at UM.

I know my public comment is way to long, sorry.

1. coordination among high school (counselors), colleges and non-profits.
2. pre-planning early: evenings, weekends, even summer.

3. understanding of AP and dual-enrollment classes and how they can save tons of college money.

4. that high school Personal Finance class should be required.

Thank you,
Barb Anderson

From: [Julie Kidd](#)
To: [Unsworth, Amy](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 8:32:37 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of my husband Chad Kidd (Missoula City Fire Fighter) and myself Julie Kidd (stay at home mom), we have three daughters who attend Florence Carlton School K-12, a seventh grader, an eighth grader and a high school junior. One of our core family values is to live debt free and to graduate college debt free. We find great need and great value in and for organizations which can partner with our students and their families to bring a host of financial resources, financial assistance and dual enrollment options. Having access as a high school student to get a jumpstart on their college generals or degree specific classes of interest greatly reduces the financial burden. In the State of Montana I believe high school students can take 8 to 10 credits of college level courses for free and pay \$50 per credit after the first 8 to 10 credits. This is a huge financial blessing for students, though I believe only a very small percentage of high school students take advantage of dual enrollment. Scholarships are another area students need direction and personal one on one education. From what we have learned there are large amounts of financial funds in scholarships which go unfunded as students fail to apply as to a lack of scholarship education. Students need to have a better understanding of the financial burden they are taking on with college loans. Our family has been extremely blessed to have partnered with and had personal one on one education and direction with one of these amazing Montana based organizations in regards to dual enrollment, scholarships and financial planning for college. We can't express how much these bridge organizations are needed to partner with our schools and to meet one on one with students and their families after school and on the weekends, to host workshops to educated students for financial avenues for college and for our students to know they are supported as they transition from high school to college and careers.

Thank you for your time
With Gratitude,
Chad and Julie Kidd

From: [Newhouse, Meta](#)
To: [Unsworth, Amy](#)
Subject: Public comment for BOR meeting Mar 11.
Date: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 8:17:52 PM

Public Comment for BOR meeting Mar 11.

Regarding House Bill 102

As a Professor with 14 years of experience working at MSU, I want to say how safe I have felt knowing that guns are not allowed to be openly carried on our campus. I have deep concerns that my students will be less safe if the BOR chooses to follow this bill with no challenges to preserve their own authority regarding campus, student, faculty and staff safety. I believe the last time MSU had more open gun policies (1990) we had a double murder on our campus.

I frequently meet with students who self-announce their own diagnoses of depression and anxiety. They want me to know about their mental health so I can support them best as one of their educators. I would say anecdotally that the number of students who divulge these conditions has gone up 30-40% over the past 10 years. Montana is usually ranked #1 or #2 in terms of suicide rates per capita. I believe this bill is a step in the wrong direction when it comes to protecting and supporting student health and safety.

I also want to share my own personal anxiety around sharing a classroom with students who are carrying guns. In my profession, graphic design, it is imperative that I teach my students how to deliver and accept constructive critique. I find it a bit mind-numbing to even think about how the dynamic would change if students were carrying guns during such an endeavor. How will I, as a professor, alter my teaching style, or even my honesty about student projects that are not successful — in the presence of a gun?

Meta Newhouse

Professor in Graphic Design

Fulbright Scholar 2019-2020

MUS Teaching Scholar 2020-2021

College of Arts and Architecture MVP (Most Valuable Professor) 2020

MSU Award of Excellence 2020 + 2021
Provost Teaching Innovation Award 2017

Meta Newhouse

Founding Director, DSEL

Design Sandbox for Engaged Learning

Montana State University

College of Arts and Architecture

Professor in Graphic Design

Montana State University

School of Art

213 Haynes Hall

Bozeman, Montana 59717

406.600.6532

The board has repeatedly asserted that they prioritize the safety of the members of our campus community. While this sounds reasonable, there seems to be a broad range of opinions about what safety looks like. The argument our legislature wants us to believe is that guns on campus will make us safer – good guys with guns will protect us from bad guys with guns. We’ve all watched the news reports, horrified as gunmen mow down innocent, unarmed students and teachers. Parents all over the country say a prayer when we send our kids off to school. Some of us have even lived in communities or attended schools where these horrible acts have taken place. And I won’t pretend that I’ve never been afraid. It’s a reality we all live with. The problem is, none of us know who the good guys and the bad guys are. The “good guy with a gun” argument presumes that would-be heroes are able to recognize, and act on, viable threats to our safety. That no one will kill an unarmed classmate because they find their behavior, or even just their presence, threatening. That no one will reach for a weapon to settle a dispute that would never have become violent otherwise. That no one will become a “bad guy” simply because they have the tools available to do so in a moment of heightened emotion, stress, or trauma.

As scary as school shootings are, and as real as they are for those involved, the risk of it occurring on our campus is minimal. Since 2000, there have been 44 school shootings on public college and university campuses. That’s a little over 2 a year among the 1626 public colleges and universities in the country. That means, all other factors being equal, on a single campus, the rate at which school shootings occur on a single campus is 0.001 shootings per year, or one shooting every 739 years. Here in Montana, our campuses have not just shown themselves to be safe from shootings, but from almost all violent crime. We have to go back over 30 years to find a murder on a Montana University System campus. In fact, the most prevalent violent crime reported by the annual security reports of schools statewide (occurring at a rate of 18 per year across 16 campuses) is rape. As we all know, the cowards involved in this crime on college campuses tend to prey on unconscious or barely conscious young women, for whom a gun will do very little in the moment of her attack. The only other on-campus violent crime reported over the past three years, aggravated assault, occurs less than 7 times a year statewide. None of these violent crimes resulted in death, unlike the average of 16 deaths by suicide on Montana campuses, according to the keynote speaker at MUS’s own suicide prevention summit. Yet our state’s response to the 0% murder rate on campuses is to let everyone bring lethal means for suicide to school.

It’s true that some people will feel safer, but we have to ask ourselves who those people are (and if they already face a viable threat of danger from which they need to protect themselves). I would argue that, when it comes to safety, our priority should be those students who are underrepresented, those who may already feel alienated or in fear due to their differences from the typical Montana population. The very first item under the very first goal in Montana State University’s strategic plan states, “Enrollments of students who are economically disadvantaged, first generation, veterans, adult learners, individuals with disabilities and from underrepresented races and ethnicities will increase in each groups share of the student body by two points by 2024.” These students are exactly the populations that are, nationwide, disproportionately affected by gun violence and trauma.

Yes, some people will feel safer on campus when they are armed. And I think we all know who they are.

It won’t be women, who are over 100 times more likely to be killed with a firearm than they are to successfully defend themselves with one – even if the only firearm present is their own.

It won’t be students of color. While campuses launch programs across the to increase diversity, support BIPOC students and promote representation in the classroom, we are ignoring the fact that these students are not only more likely to be killed by a firearm than white students, but are also more likely to be seen and treated as a threat if they arm themselves.

It won't be students with disabilities. By far, the the most prevalent disability on our campus is mental illness. The risk of increased suicide in the presence of firearms has been shown time and time again in peer-reviewed studies from multiple institutions. Further, the anxiety and trauma responses triggered by the knowledge that every classmate, professor and staff member they interact with is potentially armed will be unbearable for some of our students, faculty and staff. It will result in some people being forced to leave. Not because they are weak or have unreasonable fears - although I'm sure people will try to write it off as that – but because an illness or disability prevents them from being able to succeed in such an environment. To discount this as a weakness or overreaction would be like telling someone in a wheelchair they are being unreasonable for not being able to attend a class on the fourth floor of a building with no elevator.

I understand that this decision wasn't made by the board or by administrators. But the complete lack of conviction and urgency to defend the safety of the campus community is disheartening to put it mildly. Earlier in the day it was pointed out that the legislature is representing the voter's will. You failed to mention though, that of all opinions submitted by the public during deliberation, 63% spoke against the bill. You also cited LR 130, stating that it passed by roughly the same margin as the 2/3 vote by which this bill passed in the legislature. This was a gross exaggeration. 50.96% of voters voted yes, while 49.04% voted no. It passed by a margin of less than 2%. Not to mention that the general public is not the population most affected by this law – campus community members are. People with little knowledge of the interactions occurring on a daily basis between students, faculty and staff are hardly capable of understanding the risks and costs associated with its implementation, and their opinion about the policies in my workplace should carry about as much weight as my opinion about the policies enacted in theirs.

I have dedicated the last twenty years of my life to education. One of the things that makes the institution of public education so unique and so valuable is the fundamental idea that everyone is entitled to equal opportunities to obtain higher education. The passage of HB 102 is a huge step back, as it limits the opportunity for safe public education for what are already our most underrepresented populations. The legislature has sent a clear message about whose safety matters to them and who's education matters to them, and that message goes against every mission statement, strategic plan, and vision of every educational institution in our state.

I recently received tenure. And now, less than a year after the proudest moment of my career, I am facing the most heartbreaking. While I hang on to a small glimmer of hope that this board will fight for our rights to a safe workplace and a safe education, I have heard very little that reassures me that the board will assert the “full power, responsibility, and authority to supervise, coordinate, manage and control the Montana university system”, granted by our state's constitution, to keep guns out of our classrooms, offices and dorms. I understand that this is a complex issue which requires time and due diligence. So I accept the wait and see approach being encouraged by colleagues and administrators. But I will leave a job I have wholeheartedly committed my life to before I teach to a class full of armed individuals, and I will never be part of an institution that knowingly puts the desires of one group ahead of the educational and safety needs of others.

Amanda Blaker
Math faculty
Gallatin College at Montana State University

From: [John-Henderson, Neha](#)
To: [Unsworth, Amy](#)
Subject: faculty at Montana State expressing my concern about the gun policy changes
Date: Thursday, March 11, 2021 9:32:03 PM

Dear Amy,

I am writing to express my great concern about the recent gun legislation and the implications for the safety and well-being of my colleagues at Montana State University and for the student body. The thought of trying to teach and communicate knowledge to my students while knowing that guns are welcome in the classroom is quite frankly terrifying. I know that this policy will inhibit my ability to be an effective educator as I will be consumed with anxiety and fear. I am worried about feeling safe meeting and engaging with students in my office and in the classroom. The last thing I want is to be consumed by is fear about safety when I should be focusing on being an effective instructor and educator. As a person of color, I am particularly concerned about my safety in the current climate with the rise of racially motivated violence and hate crimes.

A college environment where we all feel we have to carry guns to protect ourselves and others is horrifying. I truly hope that the MUS system will prioritize the safety, well-being and success of their faculty and students.

Sincerely,

Neha John-Henderson

Neha A. John-Henderson, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology
Director, Stress, Adversity, Resilience and Health Lab
Graduate Student Coordinator, Department of Psychology
Montana State University
319 Traphagen Hall
Bozeman, MT 59717-3370
<https://www.sarahlabmsu.com>
Pronouns: she/her/hers

From: [McCalla, Stephanie](#)
To: [Unsworth, Amy](#)
Subject: Firearms on campus
Date: Thursday, March 11, 2021 2:20:34 PM

To the Montana Board of Regents,

I would like to submit a public comment on the recent proposal to allow open and conceal carry of firearms on MUS campuses. As a faculty member at an MUS institution, I **strongly oppose** open and conceal carry on campuses for the following reasons:

1. It is not constitutional. The Constitution of Montana states in Article X Section 9 that: *"2) (a) The government and control of the Montana university system is vested in a board of regents of higher education which shall have full power, responsibility, and authority to supervise, coordinate, manage and control the Montana university system and shall supervise and coordinate other public educational institutions assigned by law."* There is overwhelming concern about the presence of firearms on campus from faculty, staff, and other stakeholders at the Universities. The decision to allow open and conceal carry on campus should not be left to the Montana State government, who do not have the same expertise in or investment into daily campus life.
2. It is a risk to the students, faculty, and staff. A large fraction of the students on college campuses are going through major life changes, including but not limited to being away from core social support systems, navigating challenging coursework, and experiencing independence for the first time. As a result, college years can be intensely emotional. This makes continuous and constant gun access unadvisable. For example, suicide is the second leading cause of death among people ages 15-24. It is well known in the scientific literature that decreased access to guns significantly drops suicide rates (see here for more information: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/21034205/>). For example, after the Israeli army and the Swiss army instituted policies to remove access to guns when soldiers were off duty, the suicide rates among service members dropped significantly. **Allowing continuous access to guns will almost certainly result in more deaths on campus.**

As faculty, I implore you to listen to those that call campus a second home: please consider your constitutional duty and do not allow conceal and open carry of firearms on campus.

Best wishes,
Stephanie

Dr. Stephanie McCalla
she/her/hers
Associate Professor
Montana State University
Chemical & Biological Engineering

PO Box 173920
Bozeman, MT 59717-3920
Phone: (406)-994-2286
Office: 255 Chemistry and Biochemistry Building

From: [Peyton, Brent](#)
To: [Unsworth, Amy](#)
Subject: Guns on campus
Date: Thursday, March 11, 2021 8:32:10 AM

Hi Amy,

I would like to document that I am totally opposed to allowing open or concealed carry of guns on MUS campuses.

As a hunter here in Montana, I have no opposition to guns themselves, or their hunting and recreational uses, however, as a professor and teacher, I know that student emotions often run very high during stressful periods of the semester, and feel that permission to carry guns on campus will *inevitably result in the violent deaths of innocent students and professors.*

Our Board of Regents should do everything in their power to prevent open and concealed carry on MUS campuses.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Brent Peyton

~~~~~

Dr. Brent M. Peyton, Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering  
MSU-NACOE Distinguished Professor

Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering  
Director, Thermal Biology Institute  
Center for Biofilm Engineering  
Energy Research Institute

Email: [bpeyton@montana.edu](mailto:bpeyton@montana.edu), Phone: 406-994-7419  
Cobleigh Hall 305, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717 USA

**From:** [Foreman, Christine](#)  
**To:** [Unsworth, Amy](#)  
**Subject:** Guns on campus  
**Date:** Thursday, March 11, 2021 8:48:34 AM  
**Importance:** High

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Greetings,

I would like to register my opposition to open or concealed carry of guns on Montana campuses. As a hunting family I am fully in support of the right to have guns; however open/concealed carry on college campuses is a recipe for disaster. It is the responsibility of the BOR to protect students, faculty and staff as outlined in the Montana constitution. Please do everything in your power to prevent open and concealed carry on MUS campuses.

**Constitution of Montana -- Article X Section 9. Boards of education (2) (a) The government and control of the Montana university system is vested in a board of regents of higher education which shall have full power, responsibility, and authority to supervise, coordinate, manage and control the Montana university system and shall supervise and coordinate other public educational institutions assigned by law.**

Christine Foreman

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she/her/hers*

**From:** [Brown, Jennifer](#)  
**To:** [Unsworth, Amy](#)  
**Subject:** Guns on Campus  
**Date:** Thursday, March 11, 2021 1:52:51 PM

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To the Montana Board of Regents,

I am a third generation Montanan. I grew up around guns and in a hunting family. I have never felt unsafe in any Montana school I attended or taught at, until now. I strongly oppose allowing open or concealed carry of guns on MUS campuses. Montana values to me are about gun safety, and allowing this on campuses is irresponsible and unsafe for students, faculty and staff.

I also would ask that the Montana Board of Regents consider their Constitutional duty, as outlined in Article X Sec. 9. (2)(a) to supervise, manage and control the campuses of the MUS, by not allowing open and concealed carry on MUS campuses.

Sincerely,

Jennifer R. Brown  
(she/her/hers)  
Associate Professor  
Chemical and Biological Engineering  
Montana State University  
(406)994-7719  
<https://www.montana.edu/mrm/>

Dear Montana Board of Regents,

The removal of Mary North-Abbott as a Petroleum Engineering Professor would not only be devastating to the Petroleum Engineering Department but to Montana Tech as a whole. For 17 years, Mary North-Abbott has elevated her students through her knowledge and passion for petroleum engineering and the oil and gas industry. The vital, long-lasting impact Mary has on her students is unmatched and pertinent to the success of the Petroleum Engineering Department.

Mary North-Abbott teaches two pivotal petroleum engineering courses: *PET 201: Introduction to Petroleum Engineering* and *PET 372: Petroleum Fluid Dynamics and Thermodynamics*. To start, PET 201 is the first petroleum engineering class offered in the department's curriculum. It offers an overview of the oil and gas industry, narrowing down to the intricacies of each petroleum engineering facet. For most, it is the first exposure of the degree and industry. Though rigorous and challenging, Mary graciously instills a sense of comfort as freshman and sophomore students enter the department. Continuing, PET 372 is very much a foundational course that is applicable in all facets of petroleum engineering. By removing Mary, a decline in course quality will certainly ensue as other faculty members in the department will be asked to take on heavier course loads.

Outside of these two petroleum engineering courses, Mary teaches a petroleum elective – *PET 503: Surface Facilities*. This course expresses Mary's expertise garnered from field experience. Though only offered once a year, this course is commonly referred to as one of the best higher level petroleum engineering courses offered at Montana Tech. Mary cares about the knowledge her student gain and retain. Instead of continuously boring students with endless theory, Mary communicates the practical uses of the material and how to use the material. Mary's ability to convey the course information is not only a reflection of her experience in the industry and as a professor but also a reflection of her character.

Mary North-Abbott's impact branches from other roles outside of being a professor. As a faculty advisor to upwards of 90% of the students in the department – specifically nontraditional and foreign transfer students – Mary tracks each advisees graduation progress. She bears the burden of all this so that her students can go on knowing that they are on track to graduate. Aside from that, Mary is heavily involved in Montana Tech's Hockey Team, assuming the position of manager. She was also involved in in the Society of Women Engineers for 9 years, where she advised upcoming women engineers and provided insight on their significance and necessity to change the connotation of women in engineering and technology.

Overall, losing Mary directly affects the department from an experience, knowledge, and advising standpoint. At Montana Tech, experience is valued as much as theory. The blue-collar gene that runs generations deep at Montana Tech is instilled by Mary North-Abbott. Montana Tech prides itself in turning out individuals who aren't afraid to get their hands dirty and hit the ground running. Removing a professor such as Mary only furthers us from this generational culture rather than embracing it. Ultimately, Montana Tech would be deeply wounded as a result of her departure.

We urge you to reconsider this decision and allow Mary to continue to be a Professor here at Montana Tech.



In addition to the letter above, I have also created a petition on behalf of Mary North-Abbott. Below are all the signatures to this point and there are also comments that have been left to help further drive the point of the value Mary brings to this school.

### Comments

"Mary is a very knowledgeable professor that always puts her students first. She wants every one of her students to succeed and does everything in her power to prepare students for their potential careers. She works hard to get everyone in PE opportunities after graduation. It would truly be a huge black eye for Montana Tech to let someone of this caliber go." – Nate McWilliams

"Mary has always gone above and beyond when it comes to the students at Montana Tech. She has helped numerous students throughout their careers and is an amazing push for Women in Petroleum Engineering. Montana Tech would be losing a key member in the community by letting Mary North-Abbott go." - Reba Doucette

"Montana Tech needs to retain great teachers like Mary. She is one that students feel comfortable to talk to and knowledgeable about what the students need." - Bret Spartz

"Mary first and foremost puts her students first and prepares them for success after graduation. She is very knowledgeable and knows what it takes to prepare her students for the real world. Mary goes above and beyond for her students and it would be an absolute shame to lose her." - Nikki Ferradas

"I had the pleasure of having Mary as my academic advisor and professor at Montana Tech. Her passion for the school and the students was second to none and it transferred to everyone around her. It's an absolute shame that the future students of Montana Tech will be unable to have her guidance. Mary should have a position at Montana Tech until the day she chooses to retire." - Blaine Bokenfohr

"I was very disappointed to hear that Mary was being considered to be cut from the Montana Tech Petroleum Department. She truly made a difference in my education, career and life. Mary was never my advisor at Montana Tech, but she always would do 99% of the work in helping me get set up for classes, and deciding which ones to take to ensure a good balance and knowledge in production/drilling/res. She truly cares about her students, which could not be said about many of the professors during my time at the university. She was always willing to help outside of classroom and office hours. Mary also has amazing industry connections and provides amazing references and opportunities to help students land internships and full-time positions. She loves the university and has a vested interest in seeing the success of not only the school but it's graduates. Letting Mary go, would be a huge mistake and would only hurt the Petroleum program. She is the ideal professor and I'm ashamed of the University for even considering letting her go" - Zackary Winfield

"Mary is the like the unofficial head of the program. She cares about her students and looks out for their wellbeing post-graduation. Letting her go would be a gross mistake for the campus" - Jacob Hobbes

"Mary always took the time to actually get to know her students on a personal level which made her approachable and very helpful in and out of class. Her light hearted approach also helped to keep classes engaging. I enjoyed having her as a professor and feel like this would be big loss for the department." - AJ Paine

"Mary is one of the best professors at Montana Tech. She has a strong structure to her classes and does everything she can to see students succeed. So disappointing to see she was getting let go." - Heather Harrington

"Mary was one of the biggest reasons I chose to attend Montana Tech. She had a wonderful personality, was enthusiastic about the petroleum program, and also took a keen interest in the personal lives of her students as well. Her knowledge and passion is what drew me and I am sure many others to the petroleum program. The department is at a major loss without her." - Alex Caravaggio

"Mary was one of my favorite professors at Montana Tech. She was always available to help her students and give guidance on career paths. Without Mary the Petroleum Department will suffer with student to company outreach. She has such good relationships with all of the recruiters. I truly believe she strengthens the ability for students to engage with possible employers and she has been instrumental in getting many students internships and graduates jobs. It would be a shame to the department to see her let go." - Savanna Riebe

"Mary was one of the best teachers at Tech that I had. Her Surface Production Facilities class was very informative and practical, she outshines a lot of the other teachers at Tech by a large margin." - Tanner Benson

"Mary has been instrumental to the success of the Petroleum Engineering Department at Montana Tech. Not only does she bring industry knowledge and professionalism, but she is an excellent mentor for students - especially women in engineering. The department will absolutely suffer for losing her." - Heather Brush

"I'm trying to understand the reasoning behind Mary's consideration for dismissal. Mary is one of my favorite professors and impacted my career, probably more than she knows. If Montana Tech were to dismiss her, they are losing one of their most valuable, influential, and educated professors. She continually updated her lessons and ensured we learned her material, versus just memorizing for a test. As the only female petroleum engineering professor Montana Tech has clearly misunderstood the impact Mary really has on students. Personally, I have heard her advocate for me and other students, when a professor could have easily not." - Kirbie Hassin

"Mary provides so much support from a student's freshman year to their senior project presentation. She was able to give good insight to industry standards and practices and provided so much support for career fairs. Losing her would be a huge blow to the department!" - August Lorenzen

"Mary is critical to the health of the Petroleum Engineering department. Terminating her employment with the campus is short-sided and compromises the quality of education that students and employers come to expect from Tech." - Brandon Foster

"Hunter, Good initiative on this and I commend you for the heartfelt note. As Vice-Chair of the Petroleum IAB, I (and we) are actively pursuing this from different avenues and although there are actual reasonings given for the dismissal I wholeheartedly agree that they do not "add up" nor constitute the upcoming action. Good luck with this and know that you and the fellow students are not alone in this." - Keith Simard

"Adm decision to let Mary go is ill-timed and unjustified, and will negatively affect MTech's PE Dept's overall student success. At the end of the day, it should be about the students and helping them succeed. Mary has been a BIG reason for such success with her commitment to her students! I've always known Mary to have students' best interests at the forefront. Her goal was/is to prepare students for life and their career/job after-school. This prep included classwork as well as many life-lessons valuable after MTech. She has gone far above the call of duty to ensure students were ready for their challenges. Prep didn't just classwork; she assumed the role of industry field-trip coordination over many years, sacrificing her time in the interest of helping PE students gain O&G experience/insight solely to enhance students' chances of landing intern/FT jobs. Mary has done so much more behind-the-scenes work than just class instruction. If MTech wants to maintain O&G industry credibility, adequate student preparation and their success, Mary should be retained as a full-time faculty member!" - Terry Skinner

"Mary was my advisor and helped me to pick the right courses to get me graduated on time and on plan. Always available, always kind. Very knowledgeable. An asset to Tech. Let her stay!" - Elwyn Evans

"Mary makes the Petroleum Department and all of Montana Tech a better place, She cares about her students, works very well with industry representatives and has the respect of all alum. She needs to stay!" - Dennis Zander

"Mary is definitely an asset to the Petroleum Department at Montana Tech. Her experience and industry contacts going forward are very valuable!" - Bradley Funston

"Small class size, coupled with strong professor/student relationships, is one of the key draws that make Montana Tech a premier education. Mary comes to the front of my mind when I talk about how great the professors were at Montana Tech. Mary made a positive impact on countless students who passed through Tech's Petroleum Program. Mary gladly wrote a reference letter that helped me land a job in the oil and gas industry after graduation. During the petroleum industry downturn of 2015/2016, I was able to maintain employment by transferring within the company to a Facilities Engineer role. Mary's facility experience, promoted through her Surface Facilities class, provided a strong technical base and helped make this role change possible. Mary's strong connections in the industry are paramount in promoting Montana Tech and the benefits that the program provides to the university. I realized that I have been typing "Mary" a lot, but that's only because all of her former students know her on a first-name basis. She embodies the values and standards that should be the lofty goal of every professor. Montana Tech is making a mistake by letting go one of the University's greatest advocates." - Samuel Dembek

"Mary is invaluable to the students, PE Dept., alumni, Industry, Montana Tech & others in academia. From my experience as a PE alum who has recruited many years at Montana Tech, I've found Mary to be critical to the success of students through her mentoring, teaching, & above/beyond effort to liaison with Industry on job placement. She is the "glue" behind a proven, successful PE Dept. that delivers a quality-based education that Industry so dearly covets. This very student-led petition is a testament to just how important Mary is to the students and alumni who have worked with her over 17yrs on campus. I for one can't fathom any rationale whatsoever for her position to be eliminated as Mary exemplifies the steadfast commitment, dedication, & diligent work ethic of a "get-it-done" Montana Tech student and campus community!" - Ted Skinner

## Signatures

Aaron Hunter

Abby Dion

Abigail Jackson

Abigail Leychkis

Adam Gollofon

Addi Paige

Adrian Flores

Adrian Sanchez

Aimee Eubank

AJ Paine

Al McKee

Alanna Brown

Albert Salas

Alec Shull

Aleesha Aasved

Alex Caravaggio

Alex Davis

Alex Hareland

Alexa Campos

Alexander Koerner

Alexandra B

Alexandria Maruska

Ali Zauner

Alicia Potts

Alisa Byszeski

Alison Bickers

Aliza Murillo

Alize Estrada

Allison Reyes

Allison Schroeder

Allyson Jones

Alyssa Daugherty Bell

Amana Mohammadi

Amanda Chow

Amanda Nordstrom

Ana Spartz

Andrea Hernández

Andrew Craig

Andrew Derickson

Andrew Samuel

Angel Ross

Angela Ibara

Angelina Rivera

Anissah Tillman

Annabelle westing

Anthony Scrimenti

Antoinette Johnson (Reichert)

Arianna Turner

Arnaud Noutcheymo

arturo reyes

Ashley McCalpin

August Lorenzen

Augustus Herzog

Austin Howie

|                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Baily Sulfridge  | Brock Cantrell-Field |
| Barrett Frizzell | Brooke McCarty       |
| Ben Bitler       | Brooke Murphy        |
| Ben Hockin       | Brooklyn Vosen       |
| Bernette Braden  | Bryce Van Aert       |
| Bill Knerr       | Bryce Weyant         |
| Blaine Bokenfohr | Cade Harris          |
| Blaine Derhak    | Caitlin Heryford     |
| Braden Tethal    | Callie Lewis         |
| Bradley Funston  | Cameron Carpenter    |
| Bradley Utt      | Candiss Souther      |
| Brady Koenig     | Casey Decker         |
| Brady Young      | Cathy Peplinski      |
| Braeden Beck     | Ceaton Oliver        |
| Brandon Beedie   | Celeste Armenta      |
| Brandon Foster   | Chase Barta          |
| Brandon Spencer  | Chase Heiden         |
| Brayden Nysten   | Chase Tunell         |
| Brenda Gomez     | Chloe Larson         |
| Brendan Kinnee   | Chris Carter         |
| Brent Shishido   | Christian Cole       |
| Brent Trinier    | Christopher Tom      |
| Bret Spartz      | Clara Hearst         |
| Brett Campbell   | Clarence Webster     |
| Brett Huntsman   | Claude Boiteau       |
| Brian Cocchiere  | Claudia Becerra      |
| Brian Gollehon   | Cody Danielson       |
| Brian Sullivan   | Cody Oliver          |
| Brock Calvi      | Colby Granger        |

Cole Berry  
Colin Allsopp  
Colin Russell  
Connor Froc  
Conrad Smith  
Constance Fenske  
Cooper Fink  
Cooper Gulbraa  
Courtney Piccin  
Craig Brown  
Craig Jones  
D Kennedy  
Dallas Seutter  
Daniel Lauver  
Daniel O'Brien  
Daniel Schwab  
Darrell Lawes  
Darren Gollehon  
Dave Rathgeber  
Dave Weishoff  
David Holodinsky  
David Landry  
Dawn Gollofon  
Daysi Rosales  
Dennis Arnst  
Dennis Zander  
Derek Lemler  
Derrick Jackson  
Destiny. Taylor

Dj Snyder  
Dj Williams  
Dominic Tangaro  
Doria Wosk  
Doug Abbott Jr  
Drew Herauf  
Drew K  
Dustin Montoya  
Dylan Enns  
Ed Hansen  
Eduardo Ambrosio  
Edward Corey  
Edward Schmalz  
Elise Voorhees  
Elizabeth Broderick  
Elizabeth Larson  
Ellie Berreth  
Ella Price  
Elwyn Evans  
Emerson Engstrom  
Emila Bautista  
Emily Casterline  
Emily McGinnis  
Emily Peterson  
Eric Fong  
Eric Riveland  
Erick Peterson  
Ethan Harmon  
Eva Bostyan

|                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Fadumo Hassan           | Ifunanya Chukwuma-Orakwe |
| Faisal Pervaiz          | Izzy Carr                |
| Falinda Hall            | Jacari Young             |
| Finn Lyles              | Jackson Moore            |
| Flemming Okeke          | Jacob Hobbes             |
| Forrest Green           | Jacob Spore              |
| Forrest Smith           | Jacob Workman            |
| Francisco Garmendia     | Jaden Comings            |
| Gabriel Knudsen         | Jaida Sieu               |
| Gabrielle Feria         | Jaime Berg               |
| Gage Haran              | Jake Foose               |
| Gage Haran              | Jake Sharon              |
| Garth Roe               | James Joyce              |
| Genesis Keith           | James Mason              |
| Genesis Yarely          | James Smith              |
| George Allen            | Jamesyah Mayden          |
| Grace Duncan            | Jan Branning             |
| Grant O'Rourke          | Jared Elgert             |
| Greg Albright           | Jared Wood               |
| Greg Hilton             | Jarious Williams         |
| Haley Lalor             | Jasmina Tahirova         |
| Hannah Roberts          | Jason Entenmann          |
| Hannah Smith            | Jay Tel                  |
| Hart Greenwood          | Jaylen Taggart           |
| Heather Binagia         | Jayne Tracy              |
| Heather Harrington      | Jaziya Powell            |
| Hector Carbajal         | Jazmine Pelcher          |
| Hilary Moore (Ramseier) | Jean Chagnon             |
| Hunter Spartz           | Jeffrey Pitura           |

Jenna Beeler  
Jenna Maroney  
Jennifer Cooper  
Jensen Scott  
Jeremiah Capostagno  
Jeremy Anderson  
Jerne Willis  
Jesse Lawrence  
Jesse Spore  
Jessica Casallas  
Jesus N  
Jill Berg  
Jim Hendricks  
Jimmy Currier  
Joe Farley  
Joe Orrino  
Joe'EL Macklin  
John Chamberlin  
John Chapman  
John Hare  
John Kennah  
John Phillips  
Jon Weishoff  
Jonah Smith  
Jordan Humenjuk  
Jordan Jackson  
Jordan Lay  
Jordan Plustwa  
Joseph Heutel

Josh Clark  
Josie Givens  
Joslynn Haran  
Jp Mac  
Juan Roman  
Julia Jasper  
Julie Barkman  
Julie Vy  
Justin Chapman  
Justin Sullivan  
Justin Volpi  
Justus Stevenson  
Kally Schmitt  
Kam Tankam  
Karen Felts  
Karson Wheat  
Kaseyana G  
Kathleen Neset  
Kayla Cooney  
Kaylee McIntyre  
Keelie Lawler  
Keith Simard  
Kelly Nestelroad  
Ken Hendricks  
Kendra Manzanares  
Kenia Andrade  
Kennedi Poe  
Kenneth Fossum  
Kenny Lafayette



Kenya Anaya  
Kevin Iversen  
Khendra Daniels  
Kimberley Thomas  
Kimora Davis  
Kimora waller  
Kirbie Hassin  
Kirk Brandt  
Kristen Arness  
Kurt Hibbard  
Kylan Southern  
Kyle Berkram  
Kyle Haustveit  
Kyle Kinn  
Kyle Purschke  
Kyrene Pineda  
Laila Walsh  
Lana Berg  
Landers Smith  
Laura Gantz  
Laura Moon  
Lee Huestis  
Leena Gavia  
Leilani Medina  
Lena Bleimeyer  
Leslie Kincaid  
Leuel Teferra  
Levi Briese  
Lexie Peluso

Liam McCaslin  
Lily Marie  
Linda Brush  
Lisa Hokanson  
Lucas Milligan  
Lucia Moran Montiel  
Lucy Harv  
Mac Alexander  
Maddi Wood  
Maddie Madrid  
Maddy Shearer  
Madison Kelly  
Marcelyn Eckes Woods  
Marcus Cantu  
Margaret Peterson  
Marissa VandenBos  
Mark Nelson  
Mary Trammel  
Mason Hunt  
Matt Hutchings  
Matt Merzlak  
Matthew Holodinsky  
Matthew Neumann  
Matthew Stajcar  
Max Lucas  
Maxwell Triepke  
Maya Craft  
McKenna Czerneski  
McKenzie Joseph

McKenzie Stanchfield  
Megan Lamach  
Mehak Singh  
Melissa Heithaus  
Michael Barnes  
Michael Haggerty  
Michael Loforte  
Michael Pernicka  
Michael S. Croy  
Michael Spartz  
Mick Paffhausen  
Mico Asuncion  
Mike Castleberry  
Mike Winkler  
Mikey Cooer  
Miles Smith  
Mills Bale  
Mitchell Bachman  
Mitchell Washington  
Myracle Willis  
Nairi Williams  
Nate McWilliams  
Nate Walker  
Nathialopez Perez  
Nathan Wasylowich  
Nathaniel Younk  
Naydin Borrero  
Neil Decker  
Nick Arbour

Nick Burman  
Nicolas Morales  
Nikita Garland  
Nikki Ferradas  
Noah Mcclanahan  
Nolan Viste  
Northey Tretheway  
Olivia Burk  
Olivia Harold  
Patience Phillips  
Patsy Jacks  
Patti Miller  
Paul Nepine  
Paul Puskuldjian  
Paul Reutzel  
Peter Schellhorn  
Peter Spangelo  
Philip Antinioli  
Priti Kiefer  
Randy Martin  
Randy Wiens  
Rayce McCord  
Reba Doucette  
Rebecca Carver  
Reese Hickman  
Regan Braserh  
Reilly Spence  
Rein Trotzuk  
Remington Snezek

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|------------------|--------------------------|
| Ren Gardner      | Samuel Dembek            |
| Richard Cottle   | Samuel Mischio           |
| Rick Zoanni      | Santos Jimenez           |
| Robb Braden      | Sarah Diaz               |
| Robert Balcer    | Sasha Link               |
| Robert Corson    | Saturn                   |
| Robert Fischbuch | Savanna Riebe            |
| Robyn Fisher     | Savannah Varner          |
| Rocky Seale      | Scott Hanen              |
| Roman Helsel     | Scott Sheppard           |
| Ross Wilkerson   | Scyller Borglum          |
| Russell Atkins   | Seamus Lucostic          |
| Rustin Prete     | Sean Dwyer               |
| Ryan Cherrey     | Sean Sullivan            |
| Ryan Chow        | Shakeyia Winston         |
| Ryan Grant       | Shay Stainsby            |
| Ryan Hayden      | Sheila Chow              |
| Ryan Isto        | Shelby Fortune           |
| Ryan Miller      | Sheldon Ridenhower       |
| Ryan Vekved      | Shelly Gulli             |
| Ryan Zimmer      | Sougy Le                 |
| Ryley Harris     | Stacy Aguirre            |
| S. M. Morgan     | Stephen Parker           |
| Sabrina Finelli  | Sudhakar Givindarajan    |
| Sadie Nissan     | Sydney Gillespie         |
| Sahara Macedo    | Sydney Harris            |
| Salina Asmelash  | Tanner Benson            |
| Sam Reid         | Tanner Reynolds          |
| Samantha Dixon   | Ted SkinnerTerry Skinner |

Thomas Barbato  
Thomas Nieland  
Todd Dundas  
Todd Hoffman  
Travis Leck  
Travis Ryan  
Trevon U.  
Trevor Jones  
Trevor McClymont  
Trey Ulsh  
Troy Jammal  
Tyler McKellar  
Tyler Onstott  
Tyler Patenaude  
Tyler Starkey  
Tyler Stremcha  
Tyrel Gill  
Tyson Shriver  
Umar Kabir  
Valerya Cruz  
Venessa Sagako  
Veronica McCalpin  
Veronica Thomas  
veronica valdez  
Vicki Braden  
Virginia Davis  
Viry Lopez  
Walker Weber  
Wednesday Rehm

Whitney Holtzman  
Will Parker  
William Parker  
William Vickerman  
Xavier Romaguera  
Yelena Baturova  
Yuki Takeuchi  
Zach Burckhard  
Zach Maassen  
Zachary Garrity  
Zachary Shovar  
Zachary Simpson  
Zack Winfield

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**From:** [Seymour, Joseph](#)  
**To:** [Unsworth, Amy](#)  
**Cc:** [Seymour, Joseph](#)  
**Subject:** Montana BOR Constitutional Duty Concealed Carry  
**Date:** Thursday, March 11, 2021 8:25:07 AM

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I am writing to encourage the Montana Board of Regents to do their Constitutional duty, as outlined in Article X Sec. 9. (2)(a) to supervise, manage and control the campuses of the MUS, by opposing the blatantly unconstitutional concealed carry act passed by the legislature. Failure to assert the rights and constitutional duty of the BOR to make decisions such as this governing campus policy is an abdication of the BOR's duty to the Montana Constitution and the students, faculty and staff of the University. Respectfully Joseph D. Seymour Ph.D. Chem. Eng.

Constitution of Montana -- Article X Section 9. Boards of education (2) (a) The government and control of the Montana university system is vested in a board of regents of higher education which shall have full power, responsibility, and authority to supervise, coordinate, manage and control the Montana university system and shall supervise and coordinate other public educational institutions assigned by law.

Sent from my iPad  
Prof. J.D. Seymour  
ChBE MSU

**From:** [Morrissey, Kathryn](#)  
**To:** [Unsworth, Amy](#)  
**Subject:** Open/concealed carry of guns on campus  
**Date:** Thursday, March 11, 2021 11:36:06 AM

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Hello Amy,

I would like to document that I am in complete opposition to allowing open or concealed carry of guns on MUS campuses.

I agree with my colleague Brent Peyton that the permission to carry guns on campus will *inevitably result in the violent deaths of innocent students and professors*. I further believe that this act will have a detrimental effect on students, faculty, and staff mental health as they navigate being in spaces with guns. I know that this, personally, will affect me greatly.

Our Board of Regents should do *everything* in their power to prevent open and concealed carry on MUS campuses.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Kate Morrissey

*she/her/hers*

Assistant Teaching Professor | Dept. of Chemical and Biological Engineering | 406-994-2289

Montana State University | Bozeman, MT | [kathryn.morrissey1@montana.edu](mailto:kathryn.morrissey1@montana.edu)

**From:** [Menicucci, Joseph](#)  
**To:** [Unsworth, Amy](#)  
**Cc:** [ChBE Faculty](#)  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Guns on campus  
**Date:** Thursday, March 11, 2021 12:03:51 PM

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To the Montana Board of Regents,

I am writing to ask that the Montana Board of Regents to do their Constitutional duty, as outlined in Article X Sec. 9. (2)(a) to supervise, manage and control the campuses of the MUS, by not allowing open and concealed carry on MUS campuses.

Guns have a place in Montana, but they do not have a place on campus. Generations of my family have hunted and shot for sport and I will always advocate for their right to continue doing so. I cannot, however, support a policy of allowing guns in our campus community, especially as we have seen so many instances of campus related shootings (Virginia Tech, UCLA, Northern Illinois, Northern Arizona, Case Western, etc.).

Moreover, my family has forever been changed because of gun violence. When I was just three years old, members of my extended family were held at gunpoint at their home in an incident that resulted in my uncle being shot and killed in front of many members of my family. With rare exception, no person present or closely related to those present ever recovered from the event even though it happened almost 40 years ago.

Please do what is required to keep our greater campus communities free of the grief my family has been traumatized by for 40 years.

Sincerely,  
Joseph A. Menicucci Jr.  
Associate Teaching Professor  
Chemical and Biological Engineering

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**From:** Kate Morrissey <kate.morrissey6@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 11, 2021 11:37 AM  
**To:** James Wilking <jwilking@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** Peyton, Brent <bpeyton@montana.edu>; \_ChBE Faculty <chefaculty@coe.montana.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Guns on campus

Thanks all, I have written in my opposing opinion too, expanding on the detrimental effect to student/faculty/staff mental health if guns were to be allowed in campus spaces, let alone the inevitable physical violence I believe will happen.

On Thu, Mar 11, 2021 at 10:11 AM James Wilking <[jwilking@gmail.com](mailto:jwilking@gmail.com)> wrote:

Thanks Joe and Brent. I wrote one expressing my opinion as well.

j



On Thu, Mar 11, 2021 at 8:38 AM Peyton, Brent <[bpeyton@montana.edu](mailto:bpeyton@montana.edu)> wrote:  
I apologize, I forgot to copy you all on this...

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**From:** Peyton, Brent  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 11, 2021 8:32 AM  
**To:** Unsworth, Amy <[AUnsworth@montana.edu](mailto:AUnsworth@montana.edu)>  
**Subject:** Guns on campus

Hi Amy,

I would like to document that I am totally opposed to allowing open or concealed carry of guns on MUS campuses.

As a hunter here in Montana, I have no opposition to guns themselves, or their hunting and recreational uses, however, as a professor and teacher, I know that student emotions often run very high during stressful periods of the semester, and feel that permission to carry guns on campus will *inevitably result in the violent deaths of innocent students and professors.*

Our Board of Regents should do *everything* in their power to prevent open and concealed carry on MUS campuses.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Brent Peyton

~~~~~  
Dr. Brent M. Peyton, Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering
MSU-NACOE Distinguished Professor

Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering
Director, Thermal Biology Institute
Center for Biofilm Engineering
Energy Research Institute

Email: bpeyton@montana.edu, Phone: 406-994-7419
Cobleigh Hall 305, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717 USA

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Kate Morrissey
she/her/hers

From: [Victoria Burchill](#)
To: [Unsworth, Amy](#)
Subject: Re: Opposed to Guns on Campus
Date: Thursday, March 11, 2021 10:53:55 AM

Thank you Amy,

If it will make a difference, then yes, please share with the board of regents.

thank you,
tori

On Thu, Mar 11, 2021 at 9:56 AM Unsworth, Amy <AUnsworth@montana.edu> wrote:

Dear Victoria,

Thank you for your valued perspective. Please let me know if you'd like it to be shared with the members of the Board of Regents. The Montana University System opposed this legislation in the House of Representatives and in the Senate. Now that it has been signed into law, we continue working to keep students and university community members safe. The legislation includes a delayed effective date of June 1. We anticipate the Board of Regents will make significant decisions on this subject at the board's May meeting. Once again, thank you for your outreach. We greatly appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Amy Unsworth

Executive Assistant to the Commissioner of Higher Education & Policy Coordinator
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education | Montana University System
aunsworth@montana.edu | 406.449.9127

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From: Victoria Burchill <victorialburchill@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 9:21 PM
To: Unsworth, Amy <AUnsworth@montana.edu>

Subject: Opposed to Guns on Campus

Hello,

I am in opposition to students being able to carry guns on campus. As an educator, I do not feel comfortable with guns in my classroom. In our studio, we work with torches daily to solder. A gun on a student's hip is extra unsafe in our classroom setting. Furthermore, our campus should serve as a safe space, free of violence or judgement. Guns present will promote violence and divide our community leading to more judgement between students.

thank you,

Victoria Burchill

Instructor of Metalsmithing

Montana State University

From: [Anderson, Ryan](#)
To: [Unsworth, Amy](#)
Subject: Statement against guns on campus - MSU Bozeman
Date: Thursday, March 11, 2021 3:53:30 PM

Dear Regents,

I strongly urge the Board of Regents to set up a strict management system under HB 102. Please implement strong, common sense rules to keep guns out of the classroom, out of faculty offices, out of research labs, out of shared academic facilities, and out of dorm rooms. Student safety and their ability to learn should be a top priority. **Guns have an important place in Montana. The classroom is not that place.**

Sincerely,

Ryan Anderson
Associate Professor
Montana State University